

Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees Meeting

January 15, 2026

5 p.m.

Transcript of Meeting

- Good evening and welcome to the January 15th, 2026 Board of Trustee Meeting for Johnson County Community College. If you'll please stand and join me on "The Pledge of Allegiance."

- [Board] I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

- Tonight is a very special evening. I see a lot of wonderful guests in the audience and you are undoubtedly here to celebrate your loved ones being sworn in this evening. So we are going to begin with that part of our meeting. I am gonna call our brand new trustees, Trustee Carroll, Trustee Holton, to the front and we're gonna do a little swearing in. With the crowd oohs and ahs. I'll have you all stand right here. I'm gonna have you just raise your right hand. We're gonna make it picture ready so everybody gets those photos they're looking for, yeah? Raise your right hand. I'm going to be administering "The Oath of Office." "I," your name,

- I, Chad Carroll,

- I, Geoff Holton,

- "do solemnly swear or affirm,"

- [Carroll & Holton] do solemnly swear or affirm,

- "that I will support the Constitution of the United States,"

- [Carroll & Holton] that I will support the Constitution of the United States,

- "and the Constitution of the State of Kansas,"

- [Carroll & Holton] and the Constitution of the State of Kansas.

- "And faithfully discharge,"

- [Carroll & Holton] And faithfully discharge,

- "the duties of Johnson County Community College Trustee."

- [Carroll & Holton] the duties of Johnson County Community College Trustee.

- That was a mouthful. Congratulations. Oh sure, yeah. Let us know when the paparazzi is done. All right. Okay, very good. Okay, and before we move on to the main agenda, I just wanted to take a minute and see if either of our new trustees would like to speak or have some words. So Trustee Carroll, would you like to begin?

- Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. First, I want to thank my wife for being my biggest supporter, my children who always encourage me, my family, friends and supporters who invested their time into our campaign. Thank you to the President's Office who's made the onboarding process very welcoming and engaging. To the entire Johnson County Community College community, I understand the responsibility that this position holds and I look forward to collaborating with my fellow trustees, faculty, staff, and community partners to ensure our students are successful. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

- Very good. Thank you. All right, Trustee Holton?

- I'm a ball of nerves even though it looks like I'm holding it all together right now. But what an amazing journey to get to this fulfilling moment right now. And I look around the room and I see a lot of loving and caring faces that have made this possible for me. And I am overflowing with gratitude. So, I think about the countless doors that were walked. My parents had supported me financially, had events for me, aunts, uncles, friends that wrote and sent postcards. My brother Andy, my son Jack, that worked tirelessly on yard signs. Minnie Jenny, my daughter right here, who always expressed genuine interest and encouraging words. And finally, my best friend and biggest cheerleader, Jenny. Raising a family together, running a business together, and now campaigning together. Woo! All right. All beautiful stories of a very fun relationship, right? But the campaign is just a small part of my gratitude. All of you have positively impacted my life journey and you have been inspiring and encouraging through love and opening paths for my success, teaching me to think what could be, go for it. You will stumble, but how high will you bounce? I hope to carry that same sentiment forward here. We have leaders that lead through intimidation, but I have learned from all of you that the best way to lead is through inspiration and just being a good person. It's something that I feel is lost and I'm excited to grow. And extension to my family, working with these Board members, the college staff, and this community, and welcome them into my family. My promise is I'll wake up each day to meet people where they are and live the mission of Johnson County Community College, which is inspiring education to transform lives and strengthen communities. Finally, in the words of my son, Ryan, watching from his home in Cincinnati, let's go.

- Very good. Thank you both very much. And now I'd like to open it up to any current trustees, if you have any words for our new trustees or our audience tonight. Yeah, go ahead Trustee Mitchell.

- So I just wanted to welcome you both to the Board, and I think you both made comments that kind of encapsulate the way a lot of us feel about our journey to being trustees. I'm looking forward to working with both of you, and I think we're ready to go so let's go.

- [Smith-Everett] Trustee Jennings?

- Yes, I just wanna say I'm honored to work with both of you. I'm really excited about the next several years. I think this is gonna be an amazing board, and partly because both of you are on it. So thank you so much.

- [Holton] Thank you.

- [Carroll & Holton] Thank you.

- Did you want?

- Yeah, I have met you both outside of this role and I know that you live your lives with integrity. You ran your campaigns with integrity and I know that you will serve and lead with integrity and keep the students in mind in every decision. And I'm honored to work with you on this board, and thank you.

- [Holton] Thank you.

- Very good. Well, I wanna extend my welcome. I'm looking forward to the next two years together. I think that we have a really exciting opportunity with a brand new president and a new fresh board that we're gonna be able to do some exciting things that maybe Johnson County Community College hasn't been able to do yet. And that's because we're gonna be the group that says, "Let's do it," right? Let's do it, let's go. So welcome to the Board. And as I've mentioned to you several other times, your hard work, your tenacity, and the reason you ran is really vital to the work we do and I'm happy to help you in any way that I can as your Chair. So thank you so much and thank you to all the families that have come out tonight. Supporting somebody running for office is no small task and showing up is half the battle. So thank you for doing that. It means a lot to us and to them individually. With that, I think we will move on to the official meeting. So here we go. By the way of roll call, we have six trustees present, and do we have Trustee Cross on the line? Okay, so we do have seven present?

- [Cross] Yes.

- Trustee Cross, are you there?

- [Cross] Yes, I'm here.

- Great, looking up into the ceiling as always. And that means we have a quorum. So we are going to move to our first item, which is a new thing we're doing. Talking about newness, we got a lot of great opportunity to shake things up, right Dr. Miksa?

- [Dr. Miksa] Right, right.

- So we've got a new part of our agenda, which is the Awards and Recognition and Campus Spotlight. So I'll let you leave that off for us.

- Sure, so on Campus Spotlight, normally we have our students give a presentation. We're gonna continue to do that. It's just students aren't on campus right now, but we also wanna start this new tradition with a new Board Chair. Congratulations.

- Thank you.

- We thought we'd start something new and have our departments highlight some different, or different departments do some highlights of what they do on campus. And our first department is gonna be our Student Life and Leadership Development, and Mya Lawrence will present to us.

- Good afternoon, Madam Chair, everyone in the room. This would be the day that I don't have a voice. I haven't had a voice since last Wednesday, but I am super excited to be here

today. Like the President said, my name is Dr. Mya Walker Lawrence and I am the manager of Student Life and Leadership here at JCCC. I'm proud to say that this year marks my 21st year in higher education and I am just as energized today as I was then. I started when I was 12, if you didn't know. At the heart of my role is a simple belief that students thrive when they feel connected, empowered, and seen. And we have Anne Turney here who's the director of Student Life, and I know she would say that Student Life is where belonging is built, leadership is developed, and community takes shape. Every day our team works together to create spaces and experiences that help students use their voices, find their voices, build confidence, and engage meaningfully across campus. In my position I oversee Student Senate. I'm one of their co-advisors. You generally will probably see Oliver here, and he's one of the amazing student leaders that I work with every day. I also support over 40 student organizations and coordinate campus-wide engagement initiatives that strengthen the student experience. I also collaborate closely with a lot of different departments. So what I do I cannot do without the help of a lot of the people that are in here today. Over the past year, we've seen strong momentum. We've expanded leadership development, participation and opportunities, and strengthened support for our student organizations. In regards to some of our signature things that we do with inside of the Center for Student Involvement, we've seen a lot of growth with student engagement. One thing that I wanted to highlight this year, we generally do National First-Gen Day. This year I charge our Student Ambassadors, we're getting about 60 students there. On average for National First-Gen Day, we generally have about 40 students participate. They blew that out of the park. We had over a hundred students come and participate in National First-Gen Day. And we also expanded it out to connect with a lot of different departments on campus. We had an amazing video online that we had both Mickey as well as Dr. Miksa on the video. I really appreciate you guys for coming out. But one thing that we got from students on that day, not only did they feel seen, they felt part of the community and knew that they weren't the only one. And that was my goal for this year, is to make sure that we were really intentional with the programming that we were doing and being able to make sure that they feel seen and be able to connect with other people outside of just us. In my role, it's a pretty special role. In regards to my 21 years in higher education, I've been at JCCC for four years, but I've been in Student Life for probably about six. The majority of my career was in enrollment management and operations. And I like to say the combination of the three of those areas let me see a bird's eye view of student development, just student life as a whole in higher ed and be able to see how we all play a part in student success, student retention, and actually seeing those students graduate. And so my role, especially here at JCCC, I've been able to make some connections with students being that I am student facing that I hadn't been able to make before on the enrollment management side of the house. This year my husband, oh, my husband just came in, like, these kids really have

become our family. So I have a couple of graduates this year, Jason can attest to it, we've gone to weddings of students that were here in Student Ambassadors at JCCC. We drove to Louisiana to go to a soccer game from a former JCCC soccer player who was adamant that she wanted to go to a HBCU. And she made sure that she got there. Not only got there, they were able to win the first championship that they had for their division for her soccer team, but we were able to go there and support them. But also being able to connect with students, not just here but outside of here, because the goal of us, my goal is to be able to make sure that we aren't just connecting with them and giving them what they need here. But we're looking at the holistic piece. Our goal is to develop them so they can go out and be better, not just for us but for the community. And so today I really wanted to highlight that piece. Student Life, JCCC as a whole, it is an amazing place, but it has allowed for me to really figure out what that life piece is for students. We know they're gonna come here, they're gonna get a great education, but what does it look like outside of the classroom? What does it look like? You guys see Oliver every month. He comes to my office before he comes here and we walk through the things that he's gonna highlight. And being able to see, I'm sure you guys all know that he's a high school senior,

- [Audience Member] Yeah.

