

Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees Meeting

December 18, 2025

5 p.m.

Transcript of Meeting

- Good evening. The December 18th meeting of the Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees is hereby called to order. Won't you join me in starting our meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- [All] 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.
- All right, by way of roll call, we have six trustees present in-person and Trustee Jennings is appearing remotely by phone. I'm told that she is on the line, so we have everyone here, and that will bring us then to the first item on our agenda, which is awards and recognition, and Dr. Miksa, I'll turn that over to you.
- All right, so the first person we have coming up is our student spotlight today, I think you're gonna find him quite interesting, Joshua, Joshua Kawase will come up and tell a little bit about his story and his journey here at JCCC.
- Hi there everyone.
- Hi.
- My name is Joshua Kawase, and I'm 28 years old and a returning student. My career journey has been a bit tumultuous, going from studying professional counseling to a brief foray into mortgages and taxes before landing in what I'm currently studying, computer engineering. When I decided to return back to school in 2014, I had a lot of concerns, not the least of, which financial concerns, how am I gonna be able to pay for this? Practical concerns, like where I would live? I moved back in with my parents to make this work, as well as a lot of concerns of, am I going to be able to follow through with a very difficult degree that will require a lot out of me? And I would say that my experience here at JCCC has really helped me prove to myself that I can do this, and so I'm very grateful for my experience here. I'd say there were two places in particular that I was able to discover that. The first was walking into Professor Melissa Menning's 10:00 AM Calc 2 class. I had not taken the calculus class, or any math class in 10 years and was terrified when she put a list of nine theorems that I was supposed to know coming from Calc 1 to Calc 2, none of which I recognized remotely. But

with her help, and the help of my classmates, with the help of the Academic Achievement Center, I was able to make it through that class. I was able to, gratefully, I was able to surprise myself with just barely passing with an A at the end of the semester. But with the help of a professor that really invested in our students, that built a course for which there were many opportunities to check my progress and to seek support from my professor and seek support from my fellow students, I was able to succeed there. I did linear algebra this past fall under Professor M., and one of the most challenging courses I've ever taken, and one of the most rewarding. And so I would say, unilaterally, my experience with the math department has given me a passion for math that I did not think I would have coming back to school. The other thing that has really helped develop my confidence as a student has been working in the Student Lounge. I've worked under Mo Rammel with Anne Turney, Cassie Jordan, Mya Lawrence, who have all invested a lot of time and energy into me. Mo assigned me this past semester to organize, depending on how you count, 10 to 14 different events. I led two teams. I was involved in the Lounge Student Social Media, which if you go onto the Student Life Social Media, you will see me acting very absurdly to advertise all of our events this past semester. I embarrassed myself for pay, but none of those things that I felt confident or comfortable doing, as a computer engineering student who is very interested in finding a technical job where I worked at a desk day in and day out, I was not expecting to lead teams, run events, or film social media videos. But with her help and investment, I was able to build the confidence doing things that were very much outside of my wheelhouse and helped prepare me for leadership in a future career in computer engineering. So all that to say, I am really grateful for my time here on campus. It has really helped solidify my confidence in my ability to study, my confidence in my ability to seek help from people around me, and I am grateful for everything that all of you do, and all that the campus does to help people like me achieve my goals, achieve our goals, so thank you all for your time. Thanks Joshua. Hey, don't leave. Don't leave. Oh yeah, the easy part's done. Thanks Joshua, for your story. We really appreciate hearing that, and I'm gonna open it up to questions from my fellow trustees.

- [Trustee Rattan] What inspired you to go into this third major or focus?
- I have always enjoyed computers, and had almost been actively avoiding career in them. I thought that I wasn't good at detailed-oriented work. I presumed that I would sink under the pressure. Working in mortgages and taxes taught me that I am actually very detail-oriented and great with Excel. I love formulas in Excel.
- [Dr. Miksa] I love hearing that.

- And I think that convinced me, working a job where I had to organize about 1300 tax returns from five pieces of software that were incompatible and build reports to make sure that no tax return for these medium-sized businesses got missed for extensions come April 15th, or March 15th, depending on the organization of the business. It taught me that I do have the capacity to put the effort into work in a job that I've been fascinated since a kid, and I think that's what gave me the confidence to do something that I'd always wanted to do.
- Thank you.
- Thank you.
- Any other questions? Trustee Mitchell.
- I just wanted to say, I think it's interesting that you stated you developed the confidence to be comfortable to ask people for help, and I think that's kind of an undervalued kind of ability that, you know, I've struggled with in my professional career, but I think it's a good thing that you're developing that skillset to be able to do that, 'cause it will help you to be able to ask people for help.
- I agree, and thank you for that. I think this year, I have found that the best way to deal with any insecurity I have, instead of working harder until I drop, is to seek support from people who have more experience than me and more wisdom, so that I can apply those skills to sustainably be able to accomplish the tasks are assigned to me.
- Mm. Any other questions? I have just a couple of comments, and thank you for sharing your story. You know, the great thing about your career change is you may not have to worry about the IRS coming after you if you mess up anymore.
- I have practice with the IRS, I can tell you that.
- Joshua, you know, I, like so many of the students here at JCCC, share a lot of your story about coming back to college, you know, 10 years or more after you've been out of high school and really reinventing yourself time and time again. I've been told that after my fifth career, maybe it's time for me to pick one, but I always think it's incredibly important for you to be able to reinvent yourself. You know, we get one chance at this journey on earth, and we should be able to explore everything that's our passion.
- Hmm.
- And if that means taking a leap of faith and changing a career, changing your path, kudos for you for having the courage to do that. So many of our students here at-
- Always makes incredibly important points. Huh. So many of our students here at JCCC have made that very same journey, and so congratulations, and it sounds like math is your calling, although you didn't realize it at the time, and certainly, it

sounds like you've been very successful and will continue to be so. Thank you so much, and thank you for giving a shout out to the folks here at the college who have helped you. We always love hearing that.

- I mean, I'm grateful. I couldn't do any of this without anyone else's help, so.
- Yeah, there you go. Work smarter, not harder, right?
- Yes, indeed.
- All right, thanks Joshua. Appreciate it.
- Thank you all.
- Now, you can sit down. Thank you. All right, next on the agenda is the open forum section of our... Did you have anything else? I'm so sorry.
- I was just gonna say, it was great to hear him talk about Calc 2. As a math person, I thought that that was wonderful.
- I bet you loved hearing that.
- Yeah, I did. It was a great story. Yeah, you math people. All right. Anything else? Sorry about that.
- No, not at this time.
- Okay. That brings us to the open forum section of our board meeting. The open forum section of the board agenda is a time for members of the community to provide comments to the Board. There will be one open forum period during each regularly scheduled board meeting, and comments are limited to five minutes, unless a significant number of people plan to speak. In that case, the chair may limit a person's comments to less than five minutes. In order to be recognized, individuals must register at the door 15 minutes prior to each regularly scheduled board meeting. 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, the college does not respond in this setting when the matter concerns personnel or student issues or matters that are being addressed through our established grievance or suggestion processes or otherwise the subject of review of the college or the board. It's my understanding that there are no registered speakers tonight, and so we will close the open forum section of the board, and we'll proceed right into board reports. First up, we have the Student Senate Report. It's my understanding that Oliver can't be with us tonight, and so we have Tony Wong.
- [Dr. Miksa] No, he was not able to be with us either, so no report tonight.
- Oh, okay. No report.
- No report.
- Well, I'm sad.

- Yes.
- I was looking forward to meeting Tony.
- Mm-hmm.
- If you're out there, Tony, we're disappointed we didn't get to meet you. All right, that takes us to the college lobbyist, Mr. Dick Carter, and I know he's here. Thanks for making the trek from Topeka.
- Well, I don't do math, but I do do words. Let's see here. Which one do I? Or is it the keyboard?
- [Assistant] You can just use the keyboard. I'm not sure.
- [Dick] Can you see it?
- No.
- Nope. There's nothing yet.
- I can see it on mine, but...
- There we go.
- There we go.
- There you go.
- Excellent. All right. Well, we're gonna do something a little different this evening. It's sort of my gift to you for the holiday season. So since I do do words, we'll start out with a little story. 'Twas the week before session under Topeka's Copper Dome. Not a bill was advancing, just emails from home. The calendars were filling, the deadlines looked tight, and the rotunda echoed with, "We'll fix it in the middle of the night." The committees were assigned. Everyone had their seat, while lobbyists waited patiently, their whiskeys poured neat. Staffers with notepads and coffee in hand, they braced for the blizzard of amendments on demand. When out in the hallway there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my desk chair to see what was the matter. Away to the doorway, I hurried in an instant. Imagine my surprise when I spied Dr. Miksa. To the Capitol, he came with purpose in mind, seven college trustees following closely behind. When what to my weary eyes should appear, why it was Heather Morgan. She always seems near. With talking points ready and a list full of quips, I knew in a moment these arguments would stick. We gathered them close and coached them for the game and whistled and shouted and called them by name. Now Hamill, now Mitchell and Jennings and Rayl, on Cross and Rattan and with Smith-Everett, we can't fail. Whereas Carroll and Holton, they'll be here real soon, with this robust group, we should shoot for the moon, with their Topeka visit done, I bid them farewell. Now, back to the grindstone. It's sort of like hell. I drew in my breath and was turning around, when all of a sudden, came a familiar sound. They were all dressed in suits, from lapel down to shoe, and their pockets were stuffed with just one more

bill to review, a bundle of bills they'd flung on their backs. "Let's pass these real quick so we can get checks from the PACs." As dry prairie winds when cold fronts collide, the House debate fluttered. The facts seemed to hide. So up to the Senate chamber, the chatter, it flew, with a sleigh full of memos and a substitute or two. Their eyes, how they squinted, their speeches, how merry, their lines were rehearsed and their pivots were cherry. The votes, they were counting, that job done by the whip, and smartphones in hand, receiving texts full of tips. A wink from the dais, a gavel, a grin. "We'll be brief," someone promised, and then started again. They spoke not a word, but went straight to their work and filled up the journal, each bill with its quirks. As the session droned on and the day turned night, the message became clear, and we soon learned our plight. They cut us some more with a promise to reconsider. It'll all work out in the end, just not as much glitter. And I heard them exclaim, never once to eschew, "Happy session to all. That's 90 days, to you." That's fun.

- That might be the best part, so I could sit down now, if you want.
- That was awesome.
- Yeah.
- I do want to provide a little bit of a snapshot of what's to come, what some of the priorities are going to be, what the community college folks are going to face, and a little bit of how we got to where we are right now. So we'll visit what impact the mid-term elections are gonna have on the session, take a look at some of the budget issues that we know we're facing and where we think we're going, a look at the outcomes from this past year that sort of paint the picture for where we're going, and then look at some of the big issues that we'll be facing. So this is this upcoming session, we will have a senate that has two years remaining on their four-year terms, but all 125 house members will be up for election, along with the statewide offices. So that's the governor, the AG, secretary of state, state treasurer, Kansas insurance commissioner, and we've got folks in the legislature that are running for some of those positions. We have a senate president that is running for governor on the GOP side. We have two senators that are running for governor on the Democrat side. In the House, the speaker's running for commissioner of insurance, and we have some other folks that have mentioned an interest in running for secretary of state. So all of that together really kind of plays into the types of votes they'll be taking, the bills we'll be hearing and what some of those activities look like in Topeka. Add to that, the congressional redistricting issues, and I'll talk about that a little bit later, just because of the way those politics played out, but it's not over, with regard to those issues. When we talk about the budget, I talk frequently about the Consensus Revenue Estimating

Group to this group. That's the group of economists that meet twice a year to look at the budget and the receipts that the state's taking in and the expenditures that are on the books where they know the money needs to go. And they met just before our last board meeting and sort of looked at what the economy will look like for the state over the next couple of years. We're currently in Fiscal Year 26, so by June 30th, it's projected to have an ending balance, the state's coffers are projected to have an ending balance of around 1.8 billion. But when you look at Fiscal Year 27, the end of the fiscal year there, there's about a \$700-million decline, and we know right now that there's already going to be budget cuts offered for the budgets that we'll be talking about over the course of this next session. We're also still dealing with the process of the legislature developing their own budget and the governor making budget recommendations and how those two marry up.

