Northwest Missouri State University
Board of Regents
April 30, 2026 Open Meeting Minutes
Approved on June 18, 2026

The Northwest Missouri State University Board of Regents convened at 1 p.m. on April 30, 2026, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Boardroom on the Northwest Missouri State University campus following public notice issued on April 24, 2026.

The following members of the Board were present: Leisha Barry, Steve Black, Steve Coppinger via Zoom, Shanda Durbin, Jason Klindt, Debbie Roach, and Chair Mel Tjeerdsma. Also present were President Dr. Lance Tatum, Vice President of Culture Krista Barcus, Vice President of Finance and Administration Stacy Carrick, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Charles Fey, Vice President of Advancement Mike Johnson, Athletics Director Dr. Andy Peterson, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Rose Marie Ward, Foundation liaison Mr. Pat Pijanowski and General Counsel Hayley Hansen.

A quorum being present, Chair Tjeerdsma called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Resolution #26-051: It was moved by Regent Roach and seconded by Regent Black to adopt the agenda as presented.

The motion carried unanimously (7-0) by voice vote.

Resolution #26-052: It was moved by Regent Klindt and seconded by Regent Durbin that the following consent agenda items be approved:

- March 12, 2026, OPEN Board Meeting Minutes
- March 12, 2026, CLOSED Board Meeting Minutes
- April 3, 2026, OPEN Special Board Meeting Minutes
- April 3, 2026, CLOSED Special Board Meeting Minutes
- Conferral of Degrees (provided all requirements are met by the 18th day of the following semester and certified by the Registrar)

The motion carried unanimously (7-0) by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #26-053: It was proposed by Provost and Vice President Ward, endorsed by President Tatum and the People, Finance and Operations Committee, moved by Regent Barry and seconded by Regent Black that the item presented in 3.01 be approved:

appointment of six adjunct faculty to teach during the summer 2026 term (list on file).

A roll call vote was taken:

Regent Barry voted yea.
Regent Black voted yea.
Regent Coppinger voted yea.
Regent Durbin voted yea.
Regent Klindt voted yea.
Regent Roach voted yea.
Regent Tjeerdsma voted yea.

The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Resolution #26-054: It was proposed by Vice President Carrick, endorsed by President Tatum and the People, Finance and Operations Committee, moved by Regent Roach and seconded by Regent Black that the following item presented in agenda item 3.02 be approved:

2026-2027 Academic Year Rate Schedule (document on file).

A roll call vote was taken:

Regent Barry voted yea.
Regent Black voted yea.
Regent Coppinger voted yea.
Regent Durbin voted yea.
Regent Klindt voted no.
Regent Roach voted yea.
Regent Tjeerdsma voted yea.

The motion carried (6-1).

Per the Board's bylaws, Chair Tjeerdsma asked for nominations for the chair and vice-chair positions for the bi-annual election to be held at the June 18, 2026, meeting. Steve Black was nominated for chair, and Leisha Barry was nominated for vice chair.

Verbal reports were presented by the following individuals:

Ms. Anna Tucker, Student Senate President

- Introduced 104th Student Senate President, Phillip Motazedi
- Provided Updates on:
  - Student Leadership Transition
  - Northwest Awards and Tower Service Recognition
  - Civic Engagement and Service Initiatives
  - Student Engagement and Campus Involvement
  - Including, Representation and Campus Partnerships
  - Academic Excellence and Student Achievement
  - Advocacy and Communication
  - Athletics and Student Spirit
  - Recognition and Internal Development
  - Organizational Support, Finance and Year-End Impact

Dr. Mike Miller, Faculty Senate President

- Dr. Luke Campbell will be the next Faculty Senate president starting with the fall 2026 term.
- Shared thanks to the Regents and Northwest Leadership Team for their leadership, to staff for their efforts over the last year, to the faculty for their dedication to the university, students, staff and other faculty, and Senate officers Luke Campbell, Rob Voss, Jill Baker and Johnny Chuang for the

accomplishments achieved during the year.

- Highlighted challenges that were met: adjusting to the new academic structure and hiring a new provost.
- Highlighted challenges ahead: budget pressures, the rise of AI and its impact both inside and outside the classroom, and the ongoing need to reassess our roles as society's needs evolve.

Mr. Pat Pijanowski, Foundation Board liaison

- Alumni Association
  - 210 people attended the alumni awards event on April 24 to recognize the following honorees:
    - Distinguished Alumni Award: Jim Oliver '71
    - Distinguished Faculty Emeritus Award: Dr. Nancy Johnson Zeliff '81
    - Distinguished Faculty Award: Gina Hawk McNeese '83, '94
    - Turret Service Award: Dr. Clarence Green Jr. '94, '10
    - Public Service Award: Tiffany Fixter '07
    - Young Alumni Award: Michelle Greenwell Westhues '17
    - Honorary Alumni Award: Aleta Hubbard
  - Northwest Grad Fest will be held today
- Foundation:
  - Fundraising Update:
    - 2025/26 Advancement Goal for 2025/26: $6.5 million
      - $5,837,472 raised since July 1, 2025
      - $219,713 raised from 532 gifts during the Bearcat Day of Green held on April 7-8, 2026
  - Foundation Board approved six new members:
    - Connie Bowen
    - Andrew Loos
    - Jay Meacham
    - Dannen Merrill
    - Angelo Savaiano
    - Bill Sessions
  - Foundation Board approved the launch of the next comprehensive campaign: leadership phase begins July 1, 2026; Board of Regents will attend the July 30 Foundation Board campaign kickoff meeting

Dr. Lance Tatum, University President

- Thank you to faculty, staff and students for adapting to changes launched in the last two years.
- Updates on initiatives:
  - Enrollment growth and sustainability – University Marketing and Communication staff are doing creative work to connect with students. There will be challenges in FY28 due to probable decrease in state funding.
  - Center for Rural Health planning continues.
  - Search for Vice President of Student Affairs continues with five semi-finalists.
  - Excited to work with new campus dining vendor, Elior, who will have a student focus.
  - Congratulations to the Bearcat Steppers received national title for second consecutive year.
  - Discussed comprehensive campaign focus on scholarships and the critical need
  - Garrett Strong labs are completed.
  - Martindale Hall renovation is nearing completion with a ribbon cutting event planned in September.
  - Athletics' fundraising efforts resulting in new stadium turf, video board and some outdoor seating.
  - Employee Compensation Model Phase II will be done in January 2027.
  - Commencement ceremonies scheduled for May 1 and 2. Total number of graduates is 1,659.

Resolution #26-055: It was moved by Regent Klindt and seconded by Regent Roach to adjourn the open session and move to closed session to consider matters pursuant to exemptions to the open meeting requirement as specified in R.S. MO 610.021(13) relating to matters identified in that provision, which include individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings, or records pertaining to employees or applicants for employment.

A roll call vote was taken:

Regent Barry voted yea.
Regent Black voted yea.
Regent Coppinger voted yea.
Regent Durbin voted yea.
Regent Klindt voted yea.
Regent Roach voted yea.
Regent Tjeerdsma voted yea.

The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The open session was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hargrave, Secretary to the Board