- but being able to see him develop from that high school junior to who he is now is one of the big things that I get out of my role. Like seeing that development and actually seeing what they look like once we're done with them. A special place specifically about Student Life here at JCCC, an overseas graduation. So, we are the people that are there greeting them and prepping them to be able to go out upstairs so they can go out with their robes. And I tell you, I'm there in tears because a lot of those students are students that I seen from like clubs in orgs fair just getting to school, wanting to know how to get connected. Seeing students that are in Student Senate or leading a club, but actually seeing them obtain their goal and be able to graduate here from JCCC is something that is truly special and something that I'm very, very thankful for. I'm just thankful for this spotlight today. I'm glad that my voice was able to hold up because I've been talking all week. But JCCC is a special place, and for me it's a reminder of why we do what we do and why I continue to do what I do every day. Thank you. And I do have a update for Oliver, if that's okay.

- [Dr. Miksa] Sure, if you want to go, yeah.

- 'Cause I did want to highlight JCCC Gives, 'cause that is one thing, in regards to my department, it is a Senate-brand department but the Center for Student Involvement, we are the ones that actually do the operational piece of it. So we are the gift givers. And so JCCC Gives, if you guys do not know, it's a giving tree where student, staff, and faculty are able to nominate names of people who are in need over the holidays. This year we had a total of 12 families, 37 individuals were listed on the giving tree from those families, and there were over 111 gifts that were actually there. Every tack was bought. Students Senate, a quick highlight for them, I encouraged them this year to do some different things in regards to fundraising. And this year they were able to raise 3500 specifically for JCCC Gives, which is a big deal for them. All the gifts were given, but we've gotten so much more that we will be giving additional gift cards this semester to those families that were nominated for JCCC Gives.

- Yeah, so does anybody on the Board have questions for Ms. Lawrence? Trustee Jennings?

- No question, but your passion is shining. And the kids know, I'm sure your students know, that you are the person they can go to get a start. And it's that trust in a person that helps them become who they are and gives them the ability to risk themselves to push even harder. So thank you so much.

- Thank you.

- [Smith-Everett] Trustee Carroll, did I see your hand?

- [Carroll] It's not my hand.

- [Smith-Everett] Okay, sorry. Trustee Mitchell?

- I was, I'd kind of like to echo what Trustee Jennings just said. Your passion clearly shines through. And over my left shoulder is the mission of JCCC, which is to inspire learning to transform lives and strengthen communities, and what you just described feeds into that

so well. I really appreciate what you're doing and the information you provided to us tonight. It's very helpful.

- [Dr. Lawrence] Thank you, I appreciate that.

- We much appreciate it. Thank you.

- Dr. Mya, I remember when you came and you hit the ground running, and I'm pretty sure the first year everyone thought you were a student, but I have watched you over these four years. Your leadership has been there and it's been evident. The students have connected with you since day one. And every time there's an event on campus, I see you there mixing in, talking to people. And I've even, students outside of here have also talked about your guidance, your coaching, and your mentoring. So you have created a legacy in your role, and I appreciate you.

- [Dr. Lawrence] Thank you, Trustee Rattan.

- I would echo some of the same things my fellow trustees mentioned, and just I've had the luxury of getting to encounter you at many events where you're leading student leaders, but you're not in front of those student leaders. You're behind them, whispering in their ear or walking them through how we're going to do something and celebrating them. And so much of the success of our students coming here is really learning what college is about. And for some of 'em this is the first place they're gonna go, for some it's the last place that they're gonna go. And the fact that they get to have a full breadth of experiences while being here is really due to you, your department, your division, making sure that any idea that somebody comes up with, we can figure out a way to make it happen. And I think that, as I spoke about a few minutes ago, new Chair, new President, we've got some new fresh ideas and the cheerleaders and people who're willing to go, "Yeah, let's give that a try," are the kind of people that are gonna get us there. So thank you so much. I wanted to say I particularly am helping somebody right now who is a first generation student, and it is a really, really daunting thing to get yourself here.

- [Dr. Lawrence] Yeah.

- And then when you get yourself here, you question yourself the entire time. And I didn't know that because I had very supportive parents, who have snuck in here and are here in the audience tonight, but I was lucky to ride on their shoulders. And so many students, they're the ones who decide, "I'm gonna get there, I'm gonna figure it out. I don't know how this goes." But having the support around them and letting them know they're not alone and they've got great people here that are gonna cheerlead for them all the way makes all the difference in our community as better for it. So thank you because you are doing that for so many students. The other thing I want to comment on is, I heard you talk about graduation. I don't know if you heard today, but we have a very ambitious goal of getting 40% of our students across.

- [Dr. Lawrence] I heard.

- So we may need to, like, expand the doors outside that gym to accommodate getting more students walking across, but I know you'll be there because that's where I see you the most every year, all the graduation ceremonies. So thank you again. Thank you so much for spotlighting what you do, but also holding our students up and helping them become the leaders that they're ready to be. So, thank you so much.

- [Dr. Lawrence] Thank you, I appreciate you all.

- All right, with that we are gonna move to the Open Forum section of our Board meeting. The Open Forum section is a time for members of the community to provide comments to the Board. There is always one Open Forum period during each regularly scheduled Board meeting. Comments are limited to five minutes unless a significant number of people plan to speak. And in that instance, the Chair may limit a person's comments to less than five minutes. When addressing the Board, registered speakers are asked to remain at the podium, should be respectful and civil, and are encouraged to address individual personnel or student matters directly with the appropriate college department. As a practice, a college does not respond in the setting when the matter concerned, personnel or student issues or matters that are being addressed through our established grievance or

suggestion processes. Tonight, we do not have any registered speakers, right? For the Open Forum section, so that is opened and now closed and we're moving right along. I'm gonna try to hold up a chair rails pace of our meeting and efficiency. Let's see if I can do it tonight. So this takes us to our Board Reports, and first we have the College Lobbyist report from Dick Carter. Mr. Carter?

- Welcome back for the new year. Just like it's a new year for this Board and new members, we have a couple of new members in the legislature and we kicked off on Monday of this week for the 90-day session. The legislature has a bold or an ambitious goal of first adjournment on March 27th. And we're also hearing a little bit of chatter that they may not come back for a veto session. So that would even be last year's schedule. We've got a number of folks that are running for office, higher office if you will, in the legislature. And so their desire is to get out and start that campaign process a little bit earlier. Hopefully not at the expense of working through some good policy conversations that are part of the 90-day session that we are in to pick up. This morning, the Kansas Association of Community Colleges, I almost threw the T on the back end of that, hosted the legislature for Donuts with Legislators this morning. And so it was a nice event where about everybody has to pass through our little gauntlet to get into the building. And so we were able to greet all of the legislators as they walked in this morning. And it's always a good event for showcasing the community colleges. Speaking of showcasing the community colleges, on the 26th of January there's going to be another opportunity for the colleges to come to the Capitol and set up a table and showcase or highlight something specific to their institution. And we will have a table there as well for that event. So, we'll see how this 90 days goes. It's certainly is accelerated. This is year two, so we've had a little bit of practice with what that acceleration looks like. And the goal will be to, if nothing else, be adjourned by April 11th. We'll see if it happens a little bit earlier. Governor Kelly gave her final State of the State Address to the State of Kansas, and really focused on civility in the public policy discourse. And it was nice to hear, but it was also nice to hear her talk about the number of bipartisan victories and wins that we've had. That it really does take, while we have a lot of rhetoric anywhere there is the public policy conversation, it really does take the House, the Senate, and the Governor's Office to pass that legislation across the finish line. And so we did have some good victories this past year, specifically this was the final year for the elimination of the state food sales tax. There were a number of other income tax related goals that were achieved over the course of the past eight years in the Governor's administration. As well as new jobs that have been put into place. We've got the Panasonic plant that has come online. There's a number of other jobs that are gonna be put into place. Certainly they celebrated the victory of attracting the Chiefs to across the state line, which will bring a

