

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Research Park, Oklahoma City

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
Wednesday, January 30, 2013

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, January 30, 2013, at the State Regents' Offices in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on November 6, 2012. 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, Ron White, Stuart Price, Jody Parker, Ike Glass, Jimmy Harrel, Mike Turpen, and John Massey. Regent Glass called the meeting to order and presided.
3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Regent Turpen made a motion, seconded by Regent Massey, to go into executive session for confidential communications between a public body and its attorneys concerning pending investigations, claims or actions. Voting for the motion were Regents Parker, Glass, Harrel, Turpen, Massey, and Stricklin. Voting against the motion were none. Regents White and Price were not present for the vote.

Following executive session discussions, Regents returned to open session.

4. **OneOklahoma: A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN OKLAHOMA, 2012.** Dr. Stephen McKeever, Oklahoma Secretary for Science and Technology and the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer at Oklahoma State University, provided Regents with an overview of "OneOklahoma", a report on Oklahoma Science and Technology by the Governor's Science and Technology Council. Regents discussed the implications of the report and discussed recruitment of teachers for both K-12 and higher education STEM disciplines.
5. **BENEFITS OF POST-SECONDARY DEGREES.** Mr. Tony Hutchison, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Analysis and Economic and Workforce Development, provided Regents with an overview of three recent studies that focused on the benefits of postsecondary education: Pew Center on the State's Economic Mobility Project, January 9, 2013; Georgetown University Center for Education and Workforce: The College Advantage: Weathering the Economic Storm, August 16, 2012; and SHEEO: Economic Benefits of Postsecondary Degrees: A State and National Level Analysis, December 2012.
1. **6. COMPLIANCE REVIEW REPORT.** Chancellor Glen D. Johnson provided Regents with a summary of the Compliance Review Report for Western Oklahoma State College. He asked Dr. Blake Sonobe, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, to expand on the findings and recommendations. Dr. Sonobe stated that the compliance review team focused on courses offered online in a 10-day, 3-hour credit format during the 2011-2012 academic year.

Based on the compliance review, insufficient evidence was found that the courses offered by Western Oklahoma State College in a 10-day, 3-hour credit format were appropriate as college level courses within a college level curriculum, contained the appropriate academic rigor, or met academic calendar requirements for awarding semester credit hours. It was also found that there was insufficient evidence that Western Oklahoma State College complied with policy requiring that concurrent enrollment experiences include opportunities for high school students to achieve college credit through a collegiate experience, as measured by the rigor of the course, qualifications of the faculty delivering the course, and the student's readiness for college. Finally, it was determined that Western Oklahoma State College did not provide the required documentation to demonstrate that the out-of-state offerings through the courses offered online did not diminish the institution's responsibilities to the citizens of Oklahoma.

Dr. Sonobe further explained that there are two methods of determining sufficient academic rigor for college level courses. The first, known as the Carnegie Unit, measures of the amount of time a student has studied a subject and requires approximately 120 hours of work and class time for each 3-credit-hour course. The second is a competency based measurement, in which students are tested on subject knowledge and skill attainment. Dr. Sonobe stated that there was neither sufficient time required of students nor evidence of competency based exams to constitute the required academic rigor.

The recommendations based on the above findings are as follows:

- FINDING 1: Due to insufficient evidence that the intersession courses are appropriate as college level courses within a college level curriculum, contain appropriate academic rigor, or meet the academic calendar requirements for awarding semester credit hours, it is recommended that the intersession courses in a 10-day accelerated format be discontinued immediately. Discontinuation of the 10-day intersession courses eliminates the necessity for a comprehensive compliance review plan. However, there are concerns around the academic oversight and development of the intersession courses at WOSC. For this reason, it is recommended that any proposed courses or programs offered through an accelerated format by WOSC be submitted for review and consideration in a format prescribed by the State Regents.
- FINDING 2: If the intersession courses are discontinued, as recommended above, this finding requires no further action.
- FINDING 3: If the intersession courses are discontinued, as recommended above, this finding requires no further action. However, if there are future plans to market courses or programs outside Oklahoma or the country, WOSC must provide documentation that the proposed offerings will not diminish the performance of the institution's responsibility to serve Oklahoma citizens. Further, WOSC must provide this documentation in a format prescribed by the State Regents' office prior to advertising them as available or enrolling students.
- Due to the fact that 19 of the 34 courses offered during the semesters and term reviewed are listed on the state's Course Transfer Matrix, it is recommended that State Regents' staff work with WOSC to develop a plan of action regarding the transferability of the courses.

