

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
Regents' Conference Room
655 Research Parkway

Joshua Busby, Chair, Presiding
June 8, 2023
10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions – Joshua Busby

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Joshua welcomed new COSA member Dr. Teara Lander, OSU Oklahoma City.

2. Approval of April 13, 2023 Minutes – Joshua Busby

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL

3. GED | Multiple Measures | PLA – Dr. Ina Agnew, Vice President of Student Services, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology

Ina informed the council that GED Testing Service went through a revision of its tests in 2014, and the testing is much more rigorous than in the past. The GED passing score is 145, GED college ready score 165-174 and GED college ready plus credit score 175-200. Ina said OSUIT is seeing more students score on the very high end of the GED test, and students are asking if they can receive credit and bypass remediation. OSUIT does not currently allow this and, therefore, may lose potential students. She is hoping to include these GED recommendations in multiple measures. Ina said OSUIT's Dean of the School of Arts, Sciences & Health is taking this issue to their Academic Council today. Ina said she will update COSA after this meeting occurs. She asked if the council would like to make a recommendation to Council on Instruction to include the GED recommendations in multiple measures. She said OSUIT is an open admissions institution. Josh Busby (LU) asked if this applies directly to other institutions. A few council members indicated yes. Ina said this is no different than American Council on Education (ACE) recommendations and that it does not matter if the institution is 2 year or 4 year.

Angel Icenhour (OSRHE) added a link in the Zoom chat <https://www.acenet.edu/National-Guide/Pages/Organization.aspx?oid=20099b28-9016-e811-810f-5065f38bf0e1>

4. Affinity Groups – Dr. Ina Agnew, Vice President of Student Services, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology

Ina reminded the council of the Affinity Groups established a few years ago. She would like to restart these groups as a way to connect staff at all levels in similar positions who do similar work so they can share experiences, receive support and be able to network with one another.

She asked the council to email names and contact information of those interested in participating to Lindsay Echols (OSRHE).

5. Oklahoma Student Government Association Update – Jakob Lavicky, 2023-24 OSGA President

Jakob introduced himself as the 2023-24 President of OSGA and said he was sworn in June 1st. He expressed his gratitude to the council for the work they do for students and specifically thanked Lance Newbold for his leadership while he was a student senator at Rose State College. Jakob briefly mentioned his academic experience and professional life and work. He said his vision for OSGA is to revamp the organization and to rebuild relationships with COSA and the State Regents. He would also like to expand the relationship with each Student Government Association across the state of Oklahoma. He mentioned the impact COVID had on OSGA and losing institutional knowledge. He said he will be more organized with events. He plans to schedule Zoom training sessions prior to Congress where delegates will be taught Roberts Rules of Order, how to write legislation and the function of Congress. He asked for contact information for the SGA presidents to better communicate with them. Jakob shared his email address with the council president@osga.org. Debbie Myrick (OSRHE) will send an email to the council requesting their current SGA president's contact information and forward this to Jakob.

Lindsay Echols (OSRHE) asked the council to let Jakob know if they are interested in hosting fall or spring congress. Ina Agnew (OSUIT) asked for details on what is required to be a host. Lindsay will email this information to the council.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

6. COSA Workplan Discussion – Liz McCraw, Vice President for Student Affairs, Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Liz thanked Jerrett Phillips (CU), Monica Trevino (USAO), Doug Hallenbeck (OSU), Jason K. Johnson (OSCC) and Lindsay Echols (OSRHE) for their help updating the COSA work plan. This committee viewed the State Regents' policy, which specifically mentions spending time on issues and policies affecting the welfare and the development of students enrolled in the Oklahoma higher education system. The committee discussed matters of common interest, conducting studies, research and positions on items that impact higher education in Oklahoma. The updated work plan was emailed to the council by Debbie Myrick on Monday. The committee recommends having three to five major themes to work on throughout the year. Recommended themes include:

- **Advocacy on state and federal issues that impact students**
 - Develop positions on legislative issues
 - Research, White Papers, input on legislative issues
- **Supporting At-Risk Populations**
 - College Readiness
 - Foster Youth/Homelessness/Food Insecurities
 - Mental Health

