****

**WSU Board of Trustees**

*Board Meeting*

Thursday, September 14, 2023, 8:00 am

John Bardo Center, Room 164, 1815 Innovation Blvd. Wichita, KS 67208

In attendance were Keith Lawing, Laurie Labarca, Nancy McCarthy Snyder, Aaron Bastian, Tracee Adams, Kevin McWhorter, and Dan Rouser. Board members Connie Dietz and Junetta Everett were not in attendance. Also in attendance were Andy Schlapp, Dr. Rick Muma, Troy Bruun, Michelle Locke, Jana Macek, Werner Golling, Susan Barrett, Susan Johnson and Michael Gerber from FORVIS.

**BOT AUDIT**

Michelle Locke, University Controller, reviewed the draft FY 2023 financial statements with the group, addressing some changes to the presentation of the financial statements. Michael Gerber from FORVIS shared that at this point, they have not identified any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls.

Bruun asked the Board to approve the draft financial report and if material changes are made, the final draft will be presented to the Board for approval. The following motion was made by Rouser, seconded by Bastian, and unanimously approved:  Moved to recess into Executive Session to discuss financial affairs of the Board with the accountants from FORVIS relating to the audit report.  The open meeting will resume in this room at 8:15, o’clock.  The Board meeting returned from executive session at 8:25 o’clock.

**FOUNDATION FUNDS/INVESTMENT TEAM PRESENTATION**

Susan Barrett, VP for Wichita State University Foundation Finance and Operations, introduced Hamilton Lee, from Cabridge Associates via zoom, to discuss the investment objectives and portfolio performance goals of the pooled foundation endowment.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

McCarthy Snyder motioned to approve the minutes from July 20, 2023. Lawing seconded and the motion passed.

**FINANCE & AUDIT REPORT**

Bruun reviewed all the finance reports and suggested the BOT join with other university affiliate groups to send out an RFP for audit services to possibly get a better service rate. McCarthy Snyder motioned and Bastian seconded to join the RFP.

**ROADTRIP NATION PRESENTATION**

Lawing discussed what the Roadtrip Nation process involved and what businesses were sponsoring them coming to Kansas and Wichita. He talked about the interactive website which was developed for K-12 students with educational packets included. The board viewed a short video clip which follows the journeys of five young Kansans as they take a deep dive into their home state's career possibilities, hearing stories of those who have found success in their fields. From aerospace and advanced manufacturing to healthcare and agriculture, it covered the diverse range of career paths available in South Central Kansas.

**WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY UPDATE**

Muma discussed the enrollment with a current increase of 1% and the importance of continuing to increase need based aid to increase enrollment for the future. He discussed rpk, the consulting firm KBOR hired to evaluate university academic programs. WSU continually evaluates our programs to make them relevant to market needs and employment opportunities. The $3 million that the board gave towards Wilkens Stadium upgrade has already helped secure another $1 million donation, breaking ground in the spring on the new practice facility. Muma reviewed the campus map and suggested we have a presentation of the new campus master plan at the January meeting and include a biomedical center update. He talked about the new P11 partnership building which will also include a welcome center showcase area for partners interested in our innovation campus. Cessna Stadium East side has been removed and will be built back in time for the spring state track meet. Next summer will be work on the north and south seating areas and the soccer field installation. Clinton Hall is progressing as the Shocker Student Success Center and Marcus Welcome Center addition will house the career development area. The Hub for Advanced Manufacturing and Research is breaking ground in January which will help small business with smart manufacturing innovations. There are three spaces left for development and opportunities to rework other areas on campus for future development.

Labarca adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Johnson

Assistant Secretary