- After the report is received by the State Regents, it is recommended that copies be sent to WOSC's governing board and the HLC.

Regents discussed the implications of the report and the possibility of conducting a statewide review of accelerated and online courses to help ensure statewide policy compliance.

7. **MASTER LEASE PROGRAM.** Ms. Amanda Paliotta, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Information Technology, Telecommunications, and OneNet, provided Regents with an update on the Attorney General opinion regarding the master lease program as well as an overview of the master lease program approval process. She stated that the program was designed to help institutions save individual financing costs for real property and equipment. The State Regents participate in the process due to their ability to withhold allocations for payments as needed and the ability of the State System of Higher Education to negotiate a group rate, resulting in reduction of financing and administrative costs.
8. **BUDGET UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor Paliotta provided Regents with an update on the state's budget outlook. She noted that State Regents' staff had attended a House and Senate joint hearing to discuss the budget needs of the State System. She also noted that the State Equalization Board would be releasing the official revenue numbers for use by the legislature for developing the FY2014 budget.
9. **CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY TASKFORCE.** Mr. Ben Hardcastle, Director of Communications, provided Regents with a summary of recent campus safety and security issues and provided Regents with an overview of the former Campus Life and Safety and Security (CLASS) Task Force, which was developed by Governor Brad Henry and concluded in December 2010. Regents discussed the formation of a new Higher Education Campus Safety and Security Taskforce to research, review, and address campus safety issues throughout the state of Oklahoma. Regents asked Chancellor Glen D. Johnson to form and appoint members to the Higher Education Campus Safety and Security Taskforce.
10. **FINANCIAL LITERACY REPORT.** Ms. Angela Caddell, Director for OCAP Communications, Financial Education, and Outreach Services, provided Regents with a report on student financial literacy. She noted that in 2011, Oklahoma saw the 8th lowest debt levels in the United States, at approximately 21 percent below the national average. She added that the figures reported include both four-year public and four-year private universities. She also discussed student credit behavior, noting that college students carry 4 credit cards on average and hold an average balance of over \$4,000. She added that nearly 30 percent of students use credit cards to pay for tuition. The Oklahoma College Assistance Program (OCAP) focuses on student financial education and partners with institutions across the state to provide educational support and materials.
11. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Ms. Hollye Hunt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Legislative Affairs, provided Regents with review of the 2012-2013 Regional Legislative Tours, which concluded earlier in January 2013. She also discussed pending legislation concerning higher education.
12. **"BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION" REPORT.** Regents received the January 2013 update on institutional activities.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

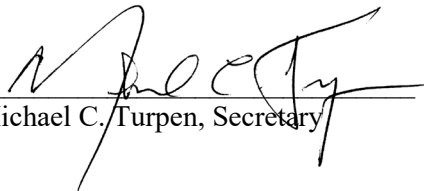
- a. Chancellor Johnson advised Regents of a donation to the Chancellor Hans Brisch Scholarship Fund made by Dr. Margaret Brisch.
- b. Chancellor Johnson advised Regents that the annual State Regents Hearing on Tuition and Mandatory Fees was scheduled in conjunction with the State Regents' regular meeting on Thursday, April 18. The hearing would be conducted at 9 a.m. with the State Regents meeting to follow at 10 a.m.

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

ATTEST:



Ike Glass, Chairman



Michael C. Turpen, Secretary