number of jobs, whether it's construction or whether it's permanent after the facilities are built. All of those things highlighted as the legislature kicks off of its new year. So you'll recall last year I talked a lot about this blue ribbon panel that we were going to have that was going to evaluate, review, take a look at higher education, in some cases there was a specific focus on the two-year sector. That did not come to pass even though that proviso was included as part of the Budget Bill that passed last year. But what is happening is some action that occurred this past week where the retired or the outgoing President of Emporia State, Ken Hush, has been tabbed to review and evaluate and find savings in the higher education system. The state legislature's looking for about \$200 million to fill gaps. I don't think it's all gonna come from higher ed, but I do think that we will see what happens over the course of the next five months or so as Mr. Hush works through the process of evaluating higher education in Kansas. I think we're in a good position. I really do. We've got a good story to tell and it plays well in Topeka. And we'll be a part of that review, but that kicked off in earnest this week as well. One of the bills that came out of an interim committee hearing was one related, and it's one that we expect several more along this same line. They're calling it the Goldwater Bill, and it's a bill that would be preparing a new wave of anti-DEI measures in higher education. And I think that we'll see a number of these types of bills, not only in Kansas but we're seeing 'em across the nation as well. And so we'll be following that process very closely throughout the legislative session. But that bill was one of the first that was introduced and we anticipate a few more before the session is over. Property tax is something that folks have been talking about all summer long, and they are going to talk about it all session long. The Senate Tax Committee has already held three days of hearings on a constitutional amendment that would cap property valuations at 3%. It's the same conversation we had a year or so ago. I don't know that that particular constitutional amendment goes very far. It will be passed out of committee. I think the Senate will likely adopt it, but we'll continue to see what, I think that many of the legislators are watching to see what comes out of the House Tax Committee and that's where we'll see. If we see some agreement it's going to probably be generated there. It's hard for state legislators to do too much on property tax since a lot of that conversation is at the local level. Once again, we have a fantastic story to tell and I tell it often in Topeka. When we can reduce our mill levy and we can hold the budget line, that sells really well, especially for an institution the size of Johnson County Community College and the role that it plays in the state. So, we'll continue to monitor and engage on that property tax discussion as we watch that debate play out. I talked a lot about redistricting all throughout the summer and the fall as that was a hot topic. The Speaker has made it clear once again that the votes are not in the House to hold a midterm congressional redistricting bill. I don't know if we'll see a bill come out of the Senate or not, but I don't think it's going to go very far. And with the accelerated schedule and with some of the other things that the legislative leadership

would like to accomplish, I don't think we're gonna have time for a heavy topic like that, but we'll see. It remains talking points for some legislators, and so that means it's still relevant. With regard to the budget, the Legislative Budget Committee along with the State Budget Committee, which is the budget committee that the legislature has developed to craft their own budget, continues its work. We're already holding higher ed budget hearings in the House. I think today might have been a decision on Wichita State's budget recommendation that will go before the full Appropriations Committee before it goes to the House and across to the Senate. We're another week or so out before we talk about community college and the two-year sector budget. But once again, the legislature is looking to cut about \$200 million to fill gaps that they know are coming. And that's based on the consensus revenue estimate that I talk about frequently. They do it in April and they do it in November, where they get a snapshot of what the money coming in to the state looks like. As far as community colleges go, we're about \$31 million behind FY '26 numbers as far as the FY '27 budget recommendations are concerned. I'm fairly confident that we'll get back to that flat level, that zero level. We're not asking for more money, we're just asking for the same amount that we had in fiscal year 2026, which is what we're in right now. That ends on June 30th. And that's everything from the tiered and non-tiered dollars that are gonna reflect a little bit of a difference due to the rolling average. That is a method that is used to calculate what those dollars look like; the student success dollars, the business industry and apprenticeship dollars, as well as capital outlay. And then there's an opportunity to demonstrate some cost savings on some realignment of courses with regard to Senate Bill 155, putting them more in line with the same courses that are offered for the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program. And so I think that there's an opportunity there to really say, "Look, we've already done, we already gave it the office. We've already looked to see where we can realign and be a little bit more good stewards of the State's resources that are provided to community colleges." So that's something that the system is looking at. With regard to the way the rest of the session goes, again, not a lot of bills are in the mix yet. This is a carryover year, so we'll have some bills that do carryover from last year, but our focus mainly is on the budget and what that looks like. We'll obviously be looking and following anything that would seek to erode academic policy or the ability to govern what you do, what you were elected to do around this table. We'll be following anything that erodes local control. I think that's probably a good place to stop and see if there's questions. We've just gotten started. Not a lot of work off the bat, but certainly they are holding hearings a little bit sooner than they normally would. So I'd stop there, Madam Chair, and see if there's any questions.

- Thank you, does anybody on the Board have questions? Trustee Mitchell?

- Thank you, Mr. Carter. Two questions real quick. One, you'd mentioned a table event with the legislature. Was that February 18th? Did I get that date right?

- I think it's January 26th.

- Okay, I got that way wrong, okay. And then the other thing is, you know, help me to understand a little bit about this perceived \$200 million budget gap. Because my understanding is that we've been running in a surplus situation for the last several years. So, is there something fundamental that I've been missing out on or?

- No, not at all. I think that at the end of fiscal year '27, we're still a little bit ahead of the game, but that's what we're gonna start talking about is budget year '27 and '28 because that's the way the budget cycles work for the legislature. We know that there are some caseloads or some bonded indebtedness that starts coming due and those payments have to be made. We also, and I'm not an economist, but one of the things that they take into consideration are when some of the economic development incentives kick in and what that impact looks like to state revenues. All of those things combined, legislators know that there's going to start being a deficit around fiscal year '28-'29. And so that planning starts now for those out years. I mean, we're gonna start talking about the fiscal year '27 budget. Well, that we already are, in the legislature. And so, 200 million is where they think they need to be. That's legislative leadership's view of where they think they need to be. I will say that as the process continues to play out, the Governor still submits budget recommendations from the administration. And I've watched as the bill was introduced. So we have a legislative budget bill, we have the Governor's budget bill. They'll take a look at both of those as it goes through the process, marry them up as, which is always what happens. The legislature has the final authority on spending. And so we'll see what the recommendations coming out of the administration versus the recommendations coming out of the budget process in the legislature, how they look. That 200 million is probably about on target for where they need to be as we look forward into those out years.

- [Mitchell] Thank you, that's very helpful.

- Any further questions?

- Not from me.

- Okay, anyone else from the Board? Thank you, Mr. Carter. I would just echo that the history of this Board is that we really like keeping our local control and having the legislature keep their distance from affecting who sits at the dais and how we control what we do here at Johnson County Community College for our own community. And that's by electing people as the new members of the Board joined, that we're elected from the people of this county. And so I appreciate your work in articulating that in Topeka continually. And I hear that it is the Year of the Horse, and the Year of the Horse means it will be a fast-paced year. So, we'll see if the legislature gets on board with that or not. So thank you very much for your report tonight. Appreciate it.

- [Mr. Carter] Thank you.

- All right, we're gonna move to Shared Governance with Kaitlin Krumsick.

- Good evening, everyone. My name is Kaitlin Krumsick. My day job here at the college is the Director of the Academic Achievement Center, over on the first floor of the library, but I also serve as the co-chair of College Council with Dr. Miksa. So today was a big day for Shared Governance. It has been a long day, but a really good day. I know that many of you were at Dr. Miksa's remarks this morning as well as the Campus Update Meeting. I'm really proud of everyone that made today a success. I think this, it includes the team that brought forward the request to have the campus pause in many of the operations today to allow all employees to attend. Cabinet's willingness to approve the pause, and then everyone who contributed questions and presented at the Update Meeting. I was really pleased with the turnout and I hope that everyone who participated in the pause had an opportunity to connect with colleagues at the Employee Breakfast and learn something new and impactful to their roles in the Campus Update Meeting. At the very least, we know about the three 40s. So that's a good thing. I look forward to continuing this pause during future PLDs. ABC also held their faculty meeting this afternoon. I was only able to attend about 45 minutes, but there were a lot of questions asked and a lot of questions answered. So, I

think it was a good time. The regular work of Shared Governance, not much has happened since our last Board meeting. We have all been on break. Staff Council did meet last week and we closed out several topics and had an opportunity to set some goals for the spring semester. ABC and College Council will meet over the next few weeks for our first meetings of the spring semester. Looking ahead to spring, there are a few things that I'd like to highlight. First of all, Staff Council will have our open meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, at 2:00 PM. We also plan to host two Coffee with Staff Council events. More information coming on that. We also are finalizing the staff sabbatical procedural update in collaboration with Cabinets. So we're excited to have that roll out to staff hopefully soon. ABC is conducting a survey this semester to address the branch's satisfaction around Shared Governance and the perceived effectiveness of Shared Governance. And so I believe that is coming out in February. Finally, spring is the season for elections and so we will have new Council leadership and general membership positions that are open. And so, for anyone in the room and then watching later, if you're interested in representing either ABC or Staff Council, that information will come out later this spring. So with that, are there any questions?

- Any questions? I will just say- Oh, did you have one? Okay, Trustee Jennings.

- I don't have a question. I just wanted to say thank you. You did a great job this morning.

- [Krumsick] Thank you.

- The information was succinct. You went through a lot of information. And the feel in the room was really positive. So, thank you for your leadership. You're doing an awesome job.

- [Krumsick] Thanks.

