

**Fort Hays Tech | North Central**  
**Board Minutes**  
**Severance Student Union, Beloit, KS**  
**Tuesday, March 31, 2026**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Members present:** Chair Bob Becker, Vice-Chair Don Miller, Glennys Doane, Dale Montgomery, Fred Severance, Lance Smith, and Nicki Cleveland.

**Others in Attendance:** FHSU President Dr. Mason, President Burks, VP Brown, VP Baumann, Dean Cline, Dean Owen, Director Draemel, and Clerk Offutt.

---

**Call to Order:** Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Dale Montgomery to approve the consent agenda, which included the February 24, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes, and the staff hire of Assistant to the President/Board Clerk. Fred Severance seconded. Motion carried.

**Discussion Agenda and Monitoring Reports:**

- Student Senate Report- Dean Owen provided some updates that Student Senate is currently working on, emphasized how busy it has been with students, and pointed out the recruitment of some new students who will be returning next year.
- Enrollment Report- Dean Cline provided an enrollment report with comparison numbers as of March 1<sup>st</sup> which is down about 40 student admits. April 1<sup>st</sup> numbers will improve that number as Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing students are currently being admitted. Only one program is officially on waitlist with several close behind.
- FHSU President's Report- President Dr. Mason reported that April will be the President's Annual Evaluation process, and she also discussed legislative concerns and impacts which included funding cuts and formula changes for EVF.
- Administrative Report- VP Brown reported on the attendance of the annual HLC Conference, provided academic updates and initiatives, as well as Advising updates. Registering returning students has begun and Registration Days are coming up to register new incoming students. April 26<sup>th</sup> is compliance deadline for Section 508, and she noted that Dean Owen and Director Nelson have done a great job preparing our institution. Graduation planning is in full swing with ceremonies scheduled in May. She also discussed student experience happenings such as housing activities, bowling, and the cardboard regattas. VP Baumann provided an update on student refunds, budget meetings nearly complete, health insurance options being evaluated, completion of the Dreiling Parking Lot, the successful implementation of new phone systems, and continued improvements and efficiency with the RAMP system. President Burks reported on the loss of a faculty member and asked for a moment of silence honoring Silver Van Wey's memory. President Burks then shared about the hiring of Kelli Rose as Assistant to the President/Board Clerk who will assume the position of Board Clerk. Clerk Offutt will stay on as Deputy Clerk. He provided a funding update which included a decrease in Student Success and Excel and CTE funding but an increase in restoration funding. He and VP Baumann are exploring potential property insurance options and the possibility of collaborating with Fort Hays Tech |

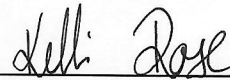
Northwest as well as looking and potential daycare partnership. The Dane G. Hansen Foundation has offered a \$500K matching gift to support the remaining funding for the Hansen Building, and the Foundation also received a land donation valued at \$668K. He concluded with news that the City has agreed to lease the Big Creek facility for 20 years with no roof assistance, and that renovation bids are in progress for both Big Creek and Dreiling.

**Action Items:** VP Baumann provided the Financial Report. A motion was made by Bob Miller to approve the finances and Nicki Cleveland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Amendment to Board Meeting Calendar:** President Burks requested a date change for the June meeting in order to have a joint meeting with Fort Hays Tech | Northwest on June 25 2026. Fred Severance made a motion to approve the calendar change and Glennys Doane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Executive Session:** President Burks asked for a 30-minute Executive Session with the Board members and President Dr. Mason. A motion was made by Lance Smith to go into Executive Session and Fred Severance seconded the motion. Motion carried. The session began at 6:40 p.m.

**Adjournment.** A motion was made by Don Miller to adjourn the meeting. Lance Smith seconded. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.



Board Clerk

Approved:



Board Chair/Vice Chair