

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS  
Regents' Conference Room  
655 Research Parkway, Suite 200**

**Dr. Douglas Hallenbeck, Vice Chair, Presiding  
Via Zoom Video  
March 11, 2021  
10:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome and Introductions** – Douglas Hallenbeck

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Doug introduced new COSA members, Eunice Tarver, Vice President of Student Success and Equity, Tulsa Community College (NE Campus) and London White, Interim Director of Student Life, Eastern Oklahoma State College

**2. Approval of February 11, 2021 Minutes** – Douglas Hallenbeck

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

**INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL**

**3. Legislative Update** – Joel Dean, Government Relations and Workforce Development Coordinator, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Joel gave an update on the higher education bills that are being tracked. These will be emailed to the council.

Liz McCraw (SEOSU) asked Joel about HB 1800 (Higher education; establishing tuition and fee waivers for Oklahoma National Guard members; effective date.) Joel said the bill was amended by the subcommittee, did not get a hearing and went dormant two weeks ago. Debbie Blanke (OSRHE) mentioned that Chancellor Johnson reached out to legislators to make sure they understand we are already doing this in policy but it is unfunded. A request to restore this waiver has been included in the FY22 proposed budget.

Amy Ishmael (NEOSU) asked about the vagueness of HB 1801 (Grants priority enrollment and course registration to all Oklahoma resident members of the Oklahoma National Guard and to students who are eligible to receive educational financial assistance from the Department of Veteran Affairs.) Joel said there is a floor amendment and students must be residents or stationed in Oklahoma. Amy said this does not address how this affects an institution. Doug Hallenbeck (OSU) asked Amy if they have other priority enrollment groups, athletes or others. Amy said their enrollment is based on the number of hours but their honors program does have priority enrollment.

Doug Hallenbeck (OSU) asked about HB 1888 (Bans all public bodies from conducting any form of gender or sexual diversity training or counseling. Allows for sexual harassment prevention training. Anybody that violates this law will be denied any source of public funding.)

Doug said the counseling piece will be extraordinarily difficult for institutions. Joel said the bill is on the agenda today. Doug also asked about diversity training bills. Joel mentioned SB 614 (First Amendment rights to include the right to an unbiased education and freedom from any endorsement, symbolism or propaganda of socialism, communism, Marxism or anti-American sentiment) and SJR 15 (Puts to a vote of the people a prohibition for higher education from requiring students to enroll in a course that is not a core requirement of their chosen curriculum, a course with no tuition or fee charged, or a course that is not directly relevant to a degree being pursued). Debbie Blanke (OSRHE) advised the council that several presidents met with Senator Bullard, the author of SB 614, to make their case. Senator Bullard only agreed to amend the wording to “promote or endorse”. Debbie said council members will need to coordinate with institutional presidents to reach out to house members if this bill passes.

Zeak Naifeh (CU) asked if the counseling piece of HB 1888 could jeopardize a counselor’s license. Joel said the question was posed and that a specific government employee counselor would not be violating ethical practice within their field or even oaths that they take as counselors. The response Senator Bullard kept going back to is that we don’t want the government involved in that and the questions were then dropped.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **4. 2020-2021 Work Plan – Douglas Hallenbeck**

Doug mentioned that the Executive Committee reviewed the work plan this morning. Many topics were not completed in 2020 due to the pandemic. It was decided to carry over the incomplete 2019-2020 work plan topics to the 2020-2021 work plan.

Doug said the Executive Committee specifically discussed what is being done to help support the mental health of students and staff after coming back to campus, especially related to COVID-19. Debbie Blanke (OSRHE) asked if the council would like the Regents’ staff to help schedule speakers or would they like to hear how institutions are helping staff and students. Liz McCraw (SEOSU) mentioned council members discussing this in roundtable breakout sessions would be her preference, as her staff is exhausted. This will be scheduled after the April 8<sup>th</sup> COSA meeting.

Jerrett Phillips (CU) said state budget cuts over the years have impacted higher student default rates at many institutions. He would like to add default management to the Student Loan Debt category. Debbie Blanke mentioned Regent White would like an update on what efforts are being made to help student debt and financial literacy. COSA put out a survey a few years ago under the direction of Dr. Kermit McMurry on this subject. Debbie said COSA may repeat this survey in the next couple of weeks, as Regent White will leave the board in May 2021.

Doug mentioned adding the reduction of high school age students and graduates to the work plan this year or next year. He would like to know what institutions are currently doing or what they can do to help prepare students to be college ready when they graduate. Debbie Blanke advised the council the Regents have two Student Preparation employees who work with counselors in middle and high schools who would be happy to work with COSA.

Liz McCraw discussed considering the deficit in student leadership maturity after experiencing the pandemic as a topic for the work plan. The students were not able to go to their normal

leadership camps or be on campus in 2020-2021. She said COSA will have a pretty unique opportunity to provide statewide leadership development to the incoming freshmen and sophomore classes in the next six to 18 months.