- Anyone else? I would just wanted to echo the same things, that today was great and that doesn't just happen. That requires a lot of planning and getting all the moving parts and moving people in the right places to do that. So thank you for being part of that and for leading a little bit up there on the stage and being the, you know, in between of a bunch of

different, we were talking about the cogs in the wheels, right? So thank you for that 'cause I know that that's part of the role and Shared Governance makes us better. So, thank you for your report. Have a good evening.

- [Krumsick] Thank you.

- Okay, we're gonna move on to the Faculty Association. Miss Olivares? Welcome back.

- Hello, everyone. Yes, Irene Olivares, Professor of History, President of the Faculty Association. I wanna begin first by welcoming Trustee Chad Carroll and Geoff Holton. Thank you so much for your service to the Board and the service that you ultimately provide to the community in this role, and to all of you on the Board. Each month the Faculty Association has an opportunity to address the Board, and in these reports I like to give an update on the work that Faculty Association members are doing across campus and to give an update on what faculty are thinking about on campus. And in this report I want to fill in some events from November and December that we were not able to highlight because we had a special presenter in December, Professor Joy Rhodes from the Fashion Merchandising and Design Department. And so I'll give those updates from November, December, and then I'll remark on some of the great sessions from the Professional Learning Days this week, which were really great, and we have one more day tomorrow. So one thing I do want to highlight from November is the work of Dr. Tai Edwards, a professor in history and director of the Kansas Studies Institute here on campus. Each year, Dr. Edward partners with the JCCC Veteran and Military Student Resource Center to host the Veterans Oral History Project. And this year Dr. Edwards and the Center welcomed Mexican American veterans from the Vietnam War. So it's always a great event. The CoLab, which is where this event is hosted, is filled with students and campus members. If you were not able to attend, these are recorded and they're available on the campus YouTube channel or the college's YouTube channel. And you can go back and see the previous years panels. And I think it's great that these events take place on campus because our students get to see the sacrifices that our service members have made throughout the generations that have created the country, the society in which we live today that enables them to sit in a college classroom. So I really enjoy attending those events. In December, the FA had its third annual December Luncheon, and I want to thank Dr. Miksa and the trustees who attended. We had about 60 to 70 FA members attend throughout the two-hour event. The FA pairs these events with collections for the Student Basic Needs Center. And at this

luncheon we collected more than \$400 worth of items to donate or monetary donations for the Student Basic Needs Center. So I wanna thank everyone who participated in that collection. I know a few of the trustees brought some stuff. These lunches allow faculty to pause and share news about the semester. And the reason we invite campus leaders to these events is so that they can get to know more faculty beyond the usual voices. I'm sure you all are tired of hearing me, right? So you get to meet other folks. New ideas can also come out of these gatherings. The current Winter Coat Drive at the Student Basic Needs Center developed out of conversations with trustees and several events, coffee meetings, and at the luncheon. So before we went on break in December, I met with Anne Turney, who was sitting here earlier, Director of Student Life and Leadership, and Robbie Miller, Coordinator of the Student Basic Needs, to develop a plan for the Coat Drive. The Coat Drive ends tomorrow so I hope you were able to bring some stuff by. Robbie has been sending updates and mentioned that students have already taken some of the coats. So it seems like it was a need that students had here on campus and we're very happy that we're a part of that in some way. I've also informed Robbie and Anne that the FA is happy to take responsibility in storing those coats for the next season or donating them back to a charity organization. So we'll help in any way that is needed. Also in December, Fine Arts Professor Mark Cowardin received the award for Exceptional Artistic Achievement as Artist and Educator at the 25th Phoenix Art Awards in Lawrence. So I wanna congratulate Professor Mark Cowardin for that celebration and recognition. He was also the 2025 Artist in Residence with Tallgrass Artist Residency, which is a program of the Kansas Arts Commission. So great work faculty are carrying out throughout campus and the community. As I mentioned, the campus is wrapping up Professional Learning Days and I want to highlight one session in particular. On Tuesday, five faculty members presented. They gave their post sabbatical presentation. So they told the community what they did on their sabbaticals, how it contributes back to students and the campus community. And I want to highlight two that I was able to attend. There were five presentations, I could not hear all of them. But I will share from these two. One that I attended was a presentation from Daniel Cryer, Associate Professor of English. Professor Cryer, during his sabbatical, examined research on AI-powered writing tools for teachers and students. And the main question that Professor Cryer tackled was, how freeing are AI tools in practice if they are presented as a means to free people from tedious tasks to concentrate on more meaningful tasks, right? That's how we are sold AI. And so his question was, do they actually accomplish this task? And in a nutshell, he said yes, right? He examined several studies, that was part of his research. But he said that several studies also highlight that AI tools also create automation complacency, is the term used in some of this research. And this automation complacency leads people to surrender their critical thinking skills. One note I found interesting from Professor Cryer's presentation was that in one of the studies

he examined, noted that one out of four employers actually did not want their employees to use AI for various reasons. I'm sure security and other things like that. He also noted that students should not only prepare to use AI tools in the workplace, but as Dr. McLeod mentioned earlier in one of the sessions, to consider policies around AI ethical use because we want our students to be in positions in the community to set AI policies, not just use these tools. So we want them to think about these. And as we've known, I think it was at Verizon that had an outage yesterday or the day before, sometimes technology just goes wonky. So we want our students to be able to think through these things on their own. So a very interesting presentation. And these were recorded, so if you wanna listen to all of the presentations they will be available through, I believe, the Center for Teaching and Learning website. The other sabbatical presentation I briefly want to comment on is Professor Dave Krug's presentation. Dave is a Professor of Accounting. I'm sure many of you know Dave. He's very active on campus. And he used his sabbatical to produce a guidebook to help students and professors manage stress and anxiety. He built on proven techniques that worked for his students in the classroom and spent his sabbatical researching and writing this guidebook. He also traveled, and one of the things that he said, he spent 95 days out of the country during his sabbatical in which he wrote, he traveled and he said, "This helps energize faculty members." And he came back, you can see him around campus, he's just full of energy and I wish I could borrow some. And that's also the purpose of sabbaticals, right? To research, but also to regain the enthusiasm for your discipline. But what I do wanna talk about from his presentation is because he did help or focus on mental health concerns, one of the things that he said as he was presenting, he prepared this guidebook, it's available for his students to read. He reminded us to treat mental health concerns like we treat physical health. He said, "If we saw a student walking into our classroom with an arrow stuck in their shoulder," in his words, "We would not be silly enough to start teaching them the principles of accounting." We would first attend to that student's need. You know, "How did this happen? why is there an arrow in your shoulder?" So I think it's very important that we do consider mental health in the same way that we consider physical health. So we want to make sure that our students are receiving all of the resources that can support their health comprehensively. And he focused on the way that JCCC can be a leader in that. Because we do have good resources that we can, you all are in charge of making sure that we allocate them in ways that are able to meet our student needs. And last month, you all, or part of you, approved sabbaticals for 10 more faculty members who are going to go on sabbatical fall of '26 or spring of '27. So I want to congratulate those faculty members who are receiving sabbatical for the next academic year. Professor Mark Cowardin, you heard him earlier, his name earlier. Megan Doyle, Steven Giambrone, Kotoko Grass, Kathryn Grube, John Patrick Harty, Misha Kligman, Holly

Manning, Emily Sewell, and Emily Ziegler. So, I just wanted their names to be spoken in this space. So thank you. So that concludes my remarks. I'll stand for questions if there are any.

- Are there any questions? Yes, Trustee Rattan.

- Thanks for sharing the information about the sabbatical. I do think that's great that that's offered here. And I do wanna just, again, reinforce how Professor Dave Krug is another one that really connects with students. I think he had the International Club. I went to just one of his Encouragement Club meetings and, like, my life will never be the same. And like you said, the speaker that he had come was a student that came in kind of with a chip on her shoulder with low academic proficiency. And before they ever went into accounting, I think he took care of that and met her there where she was, and then went into the accounting part. So, I just love that he came back and he went deeper into that and shared some of his tools and the ways that he does and so that they can be replicated. So, much appreciation for him.

- [Olivares] Yeah.

- And to you.

- Thank you very much for your report. Anybody else before I add my- Yeah, Trustee Carroll.

- Thank you, Madam Chair. Where did you say we could watch the sabbatical presentations again?

- They will likely be posted. So if you go to Info Hub, this is how I do it. I would enter Center for Teaching and Learning and there will probably either be the contact information for Farrell Hoy Jenab or Elaine Sinn. And if it's not on there, those are the people to contact.

- Trustee Carroll, we'll save you the handwriting. We've got people who are excellent

- Oh, okay.

- at just cutting through all the hard work you have to do to find it and send it directly to us.

- We appreciate you, Irene, in saying that, but we'll just send him.

- Yes, thank you.

- Thank you so much, Irene. Thank you.

- Any other comments? Okay, I just wanted to say I appreciate you highlighting two professors that I have gotten to know in my time here, Tai Edwards and Professor Krug, both who are multifaceted and provide many different things for students on campus and do many different things. And I really appreciate hearing about what they're doing. I can't really imagine Professor Krug with more energy, so I'm gonna have to dodge him when I see him because he's already a ball of energy as it is. But I appreciate that you really help us to see things that, you know, we aren't here every day doing the day-to-day and you always are really great at giving us highlights from all over, and that helps us get a full picture of all the great things our faculty are doing and how they make a difference for our students. So thank you so much for this month's report and I look forward to see you in the next month or whoever you bring.

- [Olivares] Yep, thank you so much.

- Thank you so much. Okay, we're gonna move on to the Johnson County Education Research Triangle. Trustee Rattan, I know you have not had a chance to attend your first meeting, but you probably have a report for us, I hope.

- I got money information.

- [Smith-Everett] All right.

- JCERT received \$2,222,077.61 in sales tax of December 2025 and it distributed \$741,000 to each of the three university entities. We transferred \$41,000 more to each university entity in December than we did in November. And we finished the year receiving just over a million dollars more over last year receipts. The transfers to university entities were made on January 5th of 2026.

- Okay, does that conclude your report?

- [Rattan] That concludes my report.

- Very good. I will just say, having just rolled off of that, the JCERT for our new members is we are in an oversight role on that board. So JCERT was the Johnson County Research Triangle created 2000, somebody checked me, '17? Does that seem right? Dr. McLeod's given a shruggy yes. We're gonna go with that as confirmation. And that is a three eight sales to-

- [Cross] 2007 or '08.

- Oh, even long?

- [Cross] 2007 or '08.

- Thank you, Trustee Cross. I appreciate that. And was developed to provide funding with a three-eighth cents sales tax from Johnson County sales tax to the three entities, which is the KU Clinical Trials, the K-State Olathe, and KU Edwards, to promote them creating research here in Johnson County. We serve as an oversight. So we wanna make sure that their programs don't compete with anything we do here at the college. And so, we have a

member always represented from the Board who attends those meetings twice a year. Okay, with that background we're gonna move on to the Kansas Association of Community Colleges. Trustee Cross, are you there in the clouds ready for your presentation?

- [Cross] Yes, Madam Chair. I have no report.

- Okay, thank you very much. That makes it easy. Then we're gonna move on to the Foundation report. Trustee Mitchell?

- Thank you, Madam Chair. A couple of stats to share with people. For calendar year 2025, there were 6,457 donations that were made to the Foundation. \$3,606,517 was raised in the calendar year, including in-kind gifts. Some Enchanted Evening income was up 40% over last year. Nine new scholarship funds were established, six spendable and three endowed. \$34,000 was raised through employee payroll giving to support basic student needs. Foundation collaborated with the Retirees Association to raise almost \$30,000 for their endowed scholarship. In January of 2025, the first payment was made on a \$250,000 pledge for a new scholarship supporting Fine Arts students. In December of '25... I'm guessing that was actually January '26. In December of '25, the first payment was made on a \$250,000 pledge to support the Historic Fashion Collection. Some Enchanted Evening for 2026, the date is set for that. It's November 14th. The co-chairs will be Dr. Tony Miksa and Deb Miksa. Johnson Countian of the Year Nominations are open, and I think tomorrow is the last day for those, if I'm not mistaken. And this will be on the whole 40 thing. This will be the 40th anniversary of Some Enchanted Evening.

- [Smith-Everett] Yes.

- And I'll let Dr. Miksa make another mention of that later, I'm assuming. Save the dates for the Spring Foundation Community Social, which is March 31st, from four to six in the Hugh Libby building. And scholarship launch is Tuesday, April 21st, in the Cap Fed Room in the Regnier Center. That's always a positive event to attend. And that concludes my report for the Foundation.

- Okay, very good. Any questions for Trustee Mitchell? Trustee Mitchell, there is a lot of exciting things going on in the Foundation and I am really looking forward to hearing more about it. But the most important is, did you say 467 donors? Did I get that right at the top of your-

- Calendar 2025, 6,457,

- 6,000.

- donations were made to the Foundation.

- But then you had a number that was 467. What was that? I messed that up. I'm asking you on the spot. Okay, I just made up a number.

- Yeah, yeah.

- Okay, sounds good.

- I may have misstated something.

- No, that's okay. But I think that speaks to the community's belief that investing in our community college by giving scholarship money for scholarships and various other things the Foundation helps us, helps us serve our students and community better. So we thank them for that. And November 14th, got it on the calendar. Looking forward to what you and Deb do with the Johnson County Prom, right?

- [Dr. Miksa] Yes, the Johnson County Prom. Yes. Okay, we're gonna move on to our Committee Reports and Recommendations. We're gonna begin with our Employee Engagement and Development Committee, Trustee Rattan.

- Thank you, Chair Smith-Everett. On Wednesday, January 7th, 2026, the Employee Engagement and Development Committee met. Christina McGee, Vice President of Human Resources, updated the committee on the selection process to identify an investment consultant and management services vendors for the college 403 and 457 plans. Ms. McGee shared that following the evaluation of responses and interviews, the committee made a recommendation to approve the selection of Two West Capital Advisors as the investment consulting and management services vendors. And if I understand right, it's a re-selection. They were already our, Two West was already our advisors. Ms. McGee presented a draft of the Employee Engagement and Development Committee's Working Agenda for 2026 for approval. And so a recommendation to approve the agenda was made as follows: It is the recommendation of the Employee Engagement and Development Committee that the Board of Trustees approve the 2026 Employee Engagement and Development Committee's Working Agenda.

- Are you gonna make that motion? Are you making that motion?

- I am making the motion.

- Second.

- Motion made by Trustee Rattan, seconded by Trustee Mitchell. Any discussion on the Working Agenda Fiscal Year '26 for the Employee Engagement and Development Committee? All right, hearing none, we are going to do our first vote. Is everyone ready? Gotta warmed up, okay. All in favor, say aye.

- [Board] Aye.

- All against, nay?

- [Cross] Yes.

- Okay, I believe that was seven in favor and no against the motion carries for the working agenda. All right, moving on. Trustee Rattan?

- All right, Ms. Rachel Haynes, Director, Employee Engagement and Development, presented an update on the employee engagement survey. She shared that 35 individual meetings were held at the department level with supervisors and heads of the respective departments to go over the survey results in detail. Each department is being asked to create one employee engagement goal from those survey results. Focus groups will be held during PLD week in order to gain more information and a better understanding around comments around career development, workload balance, and leadership communication. Action plans will be developed with information obtained from the focus groups that the Employee Engagement Development Team can use to better support the college. Ms. Haynes also reported on the Employee Engagement and Development Team's Holiday Hangout. This event was on December 18th and it gave employees an opportunity to connect outside of the office. And an estimated a hundred people attended. Ms. Barbra Cooper, Director of Human Resources, reported that the Employee Relations staff and Audit Services have met with Navex to kick off the relaunch of the EthicsPoint reporting web form. It's scheduled for completion by March of this year. And this concludes my report.

- Very good. Any questions for Trustee Ratan on her report? I just wanted to say the Employee Engagement Holiday Hangout event on December 18th, I understand, was a resurrection of a past process where we had people come for a holiday party and you all resurrected that, is that right? We returned to it?

- [Speaker] This is the second annual.

- Oh, okay. All right, so it wasn't a resurrection. It was the second annual. Very good. Well I think it's a fantastic thing that we had over a hundred people attend. I just wanted to celebrate that. I think that we always talk about the value of our belonging value, which is our employees feeling that they belong to this institution and what we do. And that's one of those small ways we can do that. So thank you very much. All right, we are going to move on to Management and Finance with Trustee Mitchell.

- Thank you, Madam Chair. The Management and Finance Committee held their January meeting at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, January 7th, in this room. Information related to that meeting can be found on pages four through nine of the Board Packet. The Management and Finance Committee received the following report from staff: Information Services Quarterly Report. Rob Caffey, Vice President, Information Services/CIO along with Philip Mein, Executive Director, IT Security, and Adam Caylor, Deputy CIO/Executive Director, Academic Technology Services, provided the quarterly Information Services report. The report included security updates, the annual compliance calendar and board reporting requirements. Major projects underway include the Identity Management system implementation, Access Control upgrades, and the new CRM solution, Element451. They also discussed information and technology governance, AI tools approved for use at JCCC, and outcomes from the recent study with InfoTech Research. Mission Continuity and Risk Management Semi-Annual Report. Cindy Wickstrom, Director of Mission Continuity and Risk Management, provided a semiannual report on Mission Continuity and Risk Management activities. The update included an overview of the mission continuity service areas and risk management actions, a summary of FY26 insurance renewals with lines of coverage and premium costs, and a review of the enterprise risk assessment process, along with results from the recent risk survey. Other Agreements. Rachel Lierz, Executive VP for Finance and Administrative Services, presented an argument... excuse me, an agreement with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office-

- [Smith-Everett] Wow!

