

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

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**  
Wednesday, September 6, 2023

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT 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 regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at the State Regents' offices, 655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. A copy of the agenda for the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.
2. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Jack Sherry called the meeting to order and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Courtney Warmington, Dustin J. Hilliary, Jeffrey W. Hickman, Phillip Mitchell "Mitch" Adwon and Steven W. Taylor. Regent Michael C. Turpen did not attend.
3. **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES.** Update on legislative priorities from Speaker Pro Tempore Kyle Hilbert. Speaker Pro Tempore Kyle Hilbert provided the Regents with an update on upcoming legislative initiatives pertaining to higher education. During the discussion, Regent Hickman inquired about the potential utilization of a bond bank to offer support for campus infrastructure requirements, addressing deferred maintenance concerns, and enhancing campus security measures. Representative Hilbert agreed that prioritizing investments in deferred maintenance was essential to prevent the complete replacement of campus assets in the future. Additionally, Representative Hilbert addressed the higher education needs within his district, emphasizing the demand for more educators and engineers. Furthermore, Regent Hickman raised the possibility of establishing another Endowed Chairs program, outlining specific parameters for consideration. Meanwhile, Regent Casey brought up concerns regarding property insurance costs and explored the potential of self-insuring both common and higher education institutions.
4. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**
  - a. Cameron University. Update on institutional activities at Cameron University. President John McArthur provided an update on Cameron University's initiatives aimed at preparing the workforce, including CU Advance, a career pathway program that enhances degree completion by equipping students with knowledge and skills specific to their chosen degree programs, and ensuring their readiness for entering the workforce. He also explained the recently established Banking Institute, which is designed to create a skilled and well-trained workforce pipeline for the banking industry. Furthermore, President McArthur offered a brief overview of the Student Enrichment Center, designed to bolster the persistence and completion rates of at-risk students. He also addressed the concurrent enrollment program, which has experienced significant growth over the past 14 years and has been highly successful for Cameron University. Regent Casey and Regent Hilliary inquired about the concurrent enrollment program and its collaboration with common education. In response, President McArthur explained that they have intensified their efforts to inform high school counselors about issues related to high school students

participating in the program and that the program served is a great welcoming tool to draw students to Cameron University.

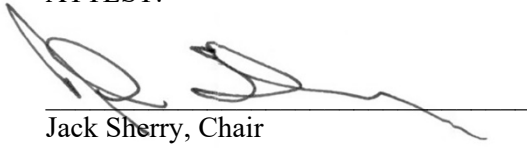
- b. Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Update on institutional activities at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU). President Diana Lovell shared information regarding SWOSU's endeavors to align their programs with the Aerospace and Defense sector. These programs encompass engineering technology, applied engineering management, chemistry, physics, and computer science. During the discussion, Regent Casey inquired about the enrollment of out-of-state students in these programs at SWOSU. President Lovell outlined the new initiatives they have implemented, offering in-state tuition plus a nominal additional fee of \$1 for out-of-state students. They hope to see an increase in out-of-state students soon. Regent Taylor sought information on the impact of COVID-19 on the current students at SWOSU. President Lovell noted that these students have become more accustomed to online courses and have also experienced increased anxiety levels and slower social development. Chancellor Garrett inquired about the undergraduate research efforts at the university. President Lovell explained that SWOSU's undergraduate research maintains consistently high quality and has been the recipient of awards for the past seven years.
  - c. Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU). Update on institutional activities at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. President Bo Hannaford delivered an update on NWOSU's initiatives aimed at addressing the State's workforce demands. He underscored the accomplishments of the "Inspired to Teach" program and the ReachHigher Program at NWOSU. Additionally, President Hannaford mentioned that concurrent enrollment had seen a remarkable 40 percent increase on his campus. In response to a question from Regent Casey regarding the nursing program and available openings, President Hannaford noted that the program was experiencing growth, leading to an increasing number of opportunities. Regent Warmington inquired about the tuition waiver program, which President Hannaford explained was assisting K-12 instructors to complete their master's degrees. Regent Hickman followed up by asking about strategies to retain high school students on their campuses and the efforts to secure highly qualified professors for such courses. Regent Hickman also inquired about the success of the endowed chair program at NWOSU. President Hannaford shared that NWOSU currently employs approximately 40 faculty members thanks to endowments established through the previous program and expressed his desire to see a similar program reinstated.
5. **BLUEPRINT 2030.** Update on progress in support of the strategic plan recommendations.
- a. **Workplans.** Update on workplans for Priority 1 strategic plan recommendations. Chancellor Garrett and Vice Chancellor for Administration Kylie Smith presented an update on the Priority 1 objectives. Vice Chancellor Smith showcased the project management tool Smartsheet, which offers a comprehensive approach to monitoring the plan's progress, with a specific focus on highlighting the Priority 1 recommendations.
  - b. **Policy Revisions (Strategy #1D).**
    - i. Update on Governance and Administrative Operations policies. Chancellor Garrett and General Counsel Matt Stangl provided a brief review of proposed revisions to the Governance and Administrative Operations policy.

- ii. Update on Academic Affairs policy revisions and processes. Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, and Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an update on proposed revisions to Academic Affairs policy. Dr. Beauchamp provided a demo of online status reports available to institutions in real-time through Smartsheet.
  - c. **Concurrent Enrollment.** Update on concurrent enrollment working group (Strategy #9C). Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, addressed the potential objectives and prospects of the working group. Over the summer, a committee was established, encompassing representatives from each higher education tier, along with other stakeholders such as high school representatives, SREB, and OSRHE staff. The areas of concern include the removal of barriers to success, enhancing participation rates, improving educational outcomes, cost reduction, broadening the pool of qualified instructors, retaining students on high school campuses, and increasing the number of high school graduates who progress to college. The committee and the subgroups will report back to the State Regents with recommendations.
- 6. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Report on the State budget and revenue. Mark Tygret, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, stated that the General Revenue Fund lagged slightly behind the previous year. He emphasized that drawing conclusions at this early stage, with only one month's data available, is not feasible.
- 7. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Update on legislative activity. Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, provided a status report on the upcoming Interim Studies concerning Concurrent Enrollment; Oklahoma's Promise; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI); and OneNet. Dr. Jobe also reviewed the proposed 2024 Legislative Agenda, which is slated for action by the State Regents during the meeting scheduled for September 7, 2023.
- 8. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Upon advice of Matt Stangl, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Holloway, 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; (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; and (4) Larry Love University, Muskogee, 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. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Hilliary, Adwon, Holloway, Casey, Taylor, Warmington, and Hickman.

Following the executive session, Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Holloway, to return to open session. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Warmington, Adwon, Sherry, Hilliary, Parker, Holloway, Casey, and Hickman.
- 9. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION.”** Regents received the September 2023 update on institutional activities via e-mail.
- 10. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** The calendar of events was distributed in written form to the Regents.

11. **ADJOURN.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



Jack Sherry, Chair



Steven W. Taylor, Secretary