

**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**  
655 Research Parkway, Suite 200 Oklahoma City

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**

Thursday, December 8, 2022

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILING OF MEETING NOTICE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT.** The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education held a special meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at Oklahoma City Community College's Visual and Performing Arts Center Atrium, located at 7777 S. May Avenue in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Friday, November 18, 2022. A copy of the agenda for the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.
2. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Michael C. Turpen called the meeting to order and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Dustin Hilliary, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Jeff Hickman, and Michael C. Turpen. Regents Warmington and Taylor were absent.
3. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**
  - a. **Seminole State College (SSC).** President Lana Reynolds provided an update on activities at Seminole State College. President Reynolds presented the "*Top 10*" things that are going on at SSC. These included: 10) History – history of the college and the ties to the community of Seminole; 9) Diversity – the student body is very diverse at SSC with 30 percent of the student body being Native American; 8) Enrollment – enrollment is on the rise, having increased 5 percent over 2021; 7) Concurrent Enrollment – concurrent enrollment has seen a 26 percent increase since 2019; 6) Online Degrees – expansion of online degree program offerings was a priority set by a strategic plan in 2019. SSC anticipated 30 students at the beginning of the first semester and by the end of the semester there were 90. Currently, there are 338 students participating in SSC's online degree programs; 5) Partnerships – SSC developed an educational partnership with East Central University (ECU) in Ada, sharing a full-time English faculty member. SSC also has partnerships with CareerTech and community services; 4) Tribal partnerships – SSC has tribal participation on its Educational Foundation. The Chickasaw Nation helped with the construction of the Boren Center, and the Seminole Nation helped with building the residence hall; 3) Partnership with Department of Commerce – the Department of Commerce, Representative Kevin Wallace, and Senator Roger Thompson helped develop a rural business and economic development center for small communities in the 5 county service area; 2) Bryan Crawford Memorial Sports Complex – this is home of the Trojan baseball team and includes access for high school baseball teams as well as an adapted field for children and adults with disabilities. This was all made possible by partnerships with various community organizations, the Department of Commerce, and the tribes; 1) Community Service – When Seminole was hit by two tornados on May 4, 2022, SSC stepped into help the community by serving as a space for housing community members, working with FEMA, and providing supplies and meals through the Red Cross.

- b. **University of Central Oklahoma (UCO).** President Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar began by discussing UCO's budgetary issues stemming from enrollment declines and the increase in faculty positions at the same time. To solve these budgetary issues, some things, like counseling, were cut which negatively impacts students. Over the past 3 years, UCO began to change through the development of its first ever strategic plan. The result was realignment of campus resources to meet the needs of the students, faculty and staff. UCO has invested in technology and innovation. UCO's forensic science program is the #1 program in the country providing a world-class academic experience to all students, through a unique multidisciplinary program. UCO's online programs went from 0 to 16 in just 3 years and UCO is now nationally ranked by *Newsweek* as a top institution with accredited online degree programs through Connected Campus. Funding from the State Regents will allow UCO to build new engineering labs and will triple the space for engineering. UCO has focused on offering micro-credentials and is starting the "John Michi Collective for the Greater Good," which will be a virtual center for students that will provide resources to address hunger and homelessness. President Neuhold-Ravikumar said that UCO graduates 2,500 students per year and 90 percent stay and work in Oklahoma. She stated the UCO is the "workhorse for the workforce." She also explained that 38 percent of UCO's students receive Pell grants and 10 percent receive OHLAP.
- c. **Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC).** President Mautra Jones began by stating that OCCC is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She reviewed OCCC's history, discussing the establishment of South Oklahoma City Junior College (SOCJC) in 1972 and presented a video about the founding of the college. President Jones explained that OCCC just finished a successful accreditation process with the Higher Learning Commission. She said that *Movie Maker Magazine* named OCCC's Digital Cinema program one of the top-40 programs in the United States and Canada. The late Gray Frederickson was an artist in residence and studio coordinator with OCCC and his life and career had a major impact on OCCC's campus community. In his honor, OCCC recently renamed that program to the Gray Frederickson Digital Cinema Production program to honor Gray Frederickson's legacy. President Jones shared that the U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Oklahoma City Community College a five-year, \$1.16 million federal TRIO Program Educational Opportunity Centers grant. The grant will help promote college readiness and college access for adults pursuing postsecondary education.
4. **STUDENT SUCCESS.** Dr. Jason Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs at OCCC, introduced Mr. Bryon Dickens, Students Connecting with Mentors for Success initiative (SCMS) Program Director. Dickens explained that this program was initially targeted toward the black male student population. SCMS was designed to provide degree-seeking students with mentors and intra-campus resources to facilitate successful academic achievement, higher retention rates, and graduation completion. It was an instant success. In 2019, the program was expanded to include black females, Hispanic and Native American students. The program's success has continued with 93 percent of the students enrolled in the program continuing to a 4-year institution. The SCMS program has enjoyed great support from faculty, staff and the OCCC Regents. Starting in the Spring of 2023, all of OCCC's student body will be eligible for participation in the program.
5. **WORKFORCE.** Mr. David Castillo, president of the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on the Chamber and its involvement with higher education. The Chamber is a community-based organization with over 400 members. The purpose of this