- [News Presenter] White House renovation along what's.
- We can look at what some of the things are that happened this past year. You know, we talked about the rough rollout of the legislatively driven budget. You know, everything kind of worked out. They took into consideration the governor's budget recommendations on the House. It was a little bit odd for those of us that have been following the process for so many years. Everything occurred in the House for the first month, then everything moved over to the Senate and made its way through the Senate process, while both sides were doing nothing, while the other one had the budget. Not sure if that's exactly what it'll look like this year or not, but I think they're going to be starting sort of at the same point that they started at last year. I know that just yesterday, the Legislative Budget Committee, the interim budget committee met, and they were listening to some of the governor's anticipated budget recommendations from some of her staff, so again, I see that process playing out fairly well. We've got a tax policy that was overridden by the legislature. The governor vetoed Senate Bill 269. It's a formula-driven tax cut that would take Kansas to a 4% flat tax for both individual and corporate income tax filers, but the reality is you have to hit certain benchmarks from a revenue standpoint for those to kick in, and we've not done that. So we can say that we've passed some tax policy that would cut or move to a flat tax, but we're not there yet as far as the dollars, and it's a little bit concerning as we look in the out years for what some of the receipts are expected in the Kansas budget, if we'll get there. When we left in the spring, there was a blue ribbon panel to study the two-year sector in higher education. Now, there's no blue ribbon panel. I don't know that we'll be revisiting that in the next session or not. There was no Medicaid expansion, which again, that's one of those high-profile

issues that gets a lot of press and attention, and most importantly, no Omnibus Bill. That's the bill that comes after the budget bill is passed, plays catch up for anything that was missed or that was incorrect in the first iteration. They can clean it up there. I'm not seeing that happen this coming year either. So as we look at the big policy issues for 2026, we know that property tax is going to be a huge conversation. It's been the conversation of a couple of different committees over the summer and the fall months when the interim committees are meeting. We think the focus will be talking about more along the lines of valuation. We still have a proposal out there that is alive in the house side at least that would add a constitutional amendment that would create a four-year rolling average style of valuation. That may have some traction. We'll see. Of all of the proposals, that one seems the most workable for folks in local government. There's some other proposals that, well, there's some that are coming probably that we don't even know what they look like yet, just based on some of the conversations that we've heard over the course of the fall. But that's gonna be, I know that legislators have been getting a lot of emails about property tax. The other issue that they've been getting a lot of emails about is congressional redistricting, but the emails are a little bit different. They were, "Don't do it." And we will see a bill that redraws a map, specifically in Johnson County, but it's gonna impact the other three districts in Kansas as well, because you can't adjust this one without making changes in other ones. There are other states that have passed maps, and the courts have solidified those maps. There are other states that have passed maps and the courts have turned down those maps, and so it's anybody's guess. I don't think the votes are there in the House, and the speaker has even said as much. It's an uphill climb. It's an uphill battle in the House if they're going to try to get votes for drawing a map, but it's gonna take a lot of our time, and this won't be the last time I talk about it. The Convention of States, I just threw that in there because there was another judge panel that returned an opinion to a couple of senators that had requested an opinion about the Convention of States. That is an entity where 34 states must pass a resolution where they can come together and debate the merits of the US Constitution and amendments thereto. Nothing's going to happen there either, and I know some states have passed a Convention of States Resolution. We've not, in Kansas. We might now. We'll see. But again, that's one of those things that's going to take time when we're talking about an abbreviated schedule for the 90 days that we could really be talking about other things. We talked a little bit about government efficiency and the regulatory rewrite of things to make regulations in our local governments easier for businesses to navigate. We'll see some additional tweaks there, and we'll see

things move through there. It could be reciprocal licensing, and so we watch that, because some of those issues can touch the college and the programs that we offer. With regard to economic development, hey, tune in to the radio and the news outlets on Monday. I think we might see an announcement coming. The legislative coordinating council is meeting Monday morning, and they may be talking about some sports franchises that might be relocating, so we'll see what happens there. But that's one of those things that is part of that economic development toolbox, and whether it's STAR bonds or TIF districts, or on the employment side, things that we call HPIP and PEAK, those are incentives for employers to either come to the area or retain employees and grow their workforce in the area. Those are all things that'll be talked about and tweaked. We always talk about education funding. I'll talk about higher ed funding here in a little bit. Local control issues are gonna be high on the radar with zoning, right of way, things like that are, again, local issues, but the legislature likes to talk about them. And then we always talk about the Public Employees Retirement System. There still is a drive and a desire to eliminate that third tier. People that were hired on at a lot of public entities since 2015 are in tier three. It's a horrible system, but it costs a lot to move people to that next level back to tier two, and so I think that's part of the catch, is trying to figure out how to make those moves without, for us, institutions like us, we're paying that. The state's not putting that in. The state does it for their employees, but for K-12, for local units of government, municipalities for the colleges, we're paying those dollars, so, we'll see what happens there. Let's talk a little bit about higher ed, and that's a good way to close out, because these are the things that are important to us that we do in Topeka. So again, we're gonna be talking a lot about tax policy, property tax and valuation. And again, we're gonna try and figure out what works best for us so that you're able to maintain fiscal control of the decisions that you're making when you sit around this table. We need to make sure that there is a corrected amount for tiered and non-tiered funding. There's some disputes on what that number looks like. We always get it after. It's sort of like a rebate or we submit the bill and we get paid later. We teach the course, and those dollars come in a little bit later. That will be a challenge this year. We want to make sure that we're eliminating provisos that contain any punitive language, such as the one that would've required us to have less than a six-month cash balance for certain other appropriations that would flow from the state. There's gonna be some changes to Senate Bill 155. That's Dr. Miksa's favorite thing to try and remember what that bill number is, and they're gonna limit that program to just juniors and seniors in high school, and it's gonna be tailored more closely to the same curriculum or

courses that are offered in the Kansas Promise Act. Talking about concurrent course rates and trying to standardize those across the system, and again, that looks different for every campus, but we'll see what that ultimately looks like. And then just yesterday, there was a House Government Oversight Committee that met, was talking about different issues at the university level related to DEI and some of the legislation and requirements that have been passed around those issues, and we know that as part of that committee's recommendations to the legislature that what they call the Goldwater Bill will be introduced, which would mean that no mandated courses requiring that type of curriculum can be required. So as that bill rolls out, we'll be reporting on that as well. That probably kind of captures where we've been, informs us on where we're going, and hopefully we don't repeat history.

- Thanks for your report. Love the PowerPoint, by the way. Questions or comments for Mr. Carter? Looks like you're gonna get a pass.
- [Trustee Smith-Everett] Mm-hmm.
- [Dick] It's a gift. Thank you.
- Yeah, thanks for the poetry. Really made the day.
- Yeah, that was really good.
- All right, thanks for your report. Safe travels back to Topeka, Dick. All right, next on the agenda then is the Shared Governance Report and Jamie Cunningham.
- I did not bring a poem. Very underprepared, but I don't do words. I teach microbiology and I do bacteria. I did not bring you any of those either. You're welcome. All right. So I'm here to talk about Shared Governance. I am the chair of the Academic Branch Council, and the Shared Governance Council, our college council, met for our last time this semester on December 10th, so in addition to sort of updating everyone on what each of our individual areas were doing, we had some discussion on communication within the college, and this time sort of specifically looking at when things go wrong, when there's inclement weather, when Canvas goes down, when there are power outages. Since all of those things have happened this semester, who decides how the college responds? How is that information given out? And sort of the flow of that, so we talked a little bit about that process within the council. We also talked about the pause that will take place over PLD week in January, so we have worked out a period of time during which the campus offices, most of them will be closed to allow all of the employees to participate in the morning's activities on January 15th. So we'll have the employee breakfast, the president's address, as well as our campus updates meeting, which we're hoping will, or we're planning to have that be kind of a fireside chat, where we can ask questions of members of cabinet. And there has

been a form out for the past two weeks for employees of the college to submit questions or things that they are curious about or would like to have more information about, so that we can start curating those and guide that conversation. Staff council had their report, which they received 21 new topic requests that came in this semester, and they've responded to 25. So about half of those are from this semester and the rest are from previous requests that have come in earlier semesters that they've been able to wrap up and get some resolution on. They wanted to make sure that they thanked human resources for all of the open dialogue around many of those topics that they've been able to work out. December 17th, which was yesterday, staff council partnered with the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant to host the Mental Health First Aid Training here on campus. That was an eight-hour commitment, and we had 27 staff complete that training. Staff council also is hosting their first-ever Wacky Tacky Sweater Contest as part of this week's Spirit Week, and they're looking forward to keeping the momentum that they've been able to carry through this semester into the next semester. All right, so moving on to Academic Branch Council. It is our turn to put up our sort of communications diagram, and so you guys can see that now. So there's a lot of stuff going on in the academic branch. It's not quite as streamlined as the staff council flow chart. We basically have the academic branch, which is made up of quite a few different groups. We have all of the full-time faculty, as well as adjunct faculty, academic staff, counselors, librarians, like, all of those people fall into that sort of umbrella of the academic branch. Communication moves between individuals of the branch and their chairs and deans. There's a lot of communication that happens there, but they can also communicate with various other entities. That sort of gray shaded area represent the ABC meetings that we have usually the second and fourth Mondays of the month. These are open-forum meetings. The Zoom link for those is available to anyone on campus who wants to come to hear what's being discussed or to put in their input, and you can see that there are various entities that report into that. So we have the CAO's office there. We have the Instructional Chair's Council and the Instructional Dean's Council. We have a representative from counseling, from the Center for Teaching and Learning. We have representatives from various campus committees, the Online Learning Advisory Committee, Educational Affairs Faculty Association, and so on. We also have a representative from each of the college's separate departments or divisions that are listed there. All of those people interact at the ABC meetings. ABC leadership is myself and James Leiker, who we basically run the meetings and try to facilitate making sure all of the communication takes place, getting the right information to the right people

when it's needed. ABC leadership then also participates at College Council and shares our report there, and College Council reports to the Board. We also have their ABC reports out through, we have transcribed minutes that are kept sort of live during the meeting, and those are kept on Canvas, and at the end of the semester, or the end of the year usually, we wrap those up and put those on InfoHub. We also will typically record the meetings, and those recordings are also available on Canvas, so if individuals are not able to attend the meeting, they can see what was discussed and get with their representative if they have further questions. So far this semester, ABC has covered a number of different items. We talked about the campus pause. Since the new location or timing of the Campus Updates Committee overlaps with our typical All-Faculty Meeting, we talked about where we're putting the new Academic Branch meeting so that we can still make sure that we hold that. We've had conversations with the department representatives about the way that they're communicating the information back to their departments. We're actually crafting language to update the bylaws so that there's a more clear guidance what that job entails when someone is elected to that position from their division. We talked with student services about the spring graduation ceremonies. We talked with the CAO about the Academic Master Plan and had opportunities to give feedback on that throughout the semester. We've been talking a lot about ADA compliance, as that deadline is coming up in the spring. We've had members from the Guided Pathways Task Force come and talk about those changes to how students will be processed and get into classes. As well as hearing from enrollment on some of the problems with fraudulent enrollments and how that's a nationwide problem, sort of what's happening here at the college, and then how the faculty can sort of be on the lookout for certain types of things in their classes. There can be some significant overlap between some of our most dedicated scammers and our least interested students, and so sometimes it's a toss-up whether that student needs to be sent for sort of academic services to help them be more present in their classrooms or if maybe they were always a bot all along and we need to have them unenrolled. So we talked about that process and who we talk to if there are questions. And that is my very quick summary of a lot of discussions that happened this semester. What questions do you have?

