

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

**Joshua Busby, Chair, Presiding
Via Zoom Video
February 9, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions – Joshua Busby

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Joshua welcomed new COSA member Laura Hutchinson, Dean of Students, Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

2. Approval of January 12, 2023 Minutes – Joshua Busby

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, OSRHE

Joel mentioned Governor Stitt's recent State of the State Address and Secretary Walters requested review of higher education's diversity, equity and inclusion funding. He said he is not aware of any legislation focusing specifically on DEI funding. Joel said there are over 3,000 pieces of legislation with one third of them being shell bills.

Joel reminded the council that Higher Ed Day is February 14, 2023. He asked council members to check in with him in room 100. Joshua (LU) asked Joel to give more information on Higher Ed Day for those unfamiliar with the event. Joel said Higher Ed Day is held annually at the State Capitol to promote higher education and give students an opportunity to speak directly to their local representatives about what higher education means to them, what they get out of higher education, scholarship programs they have participated in, etc. Joel said hundreds of students across the state attend. The morning will be set aside for students to speak with representatives one on one, and the afternoon session will be a reception to present distinguished service awards to legislators.

Joel announced the Economic Development Council will host the Regional Business Partnership Excellence Awards on April 27, 2023, at the University of Central Oklahoma. This program is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment. Institutions receive a small stipend to create a scholarship or increase the partnership. There are 25 legislators that have replied they will attend this event.

Joel mentioned the following bills:

- SB 93 requires students, beginning in the 2024-25 school year, to complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to graduate from a public high school. The measure provides opportunities to opt out of the requirements and also directs the State Department of Education to publish materials explaining the requirement as well as an opt-out form to be used by school districts.
- SB 316, SB 415 and SB 416 – OSRHE is seeking clarification on institutions receiving proceeds from the sale of institutional buildings.
- SB 550 directs the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, to establish and collect fees annually for authorization of certain private and out-of-state public degree-granting institutions; require applicants for such authorization to submit a payment to the Tuition Recovery Revolving Fund created in the bill; and deny, not renew, or revoke an institution’s authorization for violations of statutes or failure to meet certain minimum standards. It also creates the Tuition Recovery Revolving Fund to offset student tuition losses in the event an institution closes or ceases operations.

Joel said weekly legislative updates will be emailed to the council each Friday. He asked the council to contact him immediately if they have specific questions or see something in the news.

Liz McCraw (SEOSU) asked if there are other specific bills that are significant to share with students in preparation for Higher Ed Day. Joel said he will get with Dr. Jobe about putting out a priority track list. He suggested resolutions for guns on campus to stay the same. The bill list that will be emailed Friday will have bills they are concerned about and can be shared with students.

4. Hunger-Free Campus Act Pilot Program – Lindsay Echols, Executive Director of Campus Compact and Director of Student Affairs and Diversity, OSRHE

Lindsay reminded the council of the opportunity to participate in the Hunger-Free Campus Act Pilot Program. She said this program does not include private or research institutions (OU and OSU). Applications will be accepted from 2-year and 4-year institutions. She said the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will require \$40,000 for administrative fees and \$160,000 will be matched. Lindsay said in-kind donations and employee salaries will be part of the matching grant. There will be six institutions selected to receive \$26,667 each. Lindsay explained the requirements of the MOU. She asked the council if SNAP benefits can be used on their campus or if they have a meal-sharing program. Doug Hallenbeck (OSU) said they are in the process of developing a meal-sharing program. Liz McCraw (SEOSU) is working with Swipe Against Hunger to operationalize this with their food service provider. Ina said the Department of Health Services is now partnering with OSUIT. They have a lot of services and will place a case worker on the campus to help students with SNAP, connect them to resources like transportation, medical care, child care, etc. And, that person remains with the student or employee to make sure a resolution has been reached. Lindsay said she will remove the SNAP and meal-sharing language from the MOU. She said Representative Pae is hoping the funds will be available in the next fiscal year as well, but this will be dependent on details received through the current pilot program. The application will be emailed as soon as the MOU is approved by OSRHE’s Legal Department. Bill Knowles (SSC) asked if institutions must be distinguished as having a graduate student. She said she will change the MOU language to student representative.

Kristen Partridge (OU) said their representative recently met with Feed the Children and is happy to share the information. Feed the Children is interested in getting involved with college food pantries. Lindsay asked Kristen if she would reach out to Feed the Children to present at a COSA meeting. Kristen said she will contact them and get back with Lindsay.

5. Oklahoma Student Government Association – Lindsay Echols, Executive Director of Campus Compact and Director of Student Affairs and Diversity, OSRHE

Lindsay gave a brief history of her role to Oklahoma Student Government Association and the Student Advisory Board. Dr. Michael McClendon (TU) volunteered to serve as chairman of a committee comprised of student affairs professionals in an effort to help OSGA be a more beneficial organization. Next steps were discussed on how to support OSGA's growth. A meeting will be scheduled with OSGA to help support efforts.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

6. 2022-23 COSA Workplan Discussion – Joshua Busby

Joshua reminded the council of the work plan that supports and guides the council on student issues to work on throughout the year. This topic be moved to the March 9th COSA meeting. Debbie Myrick (OSRHE) will email the document to the council.

7. Announcements – Joshua Busby

- The March 9th COSA meeting will be held at the State Regents' office.
- Joshua asked the council to reach out to him and/or Lindsay or Debbie if they have a topic/speaker for a future COSA meeting.
- Lindsay would like students to help plan the 2023 Student Leadership Retreat and asked the council to email her their student's contact information if they have anyone interested in serving on the planning committee. She will schedule a meeting soon.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Council

- February 14, 2023 – Higher Education Day, Oklahoma State Capitol
- February 25, 2023 – OSGA President Retreat, TBD
- October 17, 2023 – 2023 Oklahoma Statewide Transfer Student Success Conference, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater