Good morning Chair Tyson and Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide background information and a brief summary of the Board of Regents’ proposed amendments to the qualified admissions regulations.

During the 2009 Session, the Legislature amended K.S.A. 76-717 to give the Kansas Board of Regents authority to establish admissions standards for the state universities. In 2010, the Board convened a Task Force to “advise the Board and make recommendations regarding optimal state university admissions policies for year 2010 and beyond.”

The Task Force conducted public hearings and gathered significant input from a wide range of stakeholders across the state and forwarded recommendations to the Board. The Board approved the recommendations in December 2010, which included revised admissions standards for high school students graduating in 2015 and thereafter, and the requirement that freshmen applicants under the age of 21 complete a precollege curriculum.

In 2018 the Board reconvened the Task Force to consider the effectiveness of the standards that were put into place in 2015. After another iterative process, the Task Force recommended, and the Board of Regents approved, several changes. If these regulations and amendments are adopted, beginning with the summer 2021 cohort, first-time freshmen who have graduated from high school will no longer be required to have completed a specified precollege curriculum with
a specified GPA, and the top third rank option for admission of these first-time freshmen will be replaced with the option of an overall GPA of 2.25 for admissions to Emporia State, Fort Hays State, Pittsburg State, and Wichita State Universities, or 3.25 for admissions to Kansas State University. The third option will remain a 21 ACT for most admissions, with the University of Kansas continuing to have the ACT/GPA combinations they are currently using, but the amended regulations would require the universities to use the ACT Super Score when using the ACT option in making admission decisions.

Regulations in Articles 29, 29a, and 29b containing current criteria that will change (phasing out the precollege curriculum requirement and the top 1/3 rank option) are being amended to cease being affective on June 1, 2021. These regulations will continue to be the standards for students seeking admission to a state university for a term prior to summer 2021. It was our hope to provide students, high schools and state educational institutions with sufficient lead-time to become acquainted with the new criteria during the year prior to implementation.

K.A.R. 88-29-1, 88-29-11, 88-29-18, and 88-29-19 are being revoked because they have timed out in accordance with their own terms (having been effective only for review of applicants before the 2016 summer session or applying to students who would now be at least 21 years old and no longer subject to the freshman admissions criteria).