- There you go. Details can be found in the consent agenda portion of the January 15th, 2026 board packet. Turning to the next page, Capital Acquisitions and Improvements Progress Report. Tom Hall, AVP, Campus Services and Facility Planning, provided the committee with information on facilities projects from the capital acquisitions and improvements matrix. The Management and Finance Committee has the following recommendations to present this evening: Management and Finance Committee 2026 Working Agenda. Rachel Lierz, EVP for Finance and Administrative Services, presented an argument, no, presented the calendar year 2026 Management and Finance Committee Working Agenda.

- [Smith-Everett] Are you gonna make that motion?

- Yes, it is the recommendation of the Management and Finance Committee that the Board of Trustees approve the 2026 Management and Finance Committee Working Agenda, and I so move.

- Okay, very good, do we have a second?

- [Jennings, Holton & Cross] Second.

- Second, Trustee Jennings. All in favor for the Finance Committee, sorry, Management and Finance Committee Working Agenda, say aye.

- [Board] Aye.

- Any opposed?

- [Cross] Aye.

- Seven in favor, the motion passes.

- Facilities Naming Committee. Kate Allen, VP of College Advancement and Government Affairs, reported that the Facilities Naming Committee met on 9:00 AM on December 17th, 2025 via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to review four nominations for Facilities Naming in compliance with the Naming College Facilities Policy 217.05. The committee discussed the nominations and approved the following: One, Open Petal Farm now becomes the Stu Shafer Open Petal Farm; and Veteran & Military Services Resource Center Lounge becomes the Specialist Spencer Duncan Student Lounge; and FADS 123 becomes the Kopperman Ceramics Studio; and JCCC Historical Fashion Collection becomes Joan's Closet. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Management and Finance Committee

that the Board of Trustees accept the recommendations of the Facilities Naming Committee to rename the spaces as I listed above. And I so move.

- Okay, very good. Motion moved by Trustee Mitchell,

- [Cross] Second.

- seconded by Trustee Cross. All in favor for the facilities renaming, say aye.

- [Board] Aye.

- Okay, Procurement Reports-

- Hold on, just a second. Trustee Cross?

- [Cross] I seconded it, yes.

- Okay.

- He seconded it.

- Thank you, couldn't hear that. And any opposed? The motion passes seven to zero, thank you. Please continue.

- Kinda got ahead of myself, my apologies.

- No, you're fine. That's all right. We gotta get the nerves out tonight.

- Procurement Reports and Recommendations. Jim Feikert, Executive Director of Procurement Services, presented a recommendation for one bid and one award, and one cooperative bid and award. For the Warehouse Renovation, it is the recommendation of the Management and Finance Committee that the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the college administration to approve the proposal from Combes Construction in the amount of \$897,000 with an additional 20% contingency of \$179,400, for a total amount of \$1,076,400. And I so move.

- [Carroll] Second.

- [Rattan] Second to it.

- [Smith-Everett] Okay, motion made by Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Carroll. Is there any discussion on the renovation of the warehouse? I forgot the discussion in the last motion. See, we're all working out the kinks. We'll get there. Trustee Rattan?

- I do wanna say that we actually learned a lot about this warehouse renovation and all the things that go on in the warehouse. It's kind of a little powerhouse out there. And I think we have a tour coming up.

- Yes.

- Very good, yeah.

- We will work through that for you. Possibly next month if it works out with everybody's schedule before the Board-

- [Jennings] Before the renovation?

- Well, yeah, before the renovation.

- [Jennings] Before it turns into summer.

- Yeah, yeah, before it gets hot in there. Yes, definitely.

- And if I may on the facilities renaming. We did learn a lot about the background behind the renaming and I think it's just a really great honor that our college is able to do that and honor people who have celebrated and supported our college for long periods of time.

- So, I will comment about that afterwards about the naming, but yes, I do wanna give time for people to comment about the naming because there, yeah, some personal accolades there. But for the warehouse renovation, are there any other comments, questions for Trustee Mitchell or our Cabinet? Okay, I had a few because I think it's really important that the public knows that when we are passing something that's a million dollar renovation, we don't take that lightly. And we vet this. And so we vetted it before this meeting. We have a whole committee process, and so that's been done in our management meeting, but that's not as televised or watched as closely as this meeting is. So trustee, or you're not trustee. Thank God, good for you not being. But Rachel, I wanted to ask you a couple questions about when the last time we renovated this building was and how many students and employees we have utilizing, working in, accessing that building, I guess, on the roll?

- Right, the building was constructed in 2001 and it has never been renovated.

- [Smith-Everett] Okay.

- This will be the first time we've gone in and made some updates there. So, got a lot of things that are, you know, we're looking to accomplish with this project. As far as the number of folks that are in and outta there every day, it does vary depending on the time of year. On average, 30 to 40 people call that or considered that their workspace. Those

include our Warehouse and Postal Service employees, folks from our Center for Sustainability and the Sustainability interns, Campus Services and Facilities of course, our Campus Farm and the interns and volunteers that are part of that programming. And also sometimes our Foundation and folks that fulfill orders for our JC3 Innovations

- [Smith-Everett] Yeah.

- are in there using the space to do that as well. So, it is much more than just a storage warehouse facility and we're excited about the project. It's been a long time coming.

- Yeah, so 25 years and we have not touched

- Correct, correct.

- since it's...okay. Very good. Any other additional questions from the Board before we vote on this? Okay, Trustee Mitchell, you made the motion, it was seconded by Trustee Carroll, is that right? Okay, all in favor of the warehouse renovation, please say aye.

- [Board] Aye.

- [Cross] Aye.

- Thank you, all opposed? Motion passes seven to zero, thank you. Moving on, Trustee Mitchell?

- Employee Retirement Plan, Investment Consulting, and Management Services. Excuse me. It is the recommendation of the Employee Engagement and Development... Okay, read that one up on this. Well actually, it is the recommendation of the Management and Finance Committee that the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the college

administration to approve the proposal from Two West for an estimated base year of \$88,500 and a total estimated expenditure of \$442,500 throughout the renewal options. And I'll just add that this was also a topic of discussion with the Employee Engagement and Development Committee.

- [Smith-Everett] Before I came here?

- Yeah.

- [Smith-Everett] Gotcha.

- Well, I think that was a discussion both on that same day, but it's a recommendation of the Management and Finance Committee

- Okay.

- that we pass this.

- And you're making that motion?

- Yes, I am.

- Okay, do we have a second?

- [Jennings] Second.

- Thank you, Trustee Jennings seconds. All in favor of the Employee Retirement Plan, Investment Consulting, and Management Services, say aye.

- [Board] Aye.

- All opposed? Have to wait for him. I heard six-zero in favor of-

- [Cross] Madam Chair?

- Yes?

- [Cross] Madam Chair, unless you hear a dissent you may assume I'm a yes.

- I don't think I'm allowed to, but I would love to. I will inside. I will think every single motion-

- [Cross] I'm sorry to make things difficult for you. I'll try to be better for you. Trust me.

- I know! Gosh, my first one, Trustee Cross, and you're just throwing a wrench in things for me. Okay, the motion carries, seven-zero I hear now. Is that right? And Trustee Mitchell, before we conclude your report, or does that conclude your report?

- It does conclude my report.

- I wanted to go back really quick. Again, the nerves this afternoon and figuring out all the components, I forgot to pause at the Facilities Renaming and wanted to see if anybody had any comments or questions. We do not rename our facilities or classrooms, spaces across campus very often. We meet sporadically as the need arises, and that is what we did in the last month to take care of several of these facilities. And there were some really important

renamings that happened in that meeting. And before I make my comments I wanted to see if anybody else would like to speak about those.

- Well, just quickly. My understanding is that we've renamed four of 'em. Three of them are related to people who have donated significantly to the organization. In the case of Specialist Duncan, he gave his life for the country and his parents have subsequently donated a lot of money in his memory to this organization as well, so.

- [Rattan] Yes.

- Thank you for that because that was one of the things I wanted to talk about. Each of the individuals that we are naming our facilities or spaces around campus for had some connection to the college. I personally knew Stu Shafer. He was a friend of my father's who worked in culinary who is here tonight, and we were all surprised to find out about his passing recently. And so to honor him with the Open Petal Farm naming is a really near and dear to my heart. I'm gonna try not to get choked up, but we have incredible faculty and staff who invest their entire lives in making this place great and Stu was one of those. And if you knew him, you were lucky to know him because he was passionate about sustainability and the farm, and getting students to really understand where food comes from and the whole cycle. And I was privileged to know him, so I was really honored to be part of that committee renaming it. And then as you spoke of, Trustee Mitchell, the Veteran & Military Student Resource Center, that young man passed away quite a while ago, but his family immediately wanted to do something for veterans in response to their son's passing. And they chose us here at Johnson County Community College. So the scholarships that they have funded has helped tremendous amount of our veteran students. And we know that that program is growing and it's because students come here and find out there's other veterans, and they feel like for the first time they can make it. They can get that degree they always wanted. And so having that scholarship allows a lot of them to do that and not have to worry about the financial component. And then, my understanding is our Historical Fashion Collection, which is another part being named Joan's Closet, was a great story that we learned about the donation of that Historical Fashion Collection. And then being able to honor Joan, is here tonight, is that right?

