

# OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Research Park, Oklahoma City

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE Wednesday, September 4, 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, September 4, 2013, 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 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, Jay Helm, Ann Holloway, Ike Glass, Jimmy Harrel, Mike Turpen, and John Massey. Regent Harrel called the meeting to order and presided.
- 3. COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA.** Ms. Dominique Raymond, Vice President of Alliance State Relations for Complete College America, provided Regents with an update on the national Complete College America initiative. Currently 34 states are included in the Complete College America Alliance of States. She stressed the elements of a successful college completion goal and added that Oklahoma is currently including all of those elements in its Complete College America initiative. Chancellor Glen D. Johnson shared that in the first year of the initiative, Oklahoma exceeded its goal of 1,700 additional degrees by awarding 2,945 new degrees and certificates. Mr. Tony Hutchison, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Analysis and Economic and Workforce Development, explained that each campus in Oklahoma was assigned a specific goal for the Complete College America initiative and that these goals and other CCA metrics had been incorporated into the higher education funding formula.

Regent Stricklin asked about the ongoing public belief that there are no jobs for college degree holders and that the marketplace instead is looking for skilled technical workers. Ms. Raymond responded that Complete College America includes those with one-year certificates or above. She also stressed that the degrees must be tailored to match the needs of the local businesses and manufacturers.

Regent Turpen asked about the impact of student debt on college completion initiatives. Ms. Raymond responded that financial aid incentives could be included in the initiatives.

Chairman Harrel thanked Ms. Raymond for her presentation. He added that the needs of the workforce are constantly changing and that higher education must remain active in order to meet those needs.

- 4. OKLAHOMA COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.** Mr. Rick Edington, Executive Director of the Oklahoma College Assistance Program (OCAP), provided Regents with an update on student loan issues. He discussed changes to the structure of student loans based on the FY2014 federal budget and the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act.
- 5. BUDGET REPORT.** Ms. Amanda Paliotta, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Information Technology, Telecommunications, and OneNet, provided Regents with an update on

the FY2015 budget outlook. She advised Regents that based on collections through the end of FY2013, that revenue had increased over the prior year by approximately \$40 billion. She noted, however, that the Rainy Day fund deposit of \$2.7 million for FY2013 was the lowest in three years. Current budget estimates would be based only on July collections. Vice Chancellor Paliotta reminded Regents that the most robust report of revenue would be available following the December meeting of the Equalization Board.

Vice Chancellor Paliotta also provided Regents with an overview of the budget process and timeline. Institutions will receive their budget needs forms for FY2015 in mid-September and will have 3-4 weeks to complete and submit to the State Regents' office. The State Regents will take action on the FY2015 budget request at their special meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2013.

6. **CONGRESSIONAL VISIT.** Chairman Harrel welcomed Oklahoma Congressman James Lankford and asked him to address the Regents. Congressman Lankford thanked Regents for their service to Oklahoma and discussed the impact of higher education on the state and national economy. He also discussed issues relating to student loans and No Child Left Behind. Finally, Congressman Lankford discussed the current issue with Syria, stating that there were no good solutions.
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Regent Massey made a motion, seconded by Regent Glass, to go into executive session for confidential communications with attorneys concerning pending investigations, claims, or actions. Voting for the motion were Regents Helm, Holloway, Glass, Harrel, Turpen, Massey, and Stricklin. Voting against the motion were none.

Following executive session discussions, Regents returned to open session.

8. **INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES.**

- a. University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. Chairman Harrel welcomed President John Feaver, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO), and asked him to provide an update on the institution's Mission Enhancement Plan (MEP). President Feaver discussed the history of the university and its unique mission as the state's only public liberal arts university. Over the past several years, USAO has increased admissions standards and is now on par with the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University.

President Feaver discussed the discrepancy in the public's perception of USAO as a regional university, rather than a public liberal arts university, and asked for State Regents' help in resolving the issue, noting that the institution does not have the marking power to change public perception across the state. Chancellor Johnson responded that the State Regents have shown continuing support for USAO through the allocation of additional funds toward the Mission Enhancement Plan and through the re-designation of USAO as the state's public liberal arts university on all published materials. Regent Stricklin asked President Feaver to develop a detailed proposal to bring to Regents including specific ways in which the State Regents' might help to differentiate USAO as the state's public liberal arts university.

- b. Redlands Community College. Chairman Harrel welcomed Interim President Jack Bryant, Redlands Community College (RCC), and asked him to provide Regents with an update on the institution's revised FY2014 budget. Interim President Bryant reported that the revised budget will show that RCC has paid approximately 70 percent of outstanding

debts and has plans to pay the remainder by the end of the calendar year. He added that this was achieved through focused cost cutting and by working with the school's largest creditors to set up payment plans. Regents thanked Interim President Bryant for the outstanding work he and his staff achieved over the summer.

**9. TASKFORCE REPORTS.**

- a. Online Education Task Force. Dr. Blake Sonobe, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided Regents with an update on the State Regents' Online Education Task Force. He reported that the Policy Audit subcommittee had completed its review of policies and found no barriers to a future Online Education initiative. Other items still under discussion by the Policy Audit subcommittee include tuition and fees, admissions standards, course load limits, and intellectual property policies. Dr. Sonobe reported that the E-Core subcommittee continues discussions regarding course quality and academic integrity. He added that faculty training was also discussed, with the subcommittee determining that it should training for those faculty teaching online should be mandatory.
- b. Safety and Security Task Force. Ms. Angela Caddell, Interim Director of Communications, provided Regents with an update of the work of the State Regents' Safety and Security Task Force. She reported that the task force had organized into three workgroups: campus best practices; issue monitoring and advocacy research; and training and plan development. Each workgroup has established chairs and vice chairs and will meet on their respective topics throughout the year.

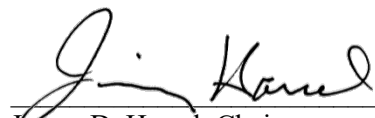
**10. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Ms. Hollye Hunt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Legislative Affairs, provided Regents with an update on the approved interim studies.

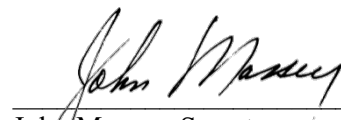
**11. STEM UPDATE.** Chancellor Johnson provided Regents with a report of Governor Mary Fallin's STEM Summit, held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013. Over 300 individuals attended, representing business and industry, higher education, and career technology. The summit included two separate panel discussions from business and industry leaders and a panel discussion from education leaders. Mr. Norm Augustine, former CEO of Lockheed-Martin, provided the luncheon address. Chancellor Johnson noted that Mr. Augustine's address detailed the importance of higher education in the growth of STEM industries.

**12. "BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION" REPORT.** Regents received the May 2013 update on institutional activities.

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

ATTEST:

  
James D. Harrel, Chairman

  
John Massey, Secretary