- Thanks, Jamie. I feel like that was a lot. It was a very quick summary, but it was a lot. Love the diagram, though. Questions and comments for Jamie? Trustee Rattan.
- I appreciate the level of detail that you've put into this. There are so many moving parts at JCCC, and so many different departments with different needs, but also

overlapping needs for communication. How long do the representatives serve? Is it one-year terms or two-year terms?

- Those are two-year terms, and the representatives are a little bit of a new addition to ABC, so ABC has not existed for that long. I think I'm the fourth chair, and the representatives were added about a year and a half to two years ago to make sure that we had someone from each department in case there were discussions that needed to get back to those departments. And they do serve two-year terms, and it's staggered, so half the divisions will elect on even years, and half on odd years, so that we do have some memory from one sort of academic year to the next when it comes to our membership.
- [Trustee Rattan] Thank you.
- [Chair Rayl] Trustee Smith-Everett.
- Mm-hmm. Thank you. I appreciate your presentation. Very thorough. But also I wanted to just thank the Council for really being committed to transparency. I mean, when you describe all the different ways that you make sure that people can participate or find out what happened in the meetings, transcribed, recorded agendas, all those things are really critical for communication at a place that is as large as we are, because everybody doesn't have the same time availability, and so, kudos to you all for having multiple ways for people to find that information out before, during, and after the meeting. So thank you for that.
- That has been one of our challenges, because there are so many different moving parts, and because, as faculty, we tend to have kind of crazy schedules.
- Yep.
- That finding a time for all of just the members to meet is somewhat challenging, but then making sure that information gets back to people who cannot attend has always been a bit of a challenge for us.
- Any other questions or comments? Yeah, I would echo what Trustee Smith-Everett said about the ways in which you're disseminating information, because that seems to be one of the pain points that we hear the most about, and so, you know, different people get information in different ways, and you know, I'm a paper person, but I hear that's archaic. I don't know, so. So it's good that you're providing those multiple methods of dissemination. I was curious, and I don't want to go down a rabbit hole here, so if this is a complicated question, let me know, but I'm not familiar with fraudulent enrollment, so what is the benefit of...
- Financial aid.
- It is a complicated question.
- I must be the only one.

- Overview is that if a student enrolls in a class and gets financial aid to participate here and then does not actually go to the class, just takes the financial aid and disappears, that's defrauding the campus, the federal government out of that money, as well as taking away money from the students who actually need it, and so that has been a growing problem, especially with there becoming more and more fully online courses, where student doesn't have to actually attend in campus, they just have to have a presence on the computer, and so a person can actually enroll in many courses across many different colleges and not actually spend much time in the course itself, just enough to make sure they're ticking the boxes so that they don't immediately get unenrolled.
- So I'm somewhat familiar with that concept, but you referred to bots, and that gives me the idea that there are people out there who, they're not even real people.
- So the assignments can, like, if you have an entry, like early assignments to make sure that there's somebody in the class, those can often be done very AI, if they're not like personalized enough. There are definitely ways that colleges are struggling with this, and JCCC is obviously struggling with this as well. Not as badly as they are in some places, but it's something that we need to be aware of.
- Well, good to know, and from the reaction of the gallery, apparently I'm the only one who wasn't familiar with bots registering as students and defrauding financial aid that way. So thank you for your report. Always good to hear all the information that you folks are doing, always a pleasure to hear from you, so thank you so much.
- [Jamie] Thank you very much.
- If I could just throw out, I'd just really like to throw a big shout out to Jamie and Jim. I mean, they run this committee. I think Jamie's the chair, so Jamie does the majority of the work, but I want to shout out, 'cause Jim, they come and meet with me, but it is a lot coming through there. I sat at one of the committee meetings, and so there's a lot happening there, so really a great job there. The other thing I would also say a big shout out, I know that this diagram is very complicated, but I really appreciate the time that she took, her and Jim took to put this diagram together. We talked about it, made a few adjustments, and so I think it's really helpful. It's not perfect, but I think it's really great, and so I do thank you guys for the work that you've done there, so.
- All right, next on the agenda is the Faculty Association Report and Joy Rhodes, and I know that Joy is just super excited about talking to us tonight.
- [Participant] Joy, Joy, Joy.

- Well, I was told I'm not allowed to have a slide. I deal much better in visuals. Not in biology or, a little bit in words, but, so I don't have a pretty little slide, sorry. And should I take that down? I don't know.
- [Chair Ray!] Yes, probably should.
- Leave it up there. Anyway, hello, my name is Joy Rhodes and I'm the department chair of Fashion Design and Merchandising here at the college, and I've been here 22 years. It's my 23rd year. It's been a couple years since I last addressed the Board. Some of you may or may not have heard from me in the past, but I really appreciate the FAA and Irene for the opportunity to share a little bit about our department, exciting recent developments and kind of things that are going on that I think are pretty special. As a brief refresher for any new board members or people that don't know much about our program, our department offers two AAS degrees. One is Fashion Merchandising and Marketing. The other is Apparel, Design and Technology, so we have two different sides of the business. The Fashion Merchandising and Marketing program focuses on what we call the to-consumer side of the business or outward-facing side of the fashion industry, preparing students for careers in retail operations, product buying and assortment planning, fashion marketing and promotion. The apparel design and technology program is more skill-based and focuses on the product development or wholesale side of the business. Students develop expertise in garment construction, pattern making, draping, computer-aided design, technical specifications for communication with overseas production, and a part of their graduation requirements are that they have to create a collection for our annual fashion show, which is held in the spring. So that brings me to my first exciting event on the horizon. Please mark your calendars for April 17th, 2026, for Final Draft, our annual fashion show. In the last couple years, tickets have sold out very quickly, which is a great problem to have. And all of the proceeds from our ticket sales go towards scholarships for our students. If you are interested in attending, please feel free to reach out to me. I may just know somebody who could score some tickets for you before they sell out. The second exciting development for us in our department is that one of our courses, History of Fashion, was just recently approved as a humanities elective. This is exciting for us for several reasons. It provides the broader student population the opportunity to explore fashion and how it is affected history, and learn more about potential careers in the fashion industry. Additionally, it freed up three credit hours in both of our programs, which allowed us to make updates to our curriculum and things that we've wanted to do for quite some time, so that was really important. The third exciting update is we are adding a new study-away opportunity for our students. We've

maintained a long partnership, since before COVID, with the Florence University of the Arts in Florence, Italy, and we've had many of our students, over the course of a number of years, take advantage of this incredible experience. In fact, we have several that are slated to go next summer also to study abroad. But beginning next semester, we will offer new travel opportunities for our students to go to Paris, France. As a part of a special section of our History of Costume class, that I just mentioned, this will be a faculty-led trip hosted by two of our faculty, full-time faculty, Audrey Michaelis and Britt Benjamin. The fourth development I'd like to highlight is an exciting new collaboration that we are exploring next semester, so it hasn't happened yet, with Sporting KC, our local soccer team. I guess soccer's a big deal now. Honestly, I know very little about soccer. I'm not a huge fan. I'm gonna learn a lot, I think, in the next semester, but I do know a fair amount about licensing. So, where'd I go? The Fashion Merchandising and Marketing capstone students, those are our completers on that side, will serve as consultants to the Sporting Product Merchandising Team, acting as secret shoppers at the nine different venues that they sell merchandise throughout the venue during a match. With several retail locations on-site, the students will be evaluating customer experience, visual merchandising and their product strategy. This partnership with Sporting KC will give our students the opportunity to apply skills that they gain in previous classes to observe, analyze, offer suggestions for improvement to the Sporting exec team. So our students will be invited, they will be pitching or sharing their findings to the Sporting management. In addition, the students will be invited to participate in a product launch, giving them the opportunity to learn about the unique challenges of licensed product, licensed merchandise, and take part in a photo shoot and develop a marketing campaign for that product. This is a new adventure for me. It was given by Chris Gray and Deanne Belshe came to me and said, "You want to do something with Sporting?" "Sure, why not?" So that's gonna be an adventure. The final update is one that is particularly meaningful to our department. For many years, I've been working to raise awareness about our Historic Fashion Collection. Last time I was here, I was sharing with you about that specifically. And we've been advocating for more appropriate accommodations for its preservation and storage over the last number of years. We are very encouraged to see that the Fashion Merchandising and Design Department, as well as the Historic Fashion Collection have been listed as a line item on the Strategic Academic Master Plan that was released earlier this fall, so thank you. We remain very hopeful about that. We were also pleasantly surprised to learn of a significant donation pledge that was recently finalized, I believe, with the Foundation for the Historic Fashion Collection. Our

former department chair, Joan McCrillis-Lafferty, has generously donated \$250,000 to support the preservation of the collection. For those of you who don't know or remember Joan, haven't been here long enough to know who Joan was, she served as our department chair for over 30 years before retiring and then passing that role on to me. So she actually hired me. You can thank her, or whatever. So without her vision and dedication, this collection would not be here on campus. She was the individual who acquired the collection, brought it to campus, and we are incredibly grateful for her continued support of not just the collection, but also of our department. So I encourage you to reach out to me if you haven't seen the collection, I'm happy to take personal tours, and just reach out to me, and we'll schedule something. Of course, I could go on for hours about a lot of other exciting things that are going on in our department or are related to our department, but I was asked to keep my speech to under seven minutes. So thank you again for your time and support. I hope that was interesting information for you guys.

- Thanks, Joy. Really exciting information. Any questions or comments for Joy? Trustee Rattan and then Trustee Smith-Everett.
- Thank you for sharing all those opportunities for our students to travel the world, to get involved with our sports teams. Those are really unique and special. Like, I want to go major in fashion. You're welcome anytime.
- I wanna work with Sporting and go to Paris. So Joy, on a personal level, what led you to this position and role, and why are you so passionate about what you do?
- Oh gosh, that's a long story. When I moved to Kansas City, my kids were two and four, they were little, and I decided to come back to work, and I went out and looked on, I don't know if you guys remember monster.com, right? And the only job that was fashion-related that popped up was this teaching position, and my mom was a teacher, and I'd always grew up telling my mom, "I will never teach, never ever, ever, ever." But I decided because you're supposed to practice, right? So I decided to apply for the job and it was granted the interview, a grueling interview with like eight people, and it was like four hours long. And I walked out of that interview thinking, "Oh good, I got some practice. Okay, I'm ready to go now. I'll never get that job, ever." And the next day, they called me and offered me the job, and I'm like, "Okay, I'll just take it for a few years and see how it goes while I look for another job." And here I am, 22 years later, I'm still here, and I love it. I have the best of both worlds. I get to teach what I love and what my background is in, and the students keep me young and they inspire me. I learn as much from them nowadays as they learn from me, I feel, with how fast things are progressing. But it's my passion.

