

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING FORTHRIGHTNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN
PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATED TO THE PRESIDENCY OF WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Whereas, Dr. Jay Golden abruptly resigned the presidency of Wichita State University (WSU) on September 25, 2020, after holding the position for approximately nine months; and

Whereas, The circumstances surrounding this resignation, and the reasons for Dr. Golden's departure, have not been revealed to the faculty of WSU or the general public; and

Whereas, Steve Clark, who led the search committee that hired Dr. Golden, told the Associated Press following Dr. Golden's abrupt resignation that Dr. Golden "wasn't a good cultural fit for our Midwest values" and that Dr. Golden "had his own agenda"; and

Whereas, The administrative search process resulting in Dr. Golden's appointment cost the university \$129,000 and was conducted in a closed fashion, with minimal input from the university's faculty and other constituent groups of the university community; and

Whereas, The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) is currently preparing to initiate a search for a new permanent replacement for Dr. Golden; and

Whereas, KBOR President and CEO Blake Flanders asserted during a University Town Hall on October 12, 2020 that KBOR had not yet decided whether the next presidential search will take a closed, open, or board-initiated form; and

Whereas, Confidence in the transparency of the administration of WSU and KBOR has suffered as a result of the opaque processes surrounding both the hiring and the resignation of Dr. Golden; and

Whereas, It is imperative that the university hire a competent and cooperative leader whom the faculty can trust to effectively manage the many challenges that the university is likely to face in the coming years; and

Whereas, It is likely that both the presidential search and the compensation package of the incoming president will require substantial resources, at a time when the university's finances are strained; and

Whereas, Understanding the circumstances surrounding Dr. Golden's departure will improve the ability of KBOR and WSU to avoid repeating past mistakes; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate disapproves of KBOR's hasty process and lack of transparency surrounding the resignation of Dr. Golden.

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate encourages KBOR to release information clarifying the circumstances related to president Dr. Golden's resignation given his role as the president of a public university.

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate discourages KBOR from appointing Steve Clark to any future WSU presidential search committee.

Resolved, That, in the interest of promoting transparency and building legitimacy for the next president, the Faculty Senate encourages KBOR to engage in an open search process for the next president of WSU, and discourages KBOR from requiring presidential search committee members to sign non-disclosure agreements.