Kristen Partridge (OU) said they are changing their Student Conduct office name to Student Rights, Responsibilities and Restoration. Dr. Derek Dixon is OU's new Director of Conduct. Kristen mentioned student social dynamics are going to be off, as they have been with friends, maybe groups they should not have been with, etc. She said the feeling is that social anxiety is going to mount. OU is looking at how to train students to be more sensitive to people in efficient ways. Kristen said adding the topic of restorative justice to the work plan would be interesting to all of us moving forward.

#### **5. COSA Guns on Campus Resolution – Douglas Hallenbeck**

The Executive Committee will draft a resolution. The 2014 COSA resolution will be emailed to the Executive Committee to use as a template.

#### **6. OSRHE Study Abroad Webpage – Debbie Blanke**

Debbie reminded the council of the OSRHE Study Abroad webpage and asked if this is a viable resource to COSA at this time. Jerrett Phillips (CU) suggested Academic Affairs may have better use of this website. Debbie will pose the question during the Counsel on Instruction meeting today.

#### **7. State Regents' Update – Debbie Blanke**

- Oklahoma Women of Higher Ed Scholarship applications are due April 30, 2021. [www.okwhe.org](http://www.okwhe.org)
- Summer Academies will require additional expenses per CDC guidelines. Institutions may seek reimbursement through the CARES Act if they have funds available.
- The State Regents met March 4, 2021. Topics of interest:
  - The extension of the policy guidance through 2021-2022 academic year was approved.
  - Policy flexibility reporting will move to semester rather than monthly.
  - There were 10 institutions approved for the test-optional pilot with a few others under review.
  - Chancellor Johnson announcement he will retire September 2021. The search process is underway for his replacement.
  - The System Innovations Committee was created. This committee will be looking at collaborations among institutions.
- Oklahoma Campus Compact 2020 Voter Registration Contest Awards winners were announced:

DEMOCRACY Category (0 to 1,500 FTE)

- Eastern Oklahoma State College – Winner
- No runner up

LIBERTY Category (1,501 to 3,000 FTE)

- Langston University – Winner
- Northern Oklahoma College – Runner Up

EQUALITY Category (3,001 to 7,000 FTE)

- Southwestern Oklahoma State University – Winner
- The University of Tulsa – Runner Up

INDEPENDENCE Category (7,001 to 30,000 FTE)

- Oklahoma State University – Stillwater – Winner
- Oklahoma City Community College – Runner Up

MOST CREATIVE VOTER REGISTRATION EVENT

- Oklahoma State University – Stillwater – Winner

- Additional Legislation of Interest:

- SB 70 increases the time period before the date of enrollment from five years to 10 years when a person was discharged or released from active military service to qualify for in-state enrollment. Federal legislation removes the time limit.
- SB 238 creates a task force to study the requirement of high school students to complete the FAFSA.
- SB 261 creates the Oklahoma Student Borrower’s Bill of Rights, requiring that student loan servicers not employ any deceptive practices, maintain accurate reporting to consumer credit bureaus, and otherwise accurately inform borrowers of their rights and obligations in public and plain language.
- SB 132 extends application window for Oklahoma’s Promise to the eleventh grade.
- SB 639 extends qualification for Oklahoma’s Promise to those enrolled in an area that has been identified as a critical occupation area. Requires the Department of Commerce and the Regents for Higher Education to publish a yearly list between October and June of the critical occupation areas that meet the guidelines. Requires the Regents, in consultation with CareerTech, to identify postsecondary vo-tech programs that correlate to the critical occupation areas. Sets a 5-year completion timeline, requires scholarships to be paid back if the program is not completed.

Liz McCraw (SEOSU) asked about SB 157 that would allow the Governor to remove a member of an education board. Debbie said she has not heard the status of this bill. OSRHE legislative staff is following several bills, as today is the deadline for bills to move out of their chamber of origin.

## 8. Announcements – Douglas Hallenbeck

- Lindsay Echols (OSRHE) will be emailing the council to verify their office of diversity, equity and inclusion contact person.
- Joshua Busby (LU) thanked the council for input on his query of involuntary withdrawal policies. He said there are not a lot of institutions that have this process, as laws have changed.
- Doug Hallenbeck (OSU) would like to discuss President Biden’s changes to Title IX at the April COSA meeting.
- Zeak Naifeh (CU) is working with their local health department to hold a vaccine clinic for faculty, staff and students on campus. The Oklahoma Health Department advised international and out-of-state students will need to use their Oklahoma address where they reside when registering on the portal.
- Lindsay Echols reminded the council of the free online African American Convening March 30, 2021. Registration is required.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AfricanAmericanConv2021>

## **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

### **Upcoming Events of Interest to the Council**

- The Office of College and Career Readiness Webinars every third Thursday of each month starting January 21, 2021 and ending June 17, 2021.  
<https://www.okedge.com/educators/professional-development/>
- March 30, 2021 - Reach Higher virtual African American Convening  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AfricanAmericanConv2021>
- April 16, 2021 - Reach Higher virtual reception