- [Speaker] Yeah.

- Oh, good evening. Thank you for being...please stand. We would love to recognize you. Thank you so much.

- It is in memory of my husband that always wanted a Joan's Closet. He started in 1981 and I've been part of it for a long time, but Johnson County provided a home when everything disappeared. So we've got, it's an amazing collection.

- [Smith-Everett] It is, it is.

- I'm thrilled to be able to do that.

- Well, thank you for being here tonight. We are thrilled to be able to honor your late husband's wishes and be able to name that. I have learned more about the Historical Fashion Collection just this year. I think every month on this Board you learn of another slice of things we do, and that beloved fashion collection has lived a life. My goodness! We found out all the places that it was stored and moved to because the preservation of it was the top of mind. And to be able to find a home here and for us to honor your late husband's wishes by naming it Joan's Closet is truly our honor. So, thank you. Those are the last comments I'll make about the Facilities Naming Committee. I always wanna make sure we honor people that have been here before us. With that said, I'm gonna get back to my agenda and we are gonna stay on track, and we are going to move on to Trustee Jennings report from Student Success Committee. Trustee Jennings?

- Thank you, Madam Chair. The Student Success Committee met at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, January 6th, 2026. Dr. Barry Bailey, Professor/Librarian, provided curriculum updates. Dr. Bailey presented new courses, course modifications, and deactivations and program modifications effective for the 2026 and 2027 academic year. Details can be found in the consent agenda portion of the Board Packet. Dr. Mickey McCloud, Provost, presented the Student Success Committee 2026 Working Agenda. It is the recommendation of the Student Success Committee that the Board of Trustees approve the 2026 Student Success Working Agenda, and I so move.

- [Mitchell] Second.

- Motion made by Trustee Jennings, seconded by Trustee Mitchell. Any discussion? Okay, all in favor of the Working Agenda for Student Success Committee, please say aye.

- [Board] Aye.

- Aye. And I don't know if I have to vote. I guess it was, again, I'm thinking inside my head and now I have to say things out here, just realizing. And Trustee Cross? Is that a in favor vote. I heard six in favor. Any opposed? All right, motion carries, six to zero. Trustee Jennings, please continue.

- Thank you, Madam Chair. Regarding Student Engagement Process, Ms. Shelli Allen, VP Student Success and Engagement, presented an update on the Strategic Enrollment Plan. The first goal was recruitment by building awareness of Johnson County Community College. Some of the ways this was accomplished was through a collaborative communication plan, specific recruitment events and adding, quote, exploratory, unquote, as an area of interest on the admissions application. Ms. Allen emphasized how the online presence has been enhanced with the new homepage video, refined virtual campus tours and promoting student activities through social media. The second goal was about access and belonging, highlighting updating communication around the stigma of financial aid, enhanced digital mapping tools and accessibility compliance along with military and community outreach. The Student Success division is preparing for the global future with expanded testing options and dedicated support for immigrant and international students. Ms. Allen said the Facilities Master Plan will also assist students in navigating the campus more effectively. Other improvements have been made to prepare students for transferring to a four-year university or entering the workforce. Mr. Jim Lane, Dean of Arts, Design, Humanities, and Social Sciences, presented an update on the division. The ADHSS division consists of 24 individual academic disciplines in 15 departments; 678 total sections, 59 full-time faculty, and 127 adjunct faculty; three full-time staff and approximately 50 part-time staff. Dean Lane said each academic year there are 12 student concerts and people of all ages and backgrounds auditioned for the music ensembles. The Theater Department hosts four to six student stage productions each academic year in the Bodker Black Box

and Polsky Theatres. These events are free of charge with no reserved seating, although he also shared, as did Mickey, that get there early because they fill up fast. Mr. Lane also showcased the, is it Miranda Recital? Maronde? Okay, Recital Series; 35 years of free professional concerts on Mondays with the Classical Recital Series and on Tuesdays, the Jazz Recital Series. The Music and Theater Departments are led by Grammy Award winner Dr. Ryan Heinlein, who serves as chairperson. Students in the arts have received many national awards; including the 2024 KCACTG National Playwright award. One of the community outreach programs is the Annual In The Wings program, which brings 130 local high school theater students to the Johnson County Community College campus each fall. Mr. Lane noted that students in the Design Programs are either career ready or able to transfer to a four-year university. The remaining two areas, Humanities and Social Studies, are also taught by extraordinary professors who go above and beyond for the student. Mr. Lane said Johnson County Community College students rise above because of the extra and co-curricular activities that add a richness to their Johnson County Community College experience. Examples of extra and co-curricular activities include Student Art exhibitions, Model UN, Night at the Nelson, Constitution Day, Trans Awareness Week, and KC Symphony Designer Showcase. He ended by thanking the administration and the Board for their continued to support. And Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

- Okay, very good. Thank you, Trustee Jennings. Grammy Award winner,

- [Jennings] Yeah.

- we have a Gold Medalist employee. We just need a night where everybody brings all of their...

- Talents.

- All their talents?

- Yeah, and all their awards.

- That' ll be fun.

- I just wanna touch some of these. These are amazing, incredible. Thank you very much for your report. Moving on-

- [Rattan] I have one thing.

- Oh, okay, Trustee Rattan?

- I just wanted to say, as you talked about what Mr. Lane talked about and the extracurricular work and the Model UN and the clubs, I can't help but think about what you said earlier today, Dr. Miksa, about majoring in Math, but taking Acting class and Sociology. It just makes you a better, well-rounded, critical thinking student. And so, again, appreciation for everyone who teaches and works with students who are doing these things outside of their major to make them a better, more well-rounded citizen in Johnson County in the metro. Thank you.

- Any other comments or questions for Trustee Jennings? Okay, moving on. We're going to move to the Treasurer's Report under the President's recommendations for action. So Trustee Mitchell.

- Thank you, Madam Chair. The Board Packet includes the Treasurer's Report for the month ending November 30th, 2025. Here are a couple of things to highlight. Page one includes the General/Post-Secondary Technical Education Funds, which are the primary operating funds for the college. November 5th was the fifth month of the fiscal year. The General Fund unencumbered cash balance was \$117.6 million as of November 30th, 2025. Expenditures of the primary operating fund are within the approved budgetary limits. It is the recommendation of the college administration that the Board of Trustees approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ended November 2025, subject to audit.

- [Rattan] Second.

- Okay, you making that motion, Trustee Mitchell?

- So moved.

- Thank you, and Trustee Rattan seconded. Motion made by Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Rattan. All in favor of approving the Treasurer's Report, please give me a yes.

- [Board] Yes.

- Mix it up tonight. I don't know if Trustee-

- Yeah, he dropped off.

- So any opposed? All right, motion passes, six-zero. Trustee Mitchell, does that conclude your Treasurer's Report?

- Yes, that concludes the Treasurer's Report.

- Very good. All right, Dr. Miksa, here we are, second semester. You got us going, got us launched this morning and we're looking forward to hearing your Monthly Report to the Board.

- Well, thank you very much, Chair Smith-Everett. So first I'd like to congratulate our new trustees for being on the Board. Look forward to continue working with us, or continue to working with you, or starting to work with you, I should say. I also wanna congratulate all the other trustees on their new roles, and especially our new chair, Chair Smith-Everett. So special edition, I gotta keep saying that in.

- [Smith-Everett] Yeah, it's gonna be... Yep, we're gonna get there.

- We'll get there, we'll get there. So a lot of these things that you heard today, I talked about 'em a little bit. 'Cause the college has been closed, or is closed for a couple weeks over the Christmas time and the holiday times, but we are ramping up and getting students back on campus. So first I just bring your attention to our Enrollment Report. You have that all at your table. Things are looking great for the spring semester. We're up about 2-2.5% both in head count and in total credit hours. So that's great work for us. I've noted this this morning a little bit earlier today that one of the things that's nice is that it's our new students are coming as well as non-traditional students. So, which is great because a lot of community colleges have built, or enrollment has been built on dual enrollment students, which is wonderful. We really want dual enrollment students, but you also wanna make sure we maintain and grow our new and traditional students as well, too. The other part of our enrollment, and I'll talk about this just a little bit later in terms of some of the goals that we kinda laid out or those big visions or those aspirations that we have out there is our workforce area, our Workforce Development and Community Education. Elisa and her team are focused on getting 17,000 students this year. A little bit over 17,000 students. And she's right about where she needs to be. Halfway through the year she's about 51% of her goal. So we're really happy with enrollment right now and we're excited about the spring semester from that perspective. Some other things that are going on on campus, again, sticking with Elisa in her area, our Workforce and Community Development Area was offered the opportunity to participate in a grant through Rutgers University. And this grant is called Student Voices Informing Practices in Non-Credit Education. So it's a nice grant and a study about non-credit education and should help us do a better job in that area as we always try to continue to improve. We've hosted some HLC reaffirmation lead meeting on campus. I say that to say John's in the back of the room there. I've never been at an institution that's so far ahead when it comes to re-accreditation as we are today. This is just to remind the Board of Trustees that we have our re-accreditation visit February 28th and 29th in 2028. So make sure you have your calendar set for that, but we are well ahead of the game and so that's great work we have there. I mentioned a little bit of data today when I was talking, when I made my remarks to the campus, but I think there are two or three bits of data that I thought were really worthwhile to repeat. Number one, 78% of our students are either satisfied or very satisfied with their experiences that they have on campus. I think the important part behind that is that it's compared to nationally, only 78% of students are typically satisfied or very satisfied with their community college. So that's great work there.

83, or excuse me, 88% of our students, when they finish at Johnson County Community College, would say that they would re-enroll. That's compared to about 79% nationally. So those are two great pieces of data that we can go out and talk to the community about and say how wonderful we are as an institution. And the last thing that I thought that was important to kinda continue to reiterate, our three-year graduation rate rose from 31% to 34%. So these would be the students that started in August 2022, and then you have three years to complete to be a part of that graduation statistics. So that's great work as we move in that direction of improving our graduation rate, but we have big goals from there. It is PLD week and I'll talk just about a few things. Just, you know, like Irene talked about some of the sessions that she went to, one of 'em that I went to was on international students. And you might not know this, but we have 1100 international students on our campus and these are students that don't, for example, get up on a Friday morning before classes and say, "Hey, I wanna go to JCCC, hop on a plane and fly here." These are students that work six months to a year to get themselves prepared to come to campus. Once they get to campus, there's a lot of work that they have to do. Kim Steinmetz and her team does the work for that. And these students, in the time that I've been here, I've had an opportunity to meet with them and talk with them. They are eternally grateful for the opportunity that they have to study here at JCCC. And so it's just great to have 'em on campus. And not only is it great to have 'em on campus and that they're grateful, it is so amazing to walk down the hall, to hear different languages, to hear different accents. That not only it's a great educational opportunity for them to be here, but it's a great educational opportunity for our students to hear what they have to say and be a part of that internationalizing of the curriculum. I'll also talk about, I did get an opportunity to do some remarks to the campus today. I wanna thank the trustees that were there. It's wonderful to see you there and that support that I feel when I'm there. And I think it also, the campus as a whole, feels that support that you're providing for them as well too, knowing that you're providing the resources that we need to be successful. Greg, Trustee Mitchell, I'm sorry, mentioned this a little bit earlier. One of the things that we ended with and this idea, some of those big aspirations that we have out there, I kinda challenged the campus to go after that 40% graduation rate, to go after 40,000 students that we have on campus. As well as at the 40th year of Some Enchanted Evening, we're gonna do our regular fundraising that we normally do for that, but start a campaign for our Health Profession Center of Excellence and challenge us to raise \$40 million for that. So I'm really excited about those aspirations. And I heard some nice things from people on campus today. So I'm looking forward to seeing how we move forward and put that together. I'll throw one last professional development session that I went to today. So there was like a time to just kinda wind down, 'cause it's a lot making these presentations and being part of it. But there's a chance we had to do some video games. And so we stopped. It was right over in the Student Services Area. I got to play Wii Bowling

with a faculty member and a couple other people from our office. I wasn't able to beat the faculty member, but I do know that right now I am the champion in our office in bowling. I'm not saying anybody else at the dais played as I look over to my left, but I'm just saying that. So thank you very much for all your support and we are looking forward to a awesome spring 2026 semester. Thank you very much.

- Thank you, Dr. Miksa. Any questions for Dr. Miksa and his report?

- [Rattan] Great job today at PLD.

- [Dr. Miksa] Thank you.

- Agreed. Yes, great job. It was really great to be in one room with the majority of our employees. Kudos to you given that final stamp of approval, but really all the work that went into ensuring that we could close down to allow for that. I think, going back to that value of belonging, we are a huge place and it is really easy to get lost and not feel like we're all on the same ship, headed in the same direction. So I appreciated everyone who put in the work to ensure that we could allow every employee that possibly could to be part of that. And really get to understand you and your vision for our campus and get on board. So now we have three Cs with the, we've always had that, but now we have four 40s, is that right?

- [Dr. Miksa] Well, three or four 40s.

- You were rattling off, there were a lot of forties in there. But I think having something that we're all trying to work towards is really good for us as a campus. Something we've needed. I will say, I was remiss to not shout out your division, Elisa, which right now as I'm speaking, my brain can't think of the words of what your division is, all the work you do. But we have a new agreement that we just approved with the jail for Johnson County Sheriff's Department, I believe. And irony of ironies, I'm gonna take personal privilege to say that my father began working at this college when he was teaching culinary out of Lansing Prison. If you didn't know, we had a partnership with them for many years and those students were very excited to be able to cook food, use knives, and then be able to eat that food while at

the prison. But we have had a really long history of working with all kinds of facets of our community, and that's your division and everything you do. So, thanks for always highlighting them in your report because they are the other half of our enrollment that's really critical. Finally, you know, you've had one semester in your belt, so I expect you to know every name from here on out for the rest of the year. And understanding the competitiveness in the office, are we gonna be, do we need to bring in some counseling? There's been several incidents I'm hearing with the competitions going on in the office. Is everything okay?

- I can just tell you I've lost a couple things, so this is my opportunity.

- Okay, okay. So you got your opportunity to gloat while you had your presentation. Oh, Trustee Rattan?

- I just thought, one, is we are all downloading Coldplay apparently,

- Yeah.

- which I already like, but I do wanna say thanks for bringing back a corporate challenge. I'm not sure how long it was gone, but that is something that brings the Esprit de Corps out and it's a really fine Kansas City tradition.

- [Dr. Miksa] I'm looking forward to it.

- You'll love it.

- [Dr. Miksa] Definitely.

- All right, very good.

- I think Valerie...

- I just wanna make a comment about this morning's opening. Being an observer, one of the things that really stood out for me is how each of you that were presenting, your personalities shown through, and the humor and the enjoyment that I could see in that I think really adds to that sense of belonging as someone who works at the college. Because, you know, I think it's easy for faculty to see this distance between the Cabinet and the President and them. And this morning's opening provided that we're all in this, and we're here to help each other and support each other. And you, for sure, really reinforce that. So I just wanna say thank you for that because I think that it's really making a difference.

- [Dr. Miksa] Thank you.

- Okay, well, thank you Dr. Miksa for your report. And we are going to move on to new business, which I do, I'm not aware of any new business. So, check in with all the trustees here. Anybody have any? Okay, good, that's the right answer tonight because I can't handle new business tonight. Any old business? We do not have any old business. So we're gonna move on to the Consent Agenda. We are now ready for the Consent Agenda, which contains a number of administrative items that have been reviewed pursuant to college policies and are generally considered in one motion and one vote. If any trustee wishes to pull anything from the Consent Agenda, all you have to do is say so and we'll consider that item separately. Is there anything on tonight's Consent Agenda that any trustee would like to have considered individually? Okay, hearing none. Can I get a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented?

- Madam Chair, I move to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

- Trustee Mitchell with the motion. Do I have a second?

- [Carroll] Second.

- Trustee Carroll, is that right? Trustee Carroll with a second. I'm writing down here in my little script. Do we have any other comments? Okay, hearing none. All in favor, say aye.

- [Board] Aye.

- All opposed, no? Motion passes, six-zero with Trustee Cross now off the line. Okay, we do have a executive session this evening, and I am going to find the part of my script that I am going to read to remind myself, okay. Like I said, working out the kinks tonight, everybody. We're here. I would like to entertain a motion to go into executive session for the consultation with legal counsel regarding a pending personnel matter, which would be deemed privilege in the attorney-client relationship. No action will be taken during this session and the executive session will last for 20 minutes. Would we like a bio break between now and the executive session? Okay, so if we started at 6:45 and we went to 7:05, have I done my math right? I'm not, I'm an ELA reading person so you're always gonna have to

- [Dr. Miksa] wonderful.

- check my math there. All right, we are gonna start at 6:45 and we're gonna end at 7:05, at which time the open session will resume at this location. Invited to join us for the executive session are all Board members in attendance, Dr. Miksa, Rachel Lierz, and Kelsey Nazar. Can I get a motion for executive session, please?

- So move.

- Second.

- Trustee Rattan moves and seconded by Trustee Mitchell. We will begin at 6:45 in this room right off of the Board.

- You still have to vote. You have to vote.

- Oh yeah, we should vote on that before we do that. All in favor, thank you. All in favor of the executive session, please say yes.

- [Board] Yes.

- Any opposed? Motion carries, six to zero. All right, we will be right next door at 6:45. Thank you. Thank you, we have returned from executive session where no action was taking, taken, excuse me. Seeing no more business before us, may I have a motion to adjourn?

- [Mitchell] Madam Chair, I move to adjourn.

- Trustee Mitchell moves to adjourn. Do I have-

- [Jennings & Carroll] Second.

- Yes! All in favor?

- [Board] Aye.

- All right. I hear no one against. Thank you very much, we are adjourned.