- [Trustee Rattan] Thank you.
- [Chair Rayl] Trustee Smith-Everett.
- Thank you, Madam Chair. Two important notes. One is, I don't think that the critical information you needed to provide was the date of the annual fashion show, but when the tickets are released for the fashion show, because that has just alluded me for several years, as I have attempted to attend that fabulous event that so many people look forward to and participate in every year, so do you know?
- I might able hook you up.
- Okay. Mark me down.
- Okay.
- Because I tried multiple years, and have just missed when the golden opportunity is.
- Noted.
- By time I find it, they're gone, they're long gone, so I would love that, because I have some young people in my life that I think would absolutely adore going to that. But I wanted to thank you for just highlighting all of the ways that just your department gives opportunities for our students to expand their perspective and their experience. I think one of the critical misunderstandings about community college is you just come, you take some classes, and you leave, but we offer so much more. And being able to go to Paris feels like "The Devil wears Prada" in real life, unfolding for our students, and I love that for them. There's always sponsors on this board that are willing to sacrifice and go on those trips if you need more adult chaperones, so you just let us know. I mean, it will be tough to fit in, but I'm sure we could make that happen, so.
- We have to keep an eye on those students.
- Yeah, I mean, I feel like it'd be difficult, but we could do it, right, Trustee Rattan? That's right?
- Noted.
- So thank you so much for highlighting, giving us a little spotlight on what you do in the corner of this place that makes it wonderful.
- [Joy] Thank you. Thank you very much.
- [Chair Rayl] Trustee Mitchell.
- [Trustee Mitchell] I had the pleasure of attending the fashion show this year.
- Oh boy.
- He's got a ticket.
- Rubbing it in.

- My wife and I went and we took her oldest daughter, who has an undergraduate degree in fashion merchandising and textile design, and as is often the case when you're at an event like this and you're a trustee, they recognize your presence there, so at the end of the evening, Shelby said, "I never thought I'd go to a fashion show and Greg Mitchell would get a call out." So that was a lot of fun.
- [Trustee Rattan] Walk the runway. Twirl.
- [Joy] Well, thank you.
- Any other questions or comments? I would just say, thank you again for your report, Joy, and I always think it's so incredible to hear what's going on in the various departments around campus, and to Trustee Smith-Everett's point, the opportunities that our students enjoy that rival anything that they could find at any four-year institution, and I also think it's always wonderful to hear from faculty members who say, "I'm teaching my passion," because not only are you teaching the coursework that the students are there to get, but you're also teaching them how to love that field, and I just think that's tremendously important for our students, so thanks for all that you do, and we're so hopeful that you're gonna get that money that you need for the historic preservation.
- Yeah, fingers crossed.
- Yeah. All right. Thank you so much. Yes.
- I'd also like to say, I think I've been to three of them, and my daughter Ash went to all three of them with me.
- Mm-hmm.
- Sorry, Laura.
- She absolutely loves it. She gets all dressed up, just thinks that she's doing something really, really amazing, and she's always inspired, and she always comes home drawing and drawing actual fashion, which I have no idea, but it's pretty cool what she does with it, so it's inspiring in lots of ways.
- I think I've been to two.
- That warms my heart.
- Oh, congratulations, everyone. You'll go to one very soon.
- Geez.
- I promise I'll get you a ticket.
- She's gonna get you a ticket.
- Thank you. Thank you, thank you.
- Okay, all right, thank you so much.
- [Joy] Thank you.
- All right, next on the agenda is the JCERT Report, and Trustee Smith-Everett.

- Thank you, Madam Chair. JCERT received almost an even 2 million in sales tax in November 2025 and distributed 700,000 to each of the three university entities. They also transferred 56,000 more to each university entity in this November, more than November 2024. Sorry, we have a new chair and she's wording things very differently, so I'm trying to read this on the cuff a little differently. And up to this date, each university entity has received, well, it's about 8 million a piece through November, which is \$305,000, \$100,000 more year-to-date than the same time in 2024. So we will meet again in April, and that concludes my JCERT report.
- All right, any questions or comments for Trustee Smith-Everett? Trustee Mitchell.
- And I don't know if you mentioned or not, but the source of funding on this is a sales tax that was approved countywide.
- Yep.
- And when does that expire? Is it into perpetuity?
- I believe it's in perpetuity.
- Okay.
- Yep. It's a 3/8 cents sales tax to develop a research triangle for Johnson County, so it goes to KU Clinical Trials, K State Olathe, and KU Edwards for the explicit purpose of promoting research and investment in Johnson County.
- Biomedical?
- Yeah. So, like KU Edwards and Olathe have expanded that, so it's getting kind of a little murky, but I believe the original intention was just biomedical, and it's expanded since.
- I don't mean to correct you. I was just trying to add to it.
- Yeah, yeah. No.
- All right, any other questions? Thank you for your report.
- Mm-hmm.
- Next up is the KACC report, Trustee Cross.
- Thank you, Madam Chair. KACC had its December 2025 meeting. The group met in-person at Garden City Community College. I believe Dr. Miksa was there, and I'd be remiss if I didn't introduce past president of KACC, who's in the room tonight. Former Trustee Nancy Ingram is here with us. All colleges were represented except Cloud County and Highland, whose representatives had scheduled conflicts or family commitments. There was a federal update from ACCT. ACCT Executive Director Jee Hang Lee provided an update on federal policy changes and national priorities impacting community colleges, including SNAP and other issues. Heather provided me and perhaps Trustee Hamill or Dr. Miksa with materials that I can get to you on the specifics of the federal update.

With respect to statewide candidate presentations, there was two or three candidates for statewide office. I know Governor Collier was there and Senator Ethan Corson was there and addressed the group. KACC welcomes any additional statewide candidates to present at future meetings if they have not yet done so. Garden City Community College staff shared best practices in artificial intelligence and discussed their enrollment management strategies. ACT provided updated data showing that Kansas ACT scores continue to decline and remain below the national average. They also presented on ACT WorkKeys and its usefulness for assessing student readiness and awarding credit for prior learning. Kansas covers the cost for all high school students to take both the ACT and WorkKeys once. A dinner was held to honor local legislative champions. Senator Bill Clifford and Representative Bob Lewis spoke on the critical role community colleges play in Kansas, and the Garden City Community College Orchestra and vocal performers provided outstanding entertainment. Representative Pishny reflected on his service on the Garden City Community College Board and emphasized the value of strong local leadership. Newman University highlighted its successful partnership with Garden City Community College and affordability of its bachelor's degree programs offered on the Garden City campus. Newman expressed interest in partnering with additional community colleges. Heather Morgan will coordinate follow-up discussions with interested institutions. Heather Morgan provided an extensive update on the previous day's President's Meeting, as well as statewide update on budget matters and the proposed legislative agenda. With respect to business meeting highlights, an approval of financial and meeting minutes was adopted, and an adoption of the 2026 Legislative Platform. There was a decision to shift future KACC meetings to a Sunday at 5:30 PM, Monday, 3:00 PM format, dates pending host campus confirmation. Approval of Lifetime Membership Program, much as ACCT has, was adopted to keep former trustees and presidents connected to KACC. There was the election of 2026 KACC officers, President Don Ash from KCK, Vice President Merlin Douglas of Garden City, Secretary Eric Scott Killough of Pratt Community College, the treasurer will be David Marshall of Hutchinson Community College, the past president is Arlen Leiker of Colby Community College, who I think has served longer than I have.

- Mm-hmm.
- Mm-hmm.
- The group thanked outgoing President Leiker for his service to KACC, and he's done a lot and he's everywhere in DC and with KACC. There are update upcoming meeting dates. We will have January 15th Donuts with Legislators in

Topeka, January 26th Community College Showcase in the Capitol Rotunda.
There'll be an April 10th 2026 Zoom meeting. Our next quarterly meeting will be in Allen County Community College in Iola on May 31st through June 1st, and as I understand it, I believe Trustee Elect Geoff Holton and I have been named as KACC liaison, so I'm proud and happy to continue in that role. But Madam Chair, that concludes my report.

- All right. Thank you for your report. Any questions for Trustee Cross? Trustee Mitchell.
- Can you mention the date again on Donuts with Legislators?
- January 15th.
- [Trustee Mitchell] Okay, that's what I thought. Thanks.
- [Chair Rayl] Is this for the donuts or the legislators?
- You'll meet in the rotunda.
- [Trustee Mitchell] Yeah. Yeah.
- With the donuts?
- [Trustee Mitchell] Great. We did it last year. It was good, yeah.
- Trustee Smith-Everett.
- I just wondered if the president, I always get his name wrong, so I don't want to botch it, Mr. Lee.
- Oh yes.
- Came in person or was on Zoom to the meeting, do you know?
- [Trustee Cross] I have to ask Dr. Miksa. I know I've seen him at these meetings. He generally comes.
- Yeah, I mean, I'm still getting to know faces.
- Okay.
- I mean, I think he was there, yeah.
- I'll ask Heather. I'm sorry I couldn't be there.
- No, that's okay. I was just, we had the opportunity to meet him last spring.
- Mm-hmm.
- And I was stunned at how well he understands the issues right here in the heartland, in the Midwest, in Kansas specifically, and so I just wondered, 'cause if he was there in-person, that's even more remarkable. He's a great ACCT leader. He really gets to know each of his regions, and really seems
- My experience, I'm sorry to talk over you.
- Yeah.
- My experience is that he typically shows up.
- Okay.
- Mm-hmm.

- It reminds me a lot of, like, with the Kansas trial lawyers, our national people will make an effort and show up. There's only 50 organizations, so even in a quarterly format, has been my observation, they want to make a goal to be there, whatever percentage we're contributing to the National Association. The Kansas Community College movement is strong. That's something I'm proud to be involved in, and one of you is gonna take over this one day, and so it's just important that you're aware of, and many of you are, I'm not saying you're not, I'm just saying it's important to be aware of it. Trustee Ingram used to grill into me how important it was to be involved not only at KACC, but to be active and know what's going on at KBOR.
- Yeah.
- And frankly, by just showing up, as President Truman used to say as he was campaigning across Missouri, it's just important to see that you don't have cloven hooves. And while we contribute 40% of KACC'S budget, and we don't mind reminding 'em of that, you know, my parents, both from rural Kansas taught me that most people in rural America are just scared of being forgotten, and that they want to know that we know they're there, and that we need them, we can't, you know, feed, house or educate everyone in Johnson County, so we need to redistribute and take care of them as much as we take care of our own. So, you know, my heart is with them and with us, and yeah, Dr. Lee shows up. I've met him two or three times, I want to say, just shaking his hand. I don't know him.
- Yeah, yeah.
- I'll talk all night.
- Okay, thanks.
- Any other questions or comments? Thank you, Trustee Cross, for your report, and I certainly would echo the importance of us maintaining those relationships with our-
- [Trustee Cross] Mm-hmm.
- Colleagues elsewhere in Kansas, and those relationships are important as we try to present a unified front in Topeka, obviously, and while our needs may sometimes be very different, we have to speak as a collective voice on many issues, and so it's important, and so thank you for the work that you do.
- [Trustee Cross] Thank you. And thank you Dr. Miksa, for going.
- [Dr. Miksa] Mm-hmm. Garden City was wonderful.
- It is.
- I have friends out there at Garden City Community College.
- It is.

- They convinced me recently why we don't want to have a football team. I won't belabor it, but it was very robust conversation and led me with that conclusion, so. All right, next up is the Foundation Report, Trustee Rattan.
- All right, the final, final Some Enchanting Evening numbers are in. We raised on a gross basis \$1,635,218.
- [Trustee] Wow.
- Out of that, we netted \$1,370,252. This reflects 16.2% overhead, and industry standards are 25% or less, likely. 93% of the survey respondents rated the event exceptional or great, and 100% of survey respondents said they would recommend the event to others. The end-of-year fundraising emails and mailings were sent out on December 5th. The Open Petal Payroll Donation program has doubled its participation. It was 4% and it has gone up to 8%. This is a top priority this year to increase participation to 20%, and then finally, we've had several new endowed and named spendable scholarships established this year. In January, we will report the total number, and that concludes my report.
- Is that like the thing to keep us stay tuned in, right? You don't get that until January.
- More good news.
- All right.
- You can't handle it. You can't handle it.
- Right? All right. Thank you for your report. Any questions for Trustee Rattan? Trustee Smith-Everett?
- Just real quick, I just really want to, I always want to sing the praises of Joy Ginsburg. When she first came in and she met with us, like, I mean, within the first two weeks of being here, she really was zeroing-in on employee contribution to the foundation and having that be part of a payroll deduction, which most places do now for many different things, so I appreciate her growing that and being laser-focused on getting that to, you know, certain benchmarks that she has for what we can do, and we know how much our faculty and staff love this place and want to give back for student scholarships, so appreciate her dedication to that.
- [Trustee Rattan] I agree. If Joyce sets her mind to it, it's gonna happen.
- Yes, ma'am.
- I feel like that's the case. I would echo singing the praises for Joy and her team. She's probably feeling a little bit in the spotlight right now, as it should be. When you can have an event that raises that kind of money and the overhead costs are significantly below industry standards, somebody's doing a whole lot of stuff right, so thanks to Joy and her team for making all that happen and bringing us all the

wonderful benefits of Some Enchanted Evening to our college and our students.
All right, did you have anything?

- No.
- Okay. I keep forgetting you, and Trustee Smith-Everett keeps reminding me, so. All right, that brings us to our Committee Reports and Recommendation. First up is Trustee Hamill and the Employee Engagement Report. What do you have for us?
- Thank you, Madam Chair. The Employee Engagement Development Committee met Wednesday, December 3rd, right here in the boardroom. Christina McGee, vice president, Human Resources, presented Johnson County Community College's updated Investment Committee Charter for approval. Ms. McGee provided feedback and background on the Investment Committee's creation and a purpose for managing the operation and administration of JCCC's 403b and 457 plans. The following recommendation is being made by the Board of Trustees for approval. It is the recommendation of the Employee Engagement Development Committee that the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the College Administration to approve modifications and changes to the Investment Committee Charter, as shown subsequently in the board packet. And I so move.
- Second.
- Motion made by Trustee Hamill, seconded by Trustee Cross. Any discussion on this recommendation? Trustee Smith-Everett?
- I think it's just really important to clarify what it is.
- Mm-hmm.
- Because when I read it in the packet, in my six years here, had never heard of anything like this, and thought we were just completely, you know, doing something new, never before seen, and it seems like this is one of those things that happens every so often, and so if you haven't been here when it's happened previously, then you weren't aware of its existence before. But if I have this right, and please correct me if I'm wrong, 'cause I'm probably gonna get wrong, we are going to redistribute funds from TIAA-CREF, for those invested in it, from fees that were accrued above the certain level to people that have TIAA-CREF-
- Active.
- So they'll get a portion back, right? Active TIAA-CREF employees. Do I have any of that, right?
- [Dr. Miksa] You are correct. Christina's shaking her head yes.
- Oh, did I pass?
- You passed. You passed.

- Okay. I have notes and everything to make sure. But it's a strange thing, but also a great benefit for our members, and I appreciate that this is being monitored and we are addressing it and making sure that they get some of that redistributed to the employees.
- Thank you so much for that explanation. Any other questions or comments?
Hearing none, all in favor say aye.
- [Trustees] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carries, six to zero. You may proceed.
- All right, additionally, Ms. McGee reported that 531,678.88 in revenue credit will be reallocated to those active and term participants who have active accounts. Ms. McGee stressed that reallocation comes from fees accumulated and from excessive record-keeping revenue and not by individual account performance. This Investment Committee agreed to distribute a quarter million dollars equally divided to each participant, and the other quarter million dollars will be distributed as asset-based. The remaining \$31,678.88 will remain in the account for any unforeseen fees, and I want to give a big thank you to Ms. McGee for all the time she spent, all the questions we had trying to understand this, 'cause this was new, and this was kind of complicated, 'cause it was something we hadn't seen before, and as many questions that we asked that might have seemed dumb or redundant, you kept answering, so until we got it all figured out. So thank you again for that. Ms. McGee also gave an updated to the Committee on HR initiatives, completed and underway, including a launch of the new learning management system, as well as a new employee turnover dashboard. HR has completed its strategic plan goals. Interviews are currently underway for an investment consultant and management group following the formal RFP process. A Request for Information will go out, and the firm's interested in conducting a compensation study with a formal RFP to be submitted in the spring of next year. Rachel Haynes, director of Employee Engagement Development reported on a recent successful collaboration between JCCC's HR department and Midwest Trust Center that brought together new employees to experience an event and network. More collaborative event such as this are planned for the future. Barbra Cooper, director of Human Resources, discussed the time-to-fill metrics for Employment Services. Employment Services will continue to participate in external networking events and career fairs, and is looking for ways to promote JCCCs as an employer of choice. HR is actively participating with Team KC, a regional recruiting arm of the Kansas City Area Development Council. HR will be hosting Team KC's Roundtable in April of next year, at JCCC, which will bring

approximately 50 individuals from area employers to campus to discuss best recruiting practices. And this concludes my report.

- Thank you. Any questions or comments for Trustee Hamill? All right, thank you for your report. Next up is the Management and Finance Committee report, and Trustee Mitchell, what do you have for us?
- Thank you, Madam Chair. the Management Finance Committee held their meeting at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, December 3rd in this room. The information related to that meeting can be found on pages 10 through 19 of the board packet. The Management Finance Committee received the following reports from staff: Capital Acquisitions and Improvements Progress Report. Tom Hall, associate VP, Campus Services and Facility Planning, provided the committee with information on facilities projects and capital acquisitions and improvements matrix. The Management Finance Committee has the following recommendation to present this evening. Oh, and then it doesn't give a recommendation, sorry. I think it'll show up later on in this narrative. Megan Casey, vice president and chief financial officer presented the recommendation to approve preliminary budget guidance to be used by the administration to begin the fiscal year 2026-2027 Budget Development Process based on estimated revenues and expenses. The preliminary budget guidelines are subject to adjustment as updated information is received over the coming months, such as changes in estimated assessed valuation or state funding. The preliminary budget guidelines do include a proposed \$2 increase to the Student Activity Fee from \$7 per credit hour to \$9 per credit hour. This would be the first student activity fee increase in 13 years. The preliminary budget guidelines also include a tuition increase of 4% for Johnson County residents and 5% for students living outside Johnson County. Tuition rates did not increase last year. The final 2026-27 Management Budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval on May of 2026. So it is the recommendation of the Management and Finance Committee that the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of college administration to approve the preliminary guidelines for development of the college's 2026-2027 budget, and I so move.
- [Trustee Cross] Second.
- Motion made by Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Cross. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.
- Aye.
- Yes.
- Opposed? Motion carries, six to zero. You may continue.

- Procurement reports and recommendations. Jim Feikert, executive director, Procurement Services, presented to recommendations. First, we have architectural and engineering services for the 2025 Facilities Master Plan Phase 1 proposed projects, including a new healthcare education building on-ground observatory, amphitheater-style outdoor classroom and new athletic building and renovations to the existing gym building, West parking garage, the West Central Campus Chiller plant. The estimated fee amount was based on total estimated construction cost of \$70.9 million. Annual fees paid will be calculated by applying the proposed design budget percentage to the final actual construction cost of each project as approved by the board. So, therefore, 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 PGAV architects in the estimated amount of \$5,084,000, a 7.17% design fee. And I so move.
- Second.
- Motion made by Trustee Mitchell. Seconded by Trustee Smith-Everett. Any discussion? Trustee Smith-Everett.
- I notice, it's kind of difficult for us because we don't go to all the committee meetings where a lot of this is discussed, but I noticed in looking at this recommendation that they had a higher percentage fee design fee than several other firms, and so I asked our VP and fearless leader, if you could clarify what the committee saw in this firm that set them apart or gave extra value that may not be apparent here on our listing as it's listed in the packet.
- [Rachel] Absolutely, and we discussed this at the committee as well, that the evaluation team felt that the technical qualifications of the team, their past experience at JCCC and at other colleges and universities, and just their overall proposed project approach best met the needs of the college and best represented what we were looking for with these Phase 1 projects.
- Okay.
- Mm-hmm.
- I just wanted that to be said tonight before we vote on this, because it is obviously a considerable amount of money, and it's important to know when we vet these, why some rise to the top even though they may have higher fees than other competitors that also bid for this, so that concludes my questions.
- Rachel, do you know what other projects they've participated in on campus?
- Yes, there have been several. Most recently, the renovation of the science and CLB labs and classrooms.
- Okay.

- The athletic fields that was part of the last Facility Master Plan, the renovations to the Student Center, as part of the last master plan, the resource centers in the first floor of the library, and then way back in the day, the design of the Midwest Trust Center.
- Ah, I think it's always great to get somebody who knows our college.
- Absolutely.
- And has made such contributions. So Trustee Rattan.
- If I remember right, this firm also had a flat fee and the other ones had a range of fees.
- Mm.
- Yes. The proposed design percentage of 7.17% would be on each of the projects as part of the Phase 1.
- Yeah. I thought that was nice that you kind of already know, and versus like someone up to like 30%.
- [Trustee Smith-Everett] Mm. I see that listed on some of these. Okay.
- Any other questions or comments? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.
- [Trustees] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carries, six to zero. You may proceed.
- Thank you. Next we have campus-wide access control systems upgrade, which enable secure remote management, pardon me, of over 1,000 building doors to strengthen physical security, support emergency management operations, and streamline access control. It is, therefore, the recommendation of the Management and Finance Committee that the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of college administration to approve the cooperative purchase from Convergent for a total estimated expenditure of \$1,216,854 with an additional 10% contingency of \$121,685 to allow for possible unforeseen costs, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,338,540 for Fiscal Year 26, and I so move.
- Second.
- Second.
- Motion made by Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Smith-Everett. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.
- [Trustees] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carries, six to zero. You may proceed.
- [Trustee Mitchell] Thank you, Madam Chair. That concludes my report.
- All right, thank you for your report. Next up is the Student Success Committee Report, Trustee Hamill.
- Thank you, Madam Chair. Thanks again. The Student Success Committee met at 9:45 AM right here in the boardroom On November 5th. Dr. Barry Bailey,

professor/librarian presented a new course, and course modifications and deactivations, and program modifications effective for the 26-27 academic year. Details can be found in the consent agenda. Jim Lane, dean, Arts and Design, Humanities and Social Sciences and the chair of the Academic Calendar Committee presented the 27-28 academic calendar. Dean Lane also presented modifications to the academic year 25-26, and is recommending the previously approved current academic year 25-26 academic calendar Commencement date of Friday, May 22nd be moved to Thursday, May 21st. The calendars are part of the consent agenda. Dr. Gurbhushan Singh provided an update on Math Pathways. He shared the history of the math reform initiated by KBOR. The changes include moving from the prerequisite course structure to a co-requisite support course structure, beginning fall of '26. All prerequisite developmental courses will be discontinued, and there will be a full-scale adoption of Math Pathways framework. Dr. Singh briefly described and discussed that the English co-requisite will now be College Composition 1 with review and will be at five hours. Deb Elder, Mallory Mitchell and Amy Sellers provided an update on academic initiatives. Dr. Elder provided data from academic year 23-24, showing the growth in enrollment in dual enrollment, early college students in Kansas. There are many ways to earn JCCC credit while in high school, which include College Now, Career Ready, Dual Degree, Articulated Credit Career and Technical Education Outreach. Drs. Mitchell and Sellers shared the growth of these programs. College Now started 40 years ago with 287 students and now has 4,245 students from 30 different high schools. Career Ready Now in 2020 with 27 students has grown to 92 students. Dual Degree graduates graduated its first students in spring of 22 with five students, and in 2025 graduated 20 students. Articulated Credit began in 22 with 26 students, and this year, 38 students are registered. Career and Technical Education Outreach continues to grow with over eight areas of study. Dr. Leslie Quinn provided an update on enrollment in student services. The division consists of enrollment services, financial aid, testing and assessment services and recruitment for enrollment strategy. Some of Dr. Quinn's highlights included International and Immigrant Student Services, over 1,300 students from 112 countries. Veteran and Military Student Resource Center partners with VetSuccess on campus and the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office. Admissions is working hard on fraud detection, as we were talking about earlier. Registrars Office oversees the degree audit, graduation applications, and, of course, substitutions. Dr. Quinn mentioned that the financial aid office is busy with on-campus workshops and high school events walking families through the FAFSA process. Testing Services provides

ADA-compliance students taking practice placement or makeup tests. And Madam Chair, that concludes my report.

- Thank you. Any questions for Trustee Hamill? All right, thank you for your report.
- [Trustee Hamill] Thank you.
- Next up is the report of the Nominating Committee. We get that once a year, and I think Trustee Rattan, you're gonna present us with your slate of officers.
- Yes. a couple things I wanted to point out. When Trustee Jennings and I evaluated everyone's choices, a few assumptions we made is, as we talk about liaisons, you can do consecutive roles. We nominate someone every year, but if you do two years in a row, that's fine. It was okay to indicate interest in all positions. The time that someone sent in their choices mattered, so if there was a tiebreaker and people had a committee or a liaison listed as their first choice, it was the person who submitted it first. No committees had two new trustees on there, so when we talk about committees, there's two or three people on each committee, but we didn't want a committee with two new trustees, so we split them up. Every person who is not an officer will be on two committees. We try to give everyone their first or second choice, and we don't have any new trustees chair a committee. These are typically the assumptions that are put forth every year when we do nominations. And so if you'll see, you have the list, I'm not sure if it's available on PowerPoint, but the officers recommended are Laura Smith-Everett for chairperson, Dawn Rattan for vice chairperson. Greg Mitchell for treasurer and Valerie Jennings for secretary. For Audit Committee, Laura Smith-Everett and Dawn Rattan, with Laura Smith-Everett as the chair, Board Governance, Greg Mitchell and Chad Carroll with Greg as the chair. Employee Engagement and Development, Lee Cross, Valerie Jennings and Chad Carroll, with Lee as the chair. Management and Finance, Greg Mitchell, Lee Cross, Geoff Holton, as Greg as the chair. Student Success, Valerie Jennings and Geoff Holton, Valerie as the chair. Collegial Steering, Laura Smith-Everett and Dawn Rattan, with Laura Smith-Everett as the chair. For the Liaisons, Foundation, Greg Mitchell and Valerie Jennings, KACC, Lee Cross and Geoff Holton, JCERT, Dawn Rattan, and College Council, Chad Carroll. It is the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the Board of Trustees approve the 2026 slate of officers, committee and liaison assignments, and thanks to Valerie.
- [Chair Rayl] Are you making that motion?
- I'm making the motion.
- All right, I have a motion. Do I have a second?
- Second.
- Motion by Trustee Rattan. Seconded by Trustee Smith-Everett. Any discussion?

- Madam Chair.
- Trustee Cross.
- So almost 13 years ago, I ran for trustee and had zero allies on this board, or so I thought. My daughter was two years old, and my wife, who looks much the same, has supported me the entire time, and although my hair is much more white now, we now have a 10-year-old son. Yet, in that time and with personal observation, I've learned to trust almost all of the trustees I've served with. Trustee Ingram, my dear friend, who happens to be here tonight, would say all the time that trustees trust, Madam Chair. And much has transpired over these years. There have been many, many good times, far surpassing the bad, and yet many of the bad times were extremely difficult and hard to know who to trust in many difficult moments these past 12 years. Specifically in 2019, during a very difficult time in the history of this board, people of Johnson County delivered to me one of my best allies, who has helped me protect this college, who's helped us protect this college. Trustee Laura Smith-Everett was elected for the first time in 2019, and I was excited to have someone who would put our students, faculty, staff and governing by reasoning and logic first, someone who has actively worked in the best interest of the college, and when we met for the first time on November 22nd, 2019, in my office, I was excited to tell her to be your own person, make up your own mind, and to trust those who consistently vote in the best interest of the college. So Madam Trustee, thanks in part to your leadership and Vice Chair Laura Smith-Everett's leadership, this college is in the best shape it's been in for close to a decade, and I'm optimistic about Trustee Smith-Everett being chair. I trust that Trustee Smith-Everett has worked with you these past two years to help build up a DEI culture, to govern the college in a fiscally responsible manner, to work with everyone, establish relationships with any stakeholder, and most importantly, to put our students first. Further, though we have not always agreed, Trustee Smith-Everett and I, privately, we have supported each other publicly. And I deeply appreciate her trust and your trust, specifically on one vote in 2021, when Trustee Smith-Everett, Trustee Ingram and Trustee Cook and I voted to either keep the mill flat or raise the mill, which set us up this whole decade for our budgets. I trust that she, too, will be a fair and impartial leader of this board, who will govern in a nonpartisan manner, be responsive to fellow board members, and be the leader who will always act in the best interest of the college. Just as I was cautioned by stakeholders, friends, and allies, for lack of a better word, I caution anyone who takes the position of chair that this position is not about you or personal or partisan positions you may possess. It's important to go slow, that slow and steady win the race. This position will require an unbelievable time

commitment. Don't rush to judgment. That's what I tell anybody. Seek facts and information, that's what we do in the law. Before any judgments rendered, there has to be a fact-finding process, where facts are sought and then judgments are rendered. Yet, I know from the time that we've spent together, Trustee Smith-Everett and I, that she has done other bigger things and perhaps more courageous in her life, like moving from Missouri to God's country here in Kansas. So on behalf of the people of Johnson County who have elected me four times to this position, I thank you for helping reverse our brain drain, and I thank you for your leadership. I support your nomination and the nomination of the slate as a whole, yet as Trustee Cook would say, I challenge you to do your best, put our students first, support our president, and always in the best interest of the college. I will support you, be available anytime you need me. Just as Judy Korb tells me, as will anyone else on this board and many former trustees, so I want to thank you, Madam Chair, for your service, and I support this slate, and I thank you for the time.

- Thank you, Trustee Cross. Any other comments? I would just say this, you know, we have the privilege, and I think all of the trustees behind this dais would agree with this, we have the privilege right now of serving with a group of people who all are collegial, collaborative, and have the best interest of the college at heart. That hasn't always been the case, and I know that Trustee Rattan and Trustee Jennings worked really hard to come up with this slate of officers, committee members and liaisons, and they have my wholehearted support and trust that things are gonna be just fine here at Johnson County Community College. So thank you for your hard work, and with that, it's time for a vote. All in favor say aye.
- Aye.
- Yes.
- Opposed? Motion carries, six to zero. Congratulations to everyone who got the assignments that they wanted, and to our new slate of officers.
- [Trustee Rattan] I'd again like to thank Trustee Val Jennings-
- [Trustee] Mm-hmm.
- [Trustee Rattan] For being part of the committee.
- She's up there somewhere. I know she can hear us.
- [Trustee Jennings] You know, can you hear me now?
- Yes.
- Yes! She's there See? I knew she was there.
- Oh my gosh. I have put in a yes for everything, so if I can be added to the vote, I also would like to vote yes for the slate.

- All right, thank you for weighing in. We appreciate it. And I'm glad you can hear us. All right, next up is the President's Recommendation for Action. We'll start with the Treasurer's Report and Trustee Hamill.
- Okay, Chair Rayl, my last report on the board. The board packet includes the Treasurer's Report for the month ended October 31st. Some items of note, page one includes the General Post-Secondary Technical Education Funds, which are the primary operating funds of the college, an ad valorem tax distribution of \$1,441,249 was received from the County Treasurers during October. Expenditure of the primary operating funds are within approved budgetary limits. It is the recommendation of the college administration that the Board of Trustees approved the treasurer's report for the month ended October 31st, 2025 Subject Audit, and I so move.
- Second.
- Second.
- Motion made by Trustee Hamill, seconded by Trustee Cross. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.
- [Trustees] Aye.
- [Trustee Jennings] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carries, seven to zero. You may continue.
- That concludes my report.
- Thank you so much. Next up, Dr. Miksa, I believe it's time to hear from you about all the exciting things you got going on.
- All right, well thank you very much. I'll first point out the enrollment report. You should have that at your table right there, or at the dais where you're sitting. What I think is great is our total head count, we're up about 4.2%, this is on the credit side of the house, and then our total credits are up 4.7%, so things are looking really well. When you go down below that, I think the things that are interest to me, we have the transfer first time in metro, which it's great that they're all up, but I really like that first-time full-time students up about 16.6%. Hopefully, those are the students that are gonna stay with us for two years, or whatever it takes to get that degree or certificate or get what they need to then move on to that next place in their life that they have there. Hopefully it will be a degree. We love watching them walk across the stage and shake their hands. The other thing I think that's important as well down there is on the non-credit side of the house, the Workforce Development and Continuing Education. If you see that they're about 46.5% towards their goal, just kind of a reminder, they don't work on semesters. They're registering students all the time, different times, and also in a different system as well. So it's not necessarily apples-for-apples, but the good

thing to note right there, they're about 46.5%, which seems to make sense, since we're almost about halfway through the year. So we've got a lot of work to do and continuing to do in there, and things can always change in there, but we're looking really good, and I know Elisa and her team are working well to make it happen on that side of the house. I just want to start with a thank you and I'll end with some thank yous here as well, but first, you know, this is our last board meeting of the semester. So you know when you start a semester you think, "Oh my gosh, are you ever gonna get to the end?" And all of a sudden you blink, and you're at the end, so I just throw out a big thank you from Deb and I for the warm welcome from the board members, from the people in the crowd, faculty, staff and everybody on campus. It has been an awesome journey for one semester, so we really appreciate that. It also gave me some time, you know, you start to reflect upon all the wonderful work that's being done, faculty in the classroom teaching their students, then getting onto campus and getting our students into class through our advisors and our counselors, so that's great work. But I thought I'd throw out a couple other areas that have done a lot of work as well, too, there. First off, we had that great Thanksgiving break, and then all of a sudden we were hit with snow, so Rachel and her team went to work. Our staff and maintenance grounds and transportation area spent 285 hours clearing snow-

- Mm.
- Those two days, and I know they were probably here, what? 4:00 or 5:00 AM in the morning going to work. It is great to see that, and it's really awesome that they were able to do that and get all the students onto campus, and I think that the snow day was a little bit different than what we expected, but we got it done.
- Mm-hmm.
- Not only did they clear snow, but our custodians also got into the act. They spent about 75 hours clearing snow, so that's on top of doing their regular work in terms of getting the buildings clean and keeping the buildings look the way they are, so that's great work as well there, too. Our Financial Aid Office, which is comprised of four full-time coordinators, two full-time and two part-time frontline advisor and one supervisors, throughout the years, they've taken over 13,000 calls to make sure our students are ready to roll. They've had over 7,000 people in walk-in traffic into their office. Over 600, almost 700 appointments, outreach to students and over three 3500 different emails to students, so they're very busy there. And then an area that I think is always really important in terms of showing that we're trying to meet the needs of our students and that we're connected with them is our Academic Resource Center. I talked about this a little bit earlier in the year about what was happening last year, but this year, just in this fall semester,

they saw 4,200 students and tutored over 41,000 hours within that center, and that's about 22% of the enrolled students in the fall, so really making a big impact on our students there. Some other things happening around campus. In November, the Career and Development Center hosted the Students Job and Internship Fair. Employers hired or had interns and part-time employers for positions in accounting, finance, computer science, IT, marketing and business from our students, so it was great to have them on campus and go down that path. I was gonna mention the Suicide Awareness and Prevention Grant, but that was already mentioned out there, so that's great work that's being done right there. I want to thank all the trustees that took part in our legislative breakfast, lunch and individual luncheons. It was great. I thought we had some wonderful dialogue with our legislators, and had a great opportunity to talk about the wonderful things that are going on here. I think another thing that was great that I got to be a part of, so this was sort of the first one that I've done since being on this campus. You know, all of our individual... Not all. A majority of our individual programs have individual accreditation, and so our EMS program was up for accreditation, or started their accreditation process this fall. I walked into the room, I have never seen so many faculty, staff and college people committed to our EMS program there. I think the accreditors made that same comment. Nikki, I think you would agree with me on that, they were just, they were amazed at how many people were there ready to commit to making sure our EMS program is accredited, so just a wonderful opportunity, and it just goes to show you the commitment of our people on our campus. You know, like I said, from our faculty and staff, all the way through to our administrators and what they're doing right there. Just a few other things Deb and I got a chance to participate in. We enjoyed judging the Stine Speaking Showcase, right? That was awesome. We were really lucky. You know, when you judge speech and debate, if you guys have ever done that before, if you're just doing the regular competition, man, it's all over the place, and you never know what you're gonna get. But myself, Deb, and then Chris was there as well, too, we decided to let a marketing guy in there. Anyway, he was there as well, too, but these five students did amazing work. It was so hard to judge which one was a champion, but we were able to pick that, and so it was great. Maybe we can have that person come in and talk a little bit as well, too. When I was in Garden City, enjoying Garden City, the Caboose Lighting was happening out back, and Deb and Nancy Ingram, she's not here, Deb and Nancy and Joy went in to that lighting, so that was great. Hopefully next year I'll get to see that. Deb and I were able to head up to Cedar Rapids to see the volleyball tournament. Our girls participate in the volleyball tournament, so that

was wonderful. We've been able to attend a variety of men's and women's basketball games. Of course, that's one of my favorites that I have. I love basketball, but they are an awesome team, so it's gonna be great to watch them as they go forward. Last night, we were able to listen, and I looked over and I saw Deb crying, she was dabbing her eyes. Hopefully she's not watching, 'cause she'd think I'm making fun of her, but the LPN students were doing their Pinning. The cool part about what they do at the LPN Pinning, which I hadn't seen before, but each student got to tell a little bit about their story as they're going through, so it was wonderful to hear how, and I think it's just a great example of how we are inspiring students, then you're transforming those lives. These students are gonna go out there and do some great work, which strengthens our community within the healthcare field.

- Mm-hmm.
- I also didn't write this down, but I'll throw out as I'm looking at Laura Smith-Everett, I got to a KU basketball game.
- Mm-hmm.
- [Trustee] Oh yeah.
- We were there with Chancellor Gerard, so it was very nice. I was doing my job. I was out there making connections. That's what's important. Excuse me, it was a wonderful to see, I mean, honestly it was a dream. I've watched Kansas basketball on TV, and to see 'em live, see Bill Self there now, everybody does know he came from Illinois at one point, so I'm not taking any credit there, but I did come to Illinois and also gotta see Dick Carter there as well, too. So it was a great game. I can't wait to go back to see another one. Probably one of the best spots to see college basketball, you know, up that close as well, too. And then the last thing, I'll throw out a couple special thank yous. I already kind of said this a little bit, first to Trustee Hamill. I appreciate your candor and your questions throughout the five or six months I was here, and I really do like that. You're challenging, but it's like very straightforward, and I really appreciate that, and so don't be a stranger. We look forward to continuing to working for you. I know you can be an asset for the college as we move forward, even though you're not a trustee, but we'll still be reaching out to you. And then second also to Chair Rayl. I really appreciate your leadership. It's truly been fun to watch you, and I have learned a lot as you've led this board, going back to some of those first meetings I watched, especially I think you were the one that brought up the tomato bisque soup back in the day there, so I do appreciate that. I also had the opportunity to get to know you and your family as well, too, and that's been wonderful also. It was great that Dana and, oh darn in, your daughter were here as well, too.

- Morgan.
- Morgan, that's right, Morgan, were here, too. I look forward to continue to working with you and connecting with you as well, too. Maybe you'll be... No nevermind, I won't say that.
- Yeah.
- But I do, I appreciate your support. And that's my report.
- All right, any questions or comments for Dr. Miksa? Trustee Cross?
- Yes, Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you, President Miksa. I do appreciate your collegiality and curiosity and as you struggle with names, and I struggle with names, we appreciate your approach, and we all know it's hard to learn 2,000 some-odd names, whatever you're in charge of. And like I was at a recent function where I called Dr. McCloud the chief academic officer and not realizing I stare at EVP and Provost all the time. So it just, it happens to the best of us. I got to shake Bill Clinton's hand at a Landon Lecture Series at K State one time, and he had spoken at KU, and I think I was working in Ohio at the time, and he tells the story in K State that Bob Dole had invited him to come to Lawrence and he gave a speech at Allen Fieldhouse and Senator Dole, ever the Kansan, goes up to him and says, "Great job, Mr. President." He goes, "Now you know, you gotta go to K State." And so I appreciate your report. I'm glad to see enrollment up, and your effort and everything, and thank you for all you do.
- [Dr. Miksa] Thank you.
- Trustee Rattan.
- I don't like any pro sports, but I do love some KU basketball. It was awesome.
- But I do want to say congratulations on your first semester here. I think you've really connected with all levels of the campus, and I can tell that you really care about the success of this institution, so keep doing what you're doing.
- [Dr. Miksa] Thank you very much.
- Any other comments? Thanks for your report. A semester in the books.
- Mm-hmm.
- And I will tell you that from my perspective, Tony, we struck gold when we got you here, and then as an added plus, we get the pleasure of having your wife Deb here as well, and how cool is that?
- Oh, thank you. I'll let her know that, right?
- So thank you so much for all that you've done, and I'm confident that things are just gonna continue to roll along, so I appreciate it.
- Thank you.
- All right, next up is new business. There is no new business, but I do have some comments-

- There is.
- And this seems like a good place to put it.
- [Trustee Smith-Everett] Right, 'cause I was gonna make some new business, if you'll let me.
- All right.
- [Trustee Rattan] Make some new business.
- Am I supposed to ask if there's... We'll just roll with it here guys, 'cause I can do that, 'cause this is my last meeting. Which is what I was gonna talk about. This is my last board meeting. You know, many of you may not know this, but I've been serving this college either as a faculty member or on the board for 30 years, starting with my time at the police academy, and more recently on this board, and occasionally, when Kelsey permits it, as outside counsel for limited purposes, and I've loved every minute of it. I've loved the opportunity to serve in those various capacities, really in all sorts of ways, to give back to the institution that started my academic journey. And I so appreciate everything that the college did for me, and I've enjoyed giving back. I chose not to run for reelection, because I have a lifelong struggle of trying to find work-life balance, and most people in my family would tell me that I'm not very good at it, but I'm gonna give it another shot as I sort of wind down my fifth career and look toward retirement. I'm certainly not leaving this board because I haven't enjoyed my time here, because that's not the case, and I will be around. I am fairly confident that I will not be back on the board at any point, but I'll certainly be around in other capacities because I love this college so much, and all that it's done for me. I want to thank all of you who have made my service over the past three years easy. We had a lot of challenges when I came onto the board in early 2023 that nobody told me about when I threw my hat in the ring to be appointed to fill a vacancy. But we've weathered those challenges, and I believe that we've come out better for it, and that's because of all the good people who are a part of this institution and the trustees that I've had the pleasure of serving with, not the least of which is Trustee Ingram and Trustee Musil, who were here earlier to pay some time with me as I had to go do some kind of cake-cutting thing. And finally, I really want to thank the person who holds everything together for me, and for the rest of this board, that many of you may not realize, and that is Caitlin, who does everything we need her to do, who gives me the advice when I need it, who tells me I'm really about to step in it and I ought to rethink it, and who keeps our schedule straight and makes sure that everything goes as planned. Caitlin was an integral part in our presidential search as we went through that process and in welcoming Tony and Deb to our community, and she's playing an equally integral part in welcoming our new

trustees, who I'm sure will serve with integrity, commitment, and honor, and so I look forward to watching the meetings, and I look forward to how many mistakes you can make as the chair, 'cause Lord knows I've made more than my share.

- Geez, thanks.
- So you gotta laugh at yourself, but thank you to everybody. I really appreciate it, and I'll miss y'all.
- Well, that is a great segue into the new business that I had at this juncture, where I wanted to offer an opportunity for any trustees who would like to be able to share a few words about you, as well as Trustee Hamill at your last meeting. I'm gonna start with you. I have really appreciated being able to watch yet another iteration of leadership on this campus. As you spoke about, when you came, we were in a little bit of a tight spot, and I appreciate your clarity and decisiveness and I appreciate how you led us with a very clear direction and provided clarity for a lot of us who were figuring all of this out. The steadiness and the assuredness that you provided gave everyone the confidence that we could figure out the next chapter and get there, and we sure have. And a lot of that is a credit to your leadership. I also want to say, I think you should write a book on each chapter of your different career choices, because it's such a great fit for a community college that tries to meet every student where they are. I once, when running for reelection, met a student who'd come back five times, five different majors, five different paradises through our college and different success rates, and that's a testament to the fact that he felt confident and safe that we would provide him what he needed when he came again. And so to you, I hope that this is your sunset, because that's what you want for yourself, but the door's always open if you want, you know, number six, just creeping in there after retirement. We would love to have you back in any capacity, so thank you so much for your leadership, and thank you for being willing to join this board one more time. Trustee Hamill, I want to thank you for your independence and your willingness to ask questions, even when a lot of times you were a minority voice, but you were very calm, cool and collected about the questions or the perspectives you had. And I always felt a real comradery and respect when you and I didn't agree.
- Yes.
- And your willingness to hear other people's perspectives and then your willingness to provide a perspective that I may not have considered.
- [Trustee Hamill] I also enjoy the times we did agree.
- Yeah, I was gonna say.
- You feel about it, it was- We've had a lot of time that we've agreed that's been a giggle for sure-

- Yep.
- Because from people on the outside, it may look like we wouldn't have a lot to agree on, and we sure have found a way.
- Yeah.
- So thank you for your service. I appreciate you putting your name out there and joining our board and running for office, so thank you so much. I wanted to open it up for any other trustees that would like to go? I guess I'm kind of quasi-chairing this, so-
- Go for it. It's good practice.
- All right, Trustee Rattan.
- She's like, I'm done. Chair Rayl, thank you for your leadership. Every time you speak, I open my ears a little bit wider to soak up all your knowledge and wisdom, and I do definitely hope our paths continue to cross and I continue to learn from you. Your leadership, your integrity is, above all, outstanding, and I just love when my life can cross paths with you, and it's kind of like, "What would Melody do?" So I can always trust you, and it feels good to have leadership with someone that you can trust and you know is making good decisions for the college. And then Trustee Hamill, yes, like Laura said, thanks for asking the tough questions. Thanks for making us go a little bit deeper in, you know, our votes and really think about what we're doing, and I really enjoyed getting to meet your wife and interface with her at different events as well, like today.
- [Trustee Hamill] Thank you so much.
- Trustee Cross.
- I'd defer to Trustee Hamill, if I may. I do want to say something, but I thought I let you go.
- Sure. Well, I want to say thank you to Melody Rayl for her leadership and everything she's done on the board. You know, I have taken some independent votes, sometimes six to one, and sometimes I gotta make a deciding factor, deciding vote, and you're one of the ones that I gotta make a deciding vote on. If you remember, it was deadlocked three to three, and I swung my vote towards you, and I'm very glad that I did, and you've been great on the board. Did not know you'd be chair at the time, but I'm very thankful you've done that. You've done a great job being chair, and going through the difficult stuff that you came across. I know you didn't know what was gonna happen with it, but obviously, we couldn't tell you everything. We had to get you to pass it so that you would actually, you know, to make sure you was in it, as they say. But thank you for everything you've done on the board. You've done a great job, and it's been very

inspiring watching you navigate everything, all the difficult things you've had to navigate, and at times it was me, so I do appreciate it.

- [Chair Rayl] Thank you.
- Trustee Mitchell? Yeah, I almost called you Trustee Misel. Sorry, Trustee Mitchell?
- It's all right. I just want to say thank you both for your leadership, your collegiality, your availability. You guys have been great to work with. I'm not particularly good at goodbyes, but I don't think this is goodbye. I'm sure we will cross paths quite a bit in the future, but I wish you both well, and look forward to the next time we cross paths.
- I thank you, and I thank you for the opportunity to go last, I really do. I don't have anything quite as long as what I said last time, but I appreciate you, and there is no you without Trustee Hamill, and we've got a good thing going here, and at the risk of upsetting, it was a four-three vote that night, and I personally took a lot of heat for your appointment, and I'm happy and thrilled. I didn't know it was gonna go so well. You know, it was tough, and then you came along, but there is no you without Trustee Hamill, and I said something like this, I think, in our management meeting on November 5th. Yeah, I want to thank you for your service to the college. You've been a trustworthy and reliable trustee, particularly in some of my more difficult moments as chair. Your insight and analysis were critical. There really are some key moments that I'll tell you in private, that particularly in executive session, and in your management experience, and frankly pushing back on some status quo voices that were here at the time was informative. You were key and strategic to everything that's happened here over the last four years, and frankly, you were a window into other leaders in the state of Kansas that I appreciated. As I understand it, former trustees are still on the foundation board, and if that's true, I hope you'll serve. I've said this to you, and I don't mean this in any disingenuous way, and honest to God, I thought you were gonna win. You're a young man, and you'll be back, is a customary thing to say in politics, and I think you will be. So I thank you for your service to college. For any relevant record, spent a lot of time and resources against you this fall, and the ethics reports will yield that, but I sure appreciate your service and with respect to Chair Rayl, I simply can't put into words what you meant. And when you sit in that chair, as you know, you don't always know what to do. And people think you do, and people think you have some power bestowed by God that you don't have, and so, you know, I appreciate your steady hand. I appreciate you coming on. I did want to tell the story I think it was Congressman Cleaver told at Dennis Moore celebration of life here at JCCC, and he said he ran and he got elected and he

said, Congressman Ike Skelton from Missouri would tell Congressman Cleaver, "Yeah, we lied to you to get you here, 'cause if we told you what the commitment was, you wouldn't have done it." And he said, "Dennis Moore would never apologize." He's like, "Well, we needed you." And so I don't really know that we lied to you, but I like that story. And I think we're in a much better place, and I think because of both of you, and I appreciate you greatly, so.

- [Chair Rayl] Thank you.
- I really enjoy history. It's been one of my favorite subjects all through my life, and, you know, leaving the board, one of the things I'm remembering myself, walking through the hallways between classes and looking at those pictures on the wall of the past presidents and trustees, not having a clue who they are and really what they did. But I remember trying to soak those names up in those years and trying to think about the fact that this is part of the history of this college. And then also, you know, the culture we have across the campus, the artwork and, you know, spending time trying to get to know all the different pieces of artwork throughout the time I was here, and now I look back and I realize that, you know, with a different perspective, that I'm making history. My name, my picture's gonna be on that wall somewhere, and while I only served four years, I really enjoyed a lot of it, most of it. Not necessarily every single meeting has been an absolute joy, but as a whole, it's been absolutely great to be a part of this. And this college means so much to me and to so many people, and there's people that have made this thing so much easier for me. And so, while there's people that may not have got their picture on the wall while as a student here, there's teachers that I think of regularly, and I've even quoted here on this thing, right here at the podium. Pete Peterson and Roger Traver have opened up things in my life that I now study economics in a different way than I probably ever would have if I wouldn't have met them. And so they put their picture on me, and there's people here that have done the same thing for me since I've been here. And Liz Loomis and Christina Zelinski, I don't think they get enough credit as well. We talked about Caitlin, but I mean, it really makes this job so much easier, and then everybody else who does all the things to make this college amazing and wonderful, the trustees that I've worked with here that have mentored me at times, helped me through certain things. Some of the past trustees that I definitely want to say, Henry Sandate we lost here recently and was a big mentor for me, Dave Lindstrom, Molly Baumgardner, and they really make a difference while they're here, and I know that when people go into teaching, typically not for the money, but because they know that they're trying to help the next student as well, and you're also putting your picture, your image on them, and there's countless people that we touch,

whether we're doing accounting up here or whether we're in the classroom, but it's been such a joy and such an honor to be a part of this, and I'm really thankful. Thank you, everybody.

- [Trustee Smith-Everett] Madam Trustee?
- [Trustee Jennings] I'd like to say, I just want to say thank you to both of you. I'm not gonna speak long, because it's very loud out here, but I just want to say, I really appreciate both of you for what you've done and the service that you've given. I've learned a lot from each of you. I really honor your independence, your thought, your consideration, and your deep thinking into every situation and every decision that needs to be made by the board to make this college a better place, so thank you very much to both of you. Thank you. Where are you? As I look-
- I'm in Maui.
- Maui.
- Oh. Oh, that's a rough gig.
- [Trustee Jennings] At the beach.
- Madam Chair.
- Yes, it's beautiful.
- All right, well thanks for sharing.
- If I may, I'd like to ask unanimous consent to applaud now, so.
- All right, makes me sad. Okay, thanks for all the kind words.
- [Trustee Smith-Everett] I was gonna say, Madam Chair, that concludes my new business.
- Okay, thanks for the new business, and thanks everybody for everything. I so appreciate it. You'll never know. Okay, that brings us to old business. I'm not aware of any old business. Any surprises for me there? All right. That brings us to the consent agenda. The consent agenda is an opportunity for the Board to take up in a single motion things of a rather routine nature. You'll find the consent agenda on pages 35 through 50 of your board packet. And first, I'll ask if there is any motion to remove anything from the consent agenda for separate consideration. Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to approve the consent agenda.
- So moved.
- Second.
- Motion made by Trustee Cross, seconded by Trustee Hamill. Any discussion?
- Trustee Smith-Everett.

- I just wanted to note the calendar modification will be atypical, and when speaking to President Miksa about why that was, it's because the way Memorial Day falls, but it'll be a different, unusual to do. I guess we do it every-
- [Dr. Miksa] It's usually always on Friday. We're doing it a bit differently.
- Five years or something when that happens, rotates back around.
- Mm-hmm.
- But I just wanted to highlight that in the calendar, 'cause that is going to be different this year, but I don't have any point that I want to pull it off or.
- Okay. Thank you for that. Any other discussion? Hearing none, we have a motion in a second, right?
- Mm-hmm.
- Yes.
- Yes, hearing none, all in favor say aye.
- [Trustees] Aye.
- [Trustee Jennings] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carries, seven to zero. We do have two executive sessions tonight, and I'll start with the first executive session, and I'm assuming the people who need to be here for the second executive session are aware that they need to hang out, but just in case you are not, the folks who are not in the first session but are in the second session are Dr. McCloud, Shelli Allen, Christina McGee, so don't go anywhere. With that, I'd like to entertain a motion to go into executive session for consultation with legal counsel regarding a pending personnel matter, which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. No action will be taken during this session. The executive session will last for 15 minutes. We will begin at, let's go with 7:10, to allow everybody an opportunity to take a brief bio-break. So we'll run from 7:10 to 7:25, at which time open session will resume at this same location. Invited to join this executive session are all board members in attendance, Dr. Tony Miksa, Rachel Lierz and Kelsey Nazar. Do I have a motion?
- So moved.
- Second.
- Motion made by Trustee Smith-Everett, seconded by Trustee Cross. All in favor say aye.
- [Trustees] Aye.
- Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carries, seven to zero. We will start executive session at 7:10.
- [Trustee Rattan] Cutting boards, but so much for remembering.
- All right. It is 19:25 hours. We have returned from executive session.

- [Trustee Rattan] It said it's eight minutes from here.
- [Participant] Okay.
- We have returned from executive session. No action was taken. At this time, I'd like to entertain a motion to go into executive session for a second time to discuss a personnel matter regarding non-elected personnel for the purpose of protecting the privacy interests of the personnel to be discussed. This executive session will last for 30 minutes. We will start at 7:30 and end at 8:00.
- So moved.
- At which time, open session will resume at this same location. we'd like to invite Dr. Tony Miksa, Dr. Mickey McLeod, Shelli Allen, Christina McGee, and Kelsey Nazar to join this executive session. I have a motion by Trustee Cross. Do I have a second?
- Second.
- Second.
- Seconded by Trustee Rattan. All in favor say aye.
- Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carries, four to zero. We will see you all at eight o'clock. All right. It's eight o'clock, 20:00 hours. We've returned from executive session. No action was taken. There will be no further business in the open meeting tonight, and so with that, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.
- So moved.
- Moved.
- Motion made by Trustee Smith-Everett, seconded by Trustee Mitchell.
- Second.
- Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.
- [Trustees] Aye.
- Opposed? Motion carries, five to zero. Thank you everyone.