

Meeting of the  
**Oklahoma Free Speech Committee**

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

**Notice.** The meeting notice was posted with the Secretary of State on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 11:43 a.m. The meeting agenda was posted on the State Regents' website on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 9:27 a.m.

- 1. Call to order.** Meeting called to order. The following members were in attendance: Andy Lester (Chair), Rep. Caldwell, Valerie Couch, Mariana Pitts, Dr. Raúl Font, Dr. Rick Hall, Hayley Jones, and Regent Hickman. Senator Floyd was unable to attend.
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Dr. Hall moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Pitts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Comments from the Chair.** Chairman Lester spoke about the recent American Politics Conference at Duke University. He served on a panel about the types of issues that the Committee handles.
- 4. Task Force Reports.**
  - a. Institutional Policies Task Force Report (Valerie Couch). Judge Couch gave an update on the future policy review meetings.
    - The Institutional Policies Task Force will be on schedule to complete a number of policy reviews in the first year. UCO will be the first review. After the meeting, the two-person review team will prepare a report to bring to the Committee as a whole. At the request of the institution, the team may travel to their campus. Zoom attendance will be open if needed. The teams will learn a lot from the first meeting, and the Task Force may need to adjust their process as they review more institutions. It was asked that if a complainant's first language is not English, how would the Committee tackle this issue. Judge Couch noted this issue for consideration during policy review meetings. Judge Couch felt that the three task forces overlap, and they are hopeful that each member of the Committee will be a part of the policy reviews.
  - b. Complaints Task Force Report (Rick Hall). Dr. Hall gave a brief update on the Complaints Task Force.
    - The Complaints Task Force has been busy with procedures, and Dr. Hall mentioned that the complaints form is now live on the website, and everything is running smoothly.
  - c. Training Task Force Report (Mariana Pitts). Ms. Pitts summarized the work the Training task force has been doing.
    - The Task Force has set a date for the training: April 11, from 1:30-3:30pm. Professor Thai has been confirmed to be the keynote speaker

for 45 minutes, with a 15-minute time for questions afterwards. After the keynote address, there will be an interactive panel consisting of Brandee Hancock and Mackenzie Wilfong. The UCO School of Journalism will be helping with logistics and the recording. Chairman Lester mentioned that making a recording of the training available online will be needed since the number of people required to receive the training is fairly large.

5. **Staff Report.** Mr. Turner drew the Committee's attention to the list of meeting dates for next year. The State Regents' staff have been working on drafting standardized initial responses to complaints that come in.
6. **Other Business or Discussion.** Regent Hickman mentioned that he spoke with Ms. Pitts recently about nailing down the logistics of the training at UCO. A book recommendation regarding free speech in higher education was discussed along with potentially utilizing case studies as part of free speech training.
7. **Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm