

**Cowley College
Board of Trustees Official Minutes**

September 21, 2026

I. Call to Order

The Work Session of the Board of Trustees of Cowley College was called to order on September 21, 2026 at 1:00pm in room 106 of the Mulvane Science, Engineering, and Academic Center, 430 E. Main, Mulvane, KS.

Trustees	Present	Dr. Alan Marcotte, Chair Phil White, Vice Chair Brett Bazil, Trustee Joe Shriver, Trustee Bob McGregor, Trustee Gary Wilson, Trustee
Staff		Dr. Michelle Schoon, President Tiffany Vollmer, Board Clerk Holly Hollins, Exec. VP of Finance and Administration (Zoom) Dr. Scott Layton, VP of Academic Affairs Dr. Jason Kegler, VP of Student Affairs Dr. Ryan Burkett, Exec. Director of Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Tasha Taylor, AVP of Academic Affairs
Guests		Dr. Kori Gregg, President of the Cowley Foundation Joel Pile, City of Mulvane Dustin Billingsley, Professional Engineering Consultants

II. Sumner Campuses Expansion

A. Mulvane Land, Building, and Programs

- Viewed the two pieces of property being considered for construction of a new Mulvane center.
 - K-53 has just shy of 10 acres, but is in the flood plain.
 - K-15 has approx. 10 acres but has high traffic, and costly estimates for utilities
- Discussed benefits/consequences of each site for both the City of Mulvane and the College.
- Administration will work on obtaining a revised building layout and a better estimate for utility costs for the south K-15 site, per the Trustees' request.

B. Wellington Tech Center Expansion

- Reviewed the current diagram for the expansion of the Wellington Tech Center building to accommodate for new programming.
 - Work with Chris Cannon, construction and welding faculty, and Cheri Hulse.

III. Main Campus Property Discussion

A. Ireland Hall

- Approximately \$817,000 for windows.
- Tuck pointing \$225,000 with stone replacement
- Floor support beam under CJ needs work.
- Proposed the idea of a community listening session to gather ideas and get the feel for any support.
- Discussed reinstating the .75 COM to bring it back to a flush 2.0 mills for building improvements.

B. Carnegie Library

- Shared history of prior attempts to purchase.
- Review 2017 appraisal and photos of the building.
- Discussed possible uses for the property
- Requested administration obtain bids for window replacement, elevator installation and additional repairs.
- Requested the College obtain reasonable purchase price.

IV. College Update and Community College Funding

Dr. Schoon shared information comparing the 2025-26 year to the 2024-25, in regards to budget, revenue, and students.

V. 2026-2027 Board Goal Setting

Reviewed the 2026 Trends in Higher Education – Challenges that effect higher education institutions were discussed, with increased focus on these three areas:

- Financial Pressures – decreased funding and increased focused on affiliations and mergers
- Strategic Partnerships – increased reliance on public/private partnerships and importance of workforce and community partnerships
- Mental Health and Burnout – rising student and staff mental health issues, burnout and turnover

VI. Other Business

A. Discussed Reduced Credit Bachelor's degrees and Community College Bachelor's Degrees (CCBD)

- The Board indicated support for pursuing Bachelor's of Specialized Studies Degrees in key technical areas, like criminal justice or construction management.

VII. Adjournment

With no other business to be considered, Chair Marcotte declared the work session adjourned at 3:56 p.m.



Tiffany Vollmer
Board Clerk