organization is to promote the advancement of the commercial and economic interests of Hispanic-owned businesses, Hispanic-managed businesses, and the Hispanic-oriented businesses, trades and professionals in central Oklahoma. He explained that the demographics of Oklahoma's Hispanic community has seen an 85 percent increase in the last 15 years. Currently, 13 percent of the population in Oklahoma are Hispanic, 21 percent of the population in Oklahoma City is Hispanic, and 1 in 4 children born in Oklahoma county are Hispanic, while 60 percent of the students in Oklahoma City Public Schools are Hispanic. The future of these students is vital to Oklahoma's future. He explained that education is the key. UCO and OCCO do a fantastic job in reaching out to the Hispanic community to build the trust needed for the students to succeed in college. Regent Hickman inquired about what could be done to encourage more Hispanic students to attend college and to overcome the obstacles. Mr. Castillo suggested that a bilingual recruiter would solve many of the problems with trust issues and interpersonal relations.

6. **NURSING.** Chancellor Garrett introduced Ms. Carolyn Hill, President-elect of the Langston University National Alumni Association (LUNAA), who requested to address the board concerning Oklahoma State University's request to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, which was not yet before the Regents for consideration. Ms. Hill indicated a desire for LUNAA to be involved in the consideration of program requests, such as the OSU nursing program, that might have a negative impact on Langston University's mission.

Chairman Turpen recessed the meeting for lunch.

7. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Upon advice of Mr. Matt Stangl, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Regents returned from recess and Regent Jody Parker made a motion to go into Executive Session, pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the board and its attorneys concerning: (1) Shepherd v. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, et al., CJ-2020-2383, Oklahoma County District Court; (2) Black Emergency Response Team, et al. v. O'Connor, et al., Case No. 5:21-cv-01022-G, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; and (3) Wisdom Ministries, Inc. v. Garrett, et al., Case No. 4:22-cv-00477-CVE, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, if the board, with the advice of its attorney, determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the board to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest. The motion was seconded by Regent Ann Holloway. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Hilliary, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, and Turpen.


Following the executive session, a motion was made by Regent Holloway, seconded by Regent Casey to return to the regular meeting. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Hilliary, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, and Turpen. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Parker, to proceed as discussed in executive session. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Hilliary, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, and Turpen.

8. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Mr. Mark Tygret provided the budget report and revenue update for the Fall of 2022. He discussed the general revenue fund and the upcoming Board of Equalization meeting. He also discussed the Rainy-Day Fund meeting is constitutional cap.
9. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations Dr. Jarrett Jobe provided an update on legislative requests based on the State Regents' legislative agenda. All Senate committee chairs have been announced while the House committee assignments will be announced soon.

10. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION.”** Regents received the December 2022 update on institutional activities via e-mail on Wednesday, December 7, 2022.
11. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** The calendar of events was distributed in written form to the Regents.
12. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
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Michael C. Turpen, Chair

  
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Dennis Casey, Secretary