- **Succession Planning and Employment Issues in Student Affairs**
 - Best practices in recruitment and retention of staff
 - Employment models (flex/hybrid remote)
 - Supporting new chief student affairs officers
- **Cooperative Training and Development for Student Affairs Professionals**
 - State-wide Opportunities (Title IX, Clery, NaBITA)
 - Affinity Groups (i.e., functional training)
 - Sharing Resources/and policy

Doug said the idea is to work on items within the year to better support students, better support the work of student affairs and ensure that our voice is being heard at the Regents level and also at the legislative level.

Joshua thanked the committee, Lindsay and Debbie for the time taken to update the work plan. He entertained a motion to adopt the work plan draft and formally for the next year. The motion was seconded and approved.

7. Student Leadership Retreat Discussion – Lindsay Echols, Executive Director of Campus Compact and Director of Student Affairs and Diversity, OSRHE

Lindsay announced the 2023 Student Leadership Retreat is being planned for the fall with Rose State College as the potential host. She asked for additional volunteers to serve with the 2022 planning committee and said students may also serve. The following will serve on this committee:

- Kristen Partridge (OU)
- Lilly Bermudez (OKCU)
- Liz McCraw (SEOSU)
- Lance Newbold (RSC)
- Dr. Jerrett D. Phillips (CU)
- Jakob Lavicky (OSGA President)
- Student Advisory Chair – To Be Determined
- Dr. Teara Lander (OSU-OKC)
- Dr. Jason K. Johnson (OCCC)
- Dr. Wendy Yoder (SWOSU)

Alicia McCullar (MACU) asked about including director-level staff on the planning committee. Joshua asked the council to send contact information to Lindsay. Doug Hallenbeck (OSU) asked if books will be given to the students again. Lindsay will bring this suggestion to the planning committee.

8. Student Advisory Board – Lindsay Echols, Executive Director of Campus Compact and Director of Student Affairs and Diversity, OSRHE

Lindsay reminded the council that the Student Advisory Board consists of seven members elected by delegates of the Oklahoma Student Government Association (OSGA) at its annual meeting. She said she has only received two applications (Langston University and Tulsa Community College). Lindsay said one member is still needed from OU, OSU, a public 4-year institution, a 2-year institution and an independent/private institution. She mentioned the 2022-23 SAB was not filled and recommendations were not presented to the State Regents. This is the

first time the SAB has not been filled. She stressed the importance of SAB and said it is for students to communicate to the State Regents the views and interests of all Oklahoma college and university students on issues that relate to their responsibilities. Lindsay asked the council to email student names to her by 5 pm June 16th.

Kristen Partridge (OU) asked for the time commitment required to serve as a SAB member. Lindsay said the SAB meets for two hours once a month, usually on a Sunday, via Zoom or can be in person. Michael McClendon (TU) asked for written details so he can send this across his campus. Lindsay will email the information today.

9. Election of Officers – Joshua Busby

The following will serve as the 2023-24 Executive Committee:

Lance Newbold, Rose State College, Chair, 2-year Representative
Kristen Partridge, University of Oklahoma, Vice-Chair, Research Representative
Dr. Brandon Hill, East Central University, 4-year Representative
Dr. Jerrett D. Phillips, Connors State University, 4-year Representative
Dr. Jason K. Johnson, Oklahoma City Community College, 2-year Representative
Dr. Alicia McCullar, Mid-America Christian University, Private Representative

10. State Regents' Update – Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, OSRHE

Robert expressed his appreciation to Jakob Lavicky for his passion and vision to lead the Oklahoma Student Government Association. He also thanked Brandon Hill and his team for inviting him to East Central University's veteran event.

Robert gave an update on the OSRHE policy revision work. He thanked those that have given feedback. He said the first 10 sections with proposed revisions have been sent for approval by the State Regents at their June meeting, another 10 sections will be sent for posting, along with three sections sent for review by the presidents. Joshua thanked Robert for the work he has done. Robert mentioned there are very few, if any, directly Student Affairs-related policies but said all the policies impact Student Affairs in some way. Robert mentioned mental health issues, student housing, support animals, etc. and the need for leadership to be aware of how dire these challenges have become. He said he is in support of getting the Student Affairs voice heard.

Robert spoke on artificial intelligence and the rapid impact of unintended consequences. He mentioned his dyslexia and said he is interested in exploring strategies for writing, reading and editing tools. He mentioned exploring the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and good examples of using AI to support mental health by early alert tracking and engagement with students doing their own notebook logging or journaling. He asked the council if there was interest in talking about these issues as they relate to AI. Joshua Busby (LU) said this has been discussed in the past and asked the council what they are currently doing related to AI. Wendy Yoder (SWOSU) said she is the ADA Coordinator and is part of a national list serve. The Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) conference discussed how any assistive technologies policies that are put in place may influence students with disabilities. She said institutions are trying to navigate this as more information is received.

Robert said he appreciated Ina Agnew's GED presentation. He said he will meet with Angel Icenhour (OSRHE) and discuss how this might impact the proposed policies.

Doug Hallenbeck (OSU) thanked Robert for the work the State Regents did in terms of budgeting and working with legislators to get more dollars allocated to higher education. Robert said all credit goes to Chancellor Allison Garrett, Dr. Jarrett Jobe (OSRHE) and especially Regent Stephen Taylor. Joshua Busby thanked Robert for his continued support of the council.

11. Rose State College Incident Response – Lance Newbold, Vice President for Student Affairs, Rose State College

Lance mentioned the shooting at Rose State College on April 24, 2023, where a student was brutally murdered. He said this was a targeted, presumably premeditated, shooting. The shooter arrived on campus at approximately 12:15 pm with the intent to kill a man that he incorrectly believed was having an inappropriate relationship with his wife. The shooter saw his wife and called out the young man's name and proceeded to murder him. Lance said this could have been far worse. The shooter did not appear to be interested in shooting anyone else. He had placed his weapon in his backpack. The Midwest City police arrived within one minute, as an officer was near the campus.

Lance said RSC uses the Rave Panic Button app. This app allows a person to swipe their smart phone to alert there is an emergency. They press one of three buttons showing a handgun, flame or ambulance and a notification is sent to all necessary staff and safety personnel campus wide. The app identifies the person reporting the emergency, their location and what incident is being reported. The said the app only works on campus and is also linked to the Midwest City Police Department. Lance said RSC has an armed Midwest City police officer present on campus at all times.

Lance said RSC held a planned mass casualty training exercise in March with first responders, police, fire, ambulance services and local hospitals. Lance said everyone did exactly as they were trained to do when the shooting occurred in April. He said they were very fortunate that the shooter did not engage in any of the other 10 students that were in the vicinity. He said you don't really believe something like this can occur until it actually occurs on your campus. They knew within 10 minutes that the situation was completely resolved. He said law enforcement responded in mass with local police, state agencies, off-duty police and federal authorities arriving when the call went out. Lance said the RSC campus was locked down and that Midwest City police cleared each and every building on campus and sent people to the parking lot and instructed them to leave. No one was allowed to reenter the building to retrieve anything. The campus was closed the following day and then reopened on Wednesday. He said the student union area was full of bookbags that students had been instructed to leave.

Lance thanked the institutions that sent counselors to meet with their students. He said some students were not ready to talk right away and waited until the following week. It was discovered that not all of the doors lock the way they wanted them to lock. Lance said modifications have been made so people can now truly lock down.

Joshua (LU) said he is glad there were not mass casualties and that they were prepared. He thanked Lance for sharing this information with the council and asked if anyone had questions. Alicia McCullar (MACU) asked who provided their training. Lance said the training was provided by their head of security who is their safety, security and emergency manager and the Midwest City Police Department. Adam Johnson said SWOSU has looked into the app Rave since the RSC incident. He appreciated Lance's feedback. Adam asked Lance if he felt students had some reassured confidence in terms of safety after using this app. Lance said students, staff and faculty actually watched everything happen exactly as they were told through the exercise held in March. Those closer to the location of the actual shooting had a different level of concern. Lance said he felt the students were a little more reassured or confident that it was safe on campus when they began to understand this was a targeted murder rather than a random individual intending to inflict mass casualty.

Kristen Partridge reminded the council of the recent swatting incident at the University of Oklahoma. She said OU also uses the Rave app and one of the messages that went out was the national language of run, hide, fight. She said students were alarmed and not prepared to see those words in a Rave text. Kristen said they are looking at ways to educate students on language sent by Rave text so they may respond appropriately.

Lance said he did have one student complain that nothing in the message said it was real. The student said she was so used to getting messages that she assumed this was another exercise. Lance said RSC forwarded her concern.

Adam (SWOSU) asked how long it took to implement the Rave app and for students to be comfortable enough to utilize the app. Lance said the panic button portion of Rave is incredibly self-explanatory. Lance said the issue is getting the students to download the app, install it and register themselves so they can use it.

12. Rose State College Ghost Students – Lance Newbold, Vice President for Student Affairs, Rose State College

Lance advised the council that RSC received a number of online enrollments for "ghost students", which most likely used stolen identification information to include social security numbers and other personal information to fill out FAFSA in an attempt to receive Pell grant money. The RSC assistant director of financial aid noticed some anomalies with FAFSA. These enrollments all had GEDs and no high school listed, no income, and all were attempting to enroll in 12 hours for summer classes. The email addresses were mostly of European origin and arrived between 3-3:30 am. Lance said a first-time enroller is supposed to go through an advisor. They found they did not have checks and balances in their system to stop this type of enrollment, which has now been corrected. During the online application process a message is received that they must now confirm their identity by one of three ways. They are working with their application software personnel to integrate proof of identity into the actual application. He said students must turn in work before the end of the first week as another way to determine if this is a real student. Lance said the Department of Education is aware of these ghost students. RSC will drop these in an effort to avoid a debt issue for the persons whose identities have been stolen.

Joshua thanked Lance for sharing this information with the council. Robert Placido congratulated RSC for catching this fraud and asked Lance to share a summary so he can present the information at the Council on Instruction meeting today.

Jerrid Freeman said Northeastern State University had a similar instance with ghost students. They experienced a cybersecurity incident in May. NSU's IT had to disable their entire network for eight days and are in the process of slowly restoring it. Jerrid said they discovered the breach was through their room management software (RMS). He said this severely impacted the institution and all students trying to enroll in summer and fall classes. Joshua said the council may want to have cyber security conversations with OneNet, the network that serves Oklahoma college and university campuses. He thanked Jerrid for sharing this information.

Brandon Hill said East Central University hired a Vice President of Enrollment Management. He asked if campuses may bring another person to a COSA meeting. Joshua asked Ina if the Enrollment Management Work Group was active. Ina said this group has been inactive for a while but can be reactivated if there is interest. She mentioned COSA meetings are open meetings. Debbie Myrick said the COSA member is the only person allowed to vote.

13. Announcements – Joshua Busby

Joshua reminded the council this is his last meeting as chair. He thanked members for the work they do for students and asked them to also take care of themselves. Joshua said he would like to see the resurrection of Oklahoma College Student Personnel Association (OCSPA) for midlevel and director-level personnel. He thanked the Regents staff for supporting COSA.

14. Special Recognition – Lindsay Echols, Executive Director of Campus Compact and Director of Student Affairs and Diversity, OSRHE

Lindsay recognized Joshua for his work as the 2022-23 COSA Chair. Joshua was presented with a token of appreciation from the council.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Members that sent their RSVP will meet at Vast for lunch at the conclusion of the meeting.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Council

- October 17, 2023 – 2023 Oklahoma Statewide Transfer Student Success Conference, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
- September 22, 2023 – OSRHE 16th Annual Reading Conference, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
- November 6-8, 2023 – NASPA IV West Regional Conference, Oklahoma City
- November 7, 2023 – 2023 Campus Safety & Security Summit, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
- November 17, 2023 – Women of Higher Education 2023 Fall Conference, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond