

# Faculty Senate Meeting

## Agenda

- Approval of Feb 24, 2025 Minutes (1 min)
- Informal Statements (4 min)
- President's Report (5 min) – Mathew Muether
- Committee Report
- Old Business
  - Continued discussion of Free Expression and Campus Posting Policies – (30 min)
- New Business
- As May Arise
- Adjourn (Next meeting, March 24 at 3:30 pm in HH 211)

# Informal Statements

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- Nathan Thompson

# President's Report

# Update on HB 2348

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- Our resolution based last senate meeting was delivered to the Governor's Office, the chair of the house judiciary committee, the speaker of the house, KBOR leadership, WSU leadership, CoFSP, Staff Senate and SGA
  - I received supportive messages back from the Governor's office and SGA.
- (From Zach Gearhart, Feb 28):
- "This is the piece of legislation that clarifies that tenure is not a property right. As you may recall, this bill was previously heard in the House Judiciary Committee two weeks ago. The committee was scheduled to work the bill Thursday, February 27th. However, after consideration of concerns that members of the committee received from universities that were then brought to the chair, the bill was ultimately pulled from the schedule. At this point, there are only 11 committee days (usually Monday-Thursday) for them to work the bill. The Chair has signaled that she is now open to receiving feedback and suggestions on the bill. KBOR and the universities will be involved in any potential discussions regarding those suggestions, if any. It is possible they may try and work the bill again next Tuesday. I will keep you posted as this develops."

# Update on HB 2348

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- Joint-State from WSU, KU, KSU to KBOR

Dr. Flanders,

As Faculty Senate presidents at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University, we want to thank you, Chancellor Girod, and President Linton for your public defense of tenure and opposition to HB 2348.

Kansas' three research-intensive universities—KU, K-State, and WSU—serve as pillars of innovation, workforce development, and economic growth for the state. Our ability to attract and retain world-class faculty depends on maintaining a rigorous and transparent tenure process that safeguards academic freedom and fosters groundbreaking research. If tenure protections are removed or diminished, Kansas will struggle to compete nationally and internationally for top talent, weakening our research capacity, reducing grant funding opportunities, and discouraging private-sector partnerships.

The impact of such changes extends far beyond faculty and our collective research enterprises. It would diminish the quality of education available to current students, reduce the attractiveness of Kansas universities for prospective students and faculty, and create long-term economic repercussions for the state. Faculty members who might otherwise build careers in Kansas would instead choose institutions in states that uphold tenure protections, leading to an erosion of academic excellence and research output.

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- We also recognize that public perceptions of tenure often misunderstand its role and rigor. Tenure is not a guarantee of lifelong employment, but rather a system designed to uphold high academic and research standards while protecting the pursuit of knowledge. Faculty undergo extensive peer review, performance evaluations, and post-tenure reviews to ensure continued contribution to their fields. If concerns exist about the tenure process, we welcome discussions on transparency and accountability. However, removing tenure protections entirely would be a solution in search of a problem—one that would create far greater harm than benefit.

As the governing body overseeing higher education in Kansas, the Kansas Board of Regents plays a critical role in ensuring our universities remain competitive and thrive. We strongly urge the Board to continue its active advocacy against legislative efforts that weaken tenure protections. We stand ready to collaborate with you to reinforce the message that strong universities contribute directly to a strong Kansas. Please know that faculty at all our institutions are willing and available to engage in this process when appropriate.

- Sincerely,

# HB 2402





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About the Legislature

House Status: Adjourned until Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Senate Status: Adjourned until Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 02:30 p.m.

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HB 2402

Short Title

Creating the blue ribbon commission on higher education to study and set long-term goals for higher education in the state of Kansas and requiring the submission of reports to the legislature. (less)

Current Sponsor

Original Sponsor

Bill Versions

Version	Documents
As introduced	

Bill History

JPN: Journal Page Number

Date	Chamber	Status	JPN
Wed, Mar 12, 2025	House	Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00 AM Room 112-N	
Thu, Mar 6, 2025	House	Referred to <a href="#">Committee on Appropriations</a>	404
Thu, Mar 6, 2025	House	Introduced	401



# Committee Report

# Old Business

# Old Business

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- Continued discussion of Free Expression and Campus Posting Policies

# New Business

# As May Arise

Adjourn  
(Next Meeting March 24th)