



## **WSU Board of Trustees**

### *Board Meeting*

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 8:00 am  
John Bardo Center, Room 164

In attendance were Pierre Harter, Laurie Labarca, Nancy McCarthy Snyder, Aaron Bastian, Tracee Adams, Junetta Everett, Kevin McWhorter and Dan Rouser, Connie Dietz was absent. Also in attendance were Andy Schlapp, Dr. Rick Muma, Troy Bruun, Teresa Moore, Michelle Locke, Werner Golling, Mert Buckley, Susan Johnson and Teresa Seymour with Julian Rios from Forvis.

#### **BOT Audit**

Bruun introduced Teresa Seymour from Forvis, formerly BKD. Seymour reviewed the draft 2022 audit and management letter with the board, stating they will issue a clean audit. Harter moved, McCarthy Snyder seconded that the board would recess into Executive Session at 8:15 am to discuss the financial affairs of the Board with the accountants relating to the audit report. Staff and personnel were excused for discussions during the Executive Session. The open meeting resumed at 8:22 am and no action was taken. McCarthy Snyder motioned to approve the draft audit, Harter seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **National Institute for Research and Digital Transformation update**

Tonya Witherspoon discussed the NIRDT building, opening in February of 2023. It is a data center with 7 research lab pods. NetApp is anchor partner of NIRDT. Witherspoon is also looking to partner with NVIDIA, Cisco, Siemens, AWS, Dell, IBM, and Lenova. Cisco and AWS will be providing industry certified training workshops, cloud computing and networking academies in the NIRDT building. The S3 academy will provide tech service and tech sales training for students, staff, faculty and the community in spring of 2023. Muma added that WSU has made investments in infrastructure such as the NIRDT and industry is looking for opportunities to network and partner with WSU.

#### **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

Labarca moved to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2022 meeting, Bastian and Rouser abstained. Harter seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **Finance & Audit Report**

Bruun reviewed the financial reports with the board. The Board discussed the financial plan and budget. The Board agreed to uphold the previous approval of the financial plan and budget. McCarthy Snyder made a motion to receive the reports, Everett seconded, the motion passed.

### **Nominating Committee**

The board decided to keep the current slate of officers:

Laurie Labarca (Chair)  
Connie Dietz (Vice Chair)  
Nancy McCarthy Snyder (Treasurer)  
Junetta Everett (Secretary)

Harter moved, Rouser seconded, and the motion passed.

### **Wichita State University Update**

Muma stated WSU has an increase in enrollment, especially in graduate and international students. One of the goals of KBOR is to increase retention rates and have timely degree completions, this will be a major focus of the University. He discussed the Cessna Stadium capital improvement plan. The construction would work around the scheduled athletic events to cause no disruption. Construction would be phased with Phase 1A starting August of 2023 to remove the east side stands. Phase 1B would start June 2024 to rework the track area and add seating at the north and south side of the track. Phase 2A would be the demolition of the existing west structure in June 2025. A new west stadium structure will be built in Phase 2B. Phase 2B also includes a pedestrian plaza between Koch arena and the new stadium. The board discussed the project and project costs in great length. The board was asked to fund annual debt service on Phase 1A & 1B of the estimated \$11.8 million project. Wichita State University anticipates issuing revenue bonds of \$11.8 million plus issuance costs. The source of funds to make annual debt service contributions to the University will come from the existing mill levy. One concern raised during discussion was if the BOT committed the money for phase 1A & 1B and the effort to raise the \$39.5 million for phase 2A & 2B fell short, would the BOT be asked to fund the balance. While a concern, the BOT agreed not to add the language to prevent further action but to make such decision when and if the BOT was presented with a proposal for further funding. President Muma believed Phase the 2A & 2B fundraising effort would be successful. Werner Golling said that Phase 2A & 2B would not be constructed until the funding was secured. McWhorter made a motion to approve the funding for Phase 1A & 1B for total project cost of approximately \$11.8 million, Bastian seconded, the motion passed - Harter, Everett, Adams, McWhorter, Labarca, Bastian, McCarthy Snyder agreed, Rouser opposed.

### **Recognition of Past Board Member**

Labarca recognized the past board member – Keith Stevens and acknowledged his years of service to the board.

Labarca moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 am, Harter seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Johnson  
Assistant Secretary