

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Research Park, Oklahoma City

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
Wednesday, October 19, 2016

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILING OF MEETING NOTICE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT.** The Committee-of-the-Whole met at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, in the Regents Conference Room at the State Regents' offices in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on November 20, 2015 and amended on October 13, 2016. A copy of the agenda had been posted as required by the Open Meeting Act.
2. **CALL TO ORDER.** Participating in the meeting were Regents Toney Stricklin, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Andy Lester, Jimmy Harrel and John Massey. Ron White joined at 10:45 a.m. Regent Massey called the meeting to order and presided.
3. **LEGISLATIVE WELCOME.** Senate President Pro Tempore Designate Mike Schulz was present to provide an update on the upcoming legislative session. Senator Schulz stated that there may be some good financial news with the first quarter revenue estimates coming in and at best it will be another flat budget this year. Additionally, he stated that there are several new legislative members this year, all from diverse backgrounds and differing levels of experience, and the session will be very interesting. He stated that a priority for the upcoming session will be to obtain compliance with the REAL ID Act.
4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Regent Parker made a motion, seconded by Regent Stricklin, to go into executive session for confidential communications between the board and its attorneys concerning pending investigations, claims, or actions. Voting for the motion were Regents White, Parker, Holloway, Lester, Harrel, Massey and Stricklin. Voting against the motion were none.

Following executive session discussions, Regents returned to open session.

5. **UPDATE ON NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION TRENDS.** Mr. George Pernsteiner, President of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), joined the meeting via videoconference and gave a brief presentation on national higher education trends. President Pernsteiner began by stating that Oklahoma has done an outstanding job at retaining students, being affordable, and maintaining low student debt even in a year when state support has declined by \$153 million.

President Pernsteiner reviewed nine current topics in higher education:

1. PreK-20.

President Pernsteiner stated that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law last year to replace the No Child Left Behind Act. Even though this legislation primarily affects PreK-12 students, it is imperative that they include higher education in preparing for the changes of ESSA.

2. Affordability.

President Pernsteiner stated that Oklahoma has become a national leader in college affordability with several initiatives in place to keep costs down including, Reach Higher and the 15 to Finish initiative funded by the new Lumina grant.

3. Credential Completion.

With new education delivery models and institutions looking for ways to lower their costs, credential completion is changing. Most institutions are shifting to a student learning model and the answer to “how to get a credential and what does it mean” will be different in the future.

4. Student Learning.

President Pernsteiner stated that it is very important to assess whether students have achieved what the institution expected them to achieve and learn what they were expected to learn.

5. Employability.

President Pernsteiner stated that policy makers and others around the country are looking for assurances that higher education is doing a good job and, because of that, credentials are going to change. Right now, they are linked to accreditation and learning, and in the future, they may be linked to other benchmarks and entities and higher education will need to know how to navigate the changes. There will be new delivery models, lower unit costs, and the focus will shift to a student learning model.

6. Quality Assurance.

Policymakers are also looking for an assurance that the education received is sufficient to warrant a degree and the financial aid awarded for that degree. He gave ITT Technical Institute (ITT) as an example. The current accreditation structure did not work for ITT and several states are enacting legislation to provide an oversight framework to protect students. The accreditor of ITT is now being decertified and those institutions looking for new accreditors may not be able to meet stricter standards.

7. Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

President Pernsteiner stated that last higher education legislation enacted was the Higher Education Act of 1965. It has not been updated since then and he is hopeful that in the next legislative session it will be reauthorized. This legislation would hopefully address updated financial aid regulations, making financial aid available year round, making Pell grants more flexible, providing incentives for students to complete and more closely tying financial aid to income.

8. Strategic Finance.

He stated that the topic of the upcoming SHEEO conference is how can states gather all of the money available to them to achieve their outcomes? Most institutions have three revenue streams: state appropriations, federal financial aid, and tuition. How can institutions align those three streams of revenue and manage their funds to meet their goals to advance degree completion.

9. Budget Pressures.

President Pernsteiner finished by stating that Oklahoma has been through what amounts to a recession for higher education. States need to review their tax structure and consider if it is set up to handle an aging population, rising health care costs, pension fund obligations, etc. Most states are not prepared for that kind of financial stress and that's why their focus now should be strategic finance.

6. **COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA.** Chancellor Glen D. Johnson stated that all institutions have been asked to give a brief presentation on their Institutional Degree Completion plans at the upcoming Committee-of-the-Whole meetings. The institutions presenting at the October meeting were: Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Western Oklahoma State College, the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and Redlands Community College.

- Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO). President Jeff Hale gave a brief presentation on NEO's CCA initiatives. President Hale began by stating that NEO is focused on reverse transfer, an early warning system, freshman orientation, and new student housing. NEO recently received a \$2.5 million grant from the United States Department of Education. Additionally, President Hale stated that 83 percent of NEO students receive Pell grants and since 2008 NEO's staff has reduced by 32 percent due to budget cuts.
- Western Oklahoma State College (WOSC). President Phil Birdine gave a brief presentation on WOSC's CCA initiatives. President Birdine began by stating that WOSC met their CCA goal this year and also had their largest graduating class. WOSC is focused on success measures, K-12 relationships, concurrent enrollment and focusing on fiscal challenges. WOSC has also reduced staff from 125-95 in two years.
- University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO). President John Feaver gave a brief presentation on USAO's CCA initiatives. President Feaver began by stating USAO has received over \$3 million in federal grants that will be used for the new Student Success Center, an early warning system, intervention strategies, and upgrading classroom electronic systems. He also stated that 60 percent of their students are first time freshman, 30 percent are Oklahoma's Promise recipients and 75 percent requires some financial aid.
- Redlands Community College (RCC). President Jack Bryant gave a brief presentation on RCC's CCA initiatives. President Bryant began by stating that RCC received a Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions Program grant and is focusing on remediation completion and their federal grants and partnerships. President Bryant stated that several programs were cut due to financial reasons including juvenile justice, EMT, women's volleyball and equestrian. Women's Soccer was also cut but is being reinstated.

7. **OETA/ONENET PARTNERSHIP.** Mr. Von Royal, Executive Director of OneNet, and Mr. Mark Norman, interim Executive Director of OETA, gave a brief presentation on OneNet's collaboration with OETA. Mr. Royal reviewed the history of OneNet and their current projects, including a recent project with OETA. The Federal Communications Commission recently required OETA to move to a digital format which is very expensive. OneNet was able to use their fiber network, tower infrastructure and partner with private local providers to help OETA digitize their services. Mr. Royal finished by stating that OneNet was able to help OETA reduce their operational cost by \$250,000 and improve their services.

8. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor Amanda Paliotta stated that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education received their \$20.7 million in reconciliation funds for FY16.

Additionally, for the first quarter of FY17, the collections are meeting their estimates and are actually 1.4 percent above estimate.

9. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor Hollye Hunt stated that there was a Senate Interim Study on Concurrent Enrollment on October 6, 2016. Additionally, she stated that Representative Todd Thomsen, Senator Kay Floyd and Senator David Holt will be receiving Distinguished Service Awards in the next few months.

10. **TASK FORCE REPORTS.**

- **Online Education Task Force.** Interim Vice Chancellor Debbie Blanke stated that the next meeting of the Online Education Task Force will be October 20, 2016 and they will be focusing on the upcoming Quality Summit.
- **State Regents Safety and Security Task Force.** Associate Vice Chancellor Angela Caddell updated the Regents on the status of the Campus Safety and Security Task Force. She stated that the Task Force is working on the 2016 Campus Safety and Security Summit on Monday, November 7 at the Reed Center in Midwest City. She stated that there will be concurrent sessions and both Regent Toney Stricklin and Regent Andy Lester are speaking at the concurrent sessions.

11. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION” REPORT.** Regents received the October 2016 update on institutional activities.

12. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** Chancellor Johnson discussed several upcoming events:

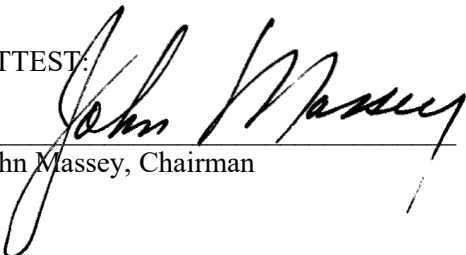
- Monday, October 24, 2016 – 2016 Higher Education Hall of Fame – 6 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.
- Friday, October 28, 2016 – “Staff Picnic” 11:30 a.m. in the basement of the parking garage.
- Tuesday, November 1, 2016 – Governor’s STEM Summit – 8:30 a.m. at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.
- Monday, November 7, 2016 – Campus Safety and Security Summit – 8:30 a.m. at the Reed Center in Midwest City.
- Tuesday, November 15, 2016 - Fall Legislative Forum – 8:30 a.m. at the Jim Thorpe Museum in Oklahoma City.
- Wednesday, November 30, 2016 – State Regents Meeting– 10:30 a.m. at the State Regents office in Oklahoma City.
- Wednesday, November 30, 2016 – State Regents Holiday Dinner – 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club.
- Thursday, December 1, 2015 – Higher Education Distinguished Service Award Reception and Ceremony for Senator David Holt – 8:15 a.m. starting in the Library

Conference Room followed by the ceremony at 9:00 a.m. in the Regents Conference Room.

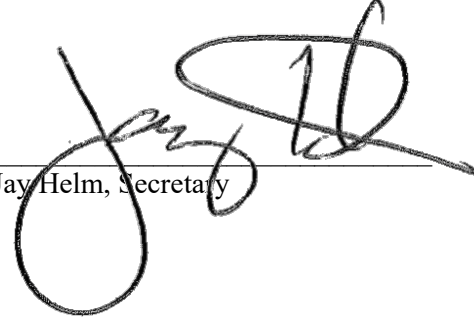
- Thursday, December 1, 2016 – State Regents Meeting – 9:15 a.m. at the State Regents office in Oklahoma City.
- Friday, December 16, 2016 – Staff Holiday Party – 11:30 a.m. in the PHF Conference Center.
- Wednesday, February 1, 2017 – State Regents Meeting– 10:30 a.m. at the State Regents office in Oklahoma City.
- Wednesday, February 1, 2017 – State Regents Dinner – 6 p.m. – location TBA.
- Thursday, February 2, 2017 – State Regents Meeting – 9 a.m. at the State Regents office in Oklahoma City.

13. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



John Massey, Chairman



Jay Helm, Secretary