

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
830 East Main Street in Ada, Oklahoma

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

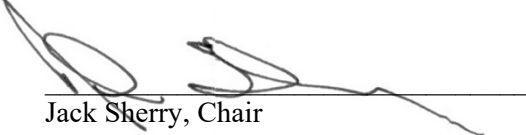
1. **ANNOUNCEMENT FILING OF MEETING NOTICE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT.** The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education held a regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2024, at Murray State College, Health Science Building – Room 118, 1 Murray Campus Drive, Tishomingo, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Wednesday, September 12, 2023, and amended on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. 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 at 10:50 a.m. and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Ann Holloway, Jeffrey W. Hickman, Steven W. Taylor, and Michael C. Turpen. Regents Phillip Mitchell “Mitch” Adwon, Dustin J. Hilliary, Dennis Casey, and Courtney Warmington were absent.
3. **PRESIDENT’S WELCOME.** President Tim Faltyn of Murray State College (MSC) extended a warm welcome to the Regents upon their arrival in Tishomingo and at Murray State College. During his address, he introduced Jason Welty, the student body president at Murray State College. Welty shared his journey, noting that while MSC was not initially his first choice, it ultimately proved to be the ideal fit for him. Hailing from a long line of farmers with a deep involvement in beef cattle farming, Welty emphasized how his engagement in campus government has been instrumental in providing him with purpose and drive. He highlighted the increasing participation in student government and expressed gratitude for being awarded a scholarship from the Sam Noble Foundation. As he prepares to transition to Oklahoma State University, Welty expressed genuine appreciation for his time at MSC and eagerly anticipates continuing his educational journey. Regent Sherry inquired about the educational pathways available to students at Murray State College. President Faltyn responded by outlining the primary destinations for MSC students as they progress in their education, namely Southeastern Oklahoma State University, East Central University, and Oklahoma State University. Additionally, President Faltyn offered a concise overview of Murray State College's historical background and a look at their future.
4. **STATE SYSTEMS INSTITUTIONS. Update on institutional activities at Murray State College.** President Tim Faltyn delivered an update on the ongoing institutional activities at MSC, emphasizing their alignment with the overarching goals of Blueprint 2030. MSC is committed to fulfilling the workforce requirements of southeastern Oklahoma. The majors offered by MSC include Nursing, Veterinary Technology, Veterinary Nursing, Gunsmithing, Hospitality, Child Development, Physical Therapy Assistant, and Occupational Therapy Assistant. Upon completion of their studies, MSC students graduate with both a degree and a certificate in their chosen field. In addition, MSC is collaborating with various institutions, such as Redlands Community College and Carl Albert State College, to develop shared services and initiatives. Regent Hickman inquired about his stance on concurrent enrollment. President Faltyn clarified that the Higher Learning Commission has revised its regulations regarding concurrent enrollment, permitting the hiring of

provisional faculty members as they pursue additional qualifications. MSC is collaborating with high schools to engage interested and qualified high school faculty members in enhancing their concurrent enrollment initiative.

5. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Mark Tygret, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, presented the Regents with an update on the budget. Tygret noted that the allocation efforts concerning deferred maintenance show promise, with both the House and Senate working on the details. On another note, the agency budgets are currently under review. As to the State, revenue appears to be consistent. Furthermore, year-to-date sales tax collections have shown little variation compared to FY2023, although it is worth noting that grocery tax revenue is anticipated to cease in the fall.
6. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations, provided the Regents with an update on legislative proceedings. Dr. Jobe announced that the deadline week will come to a close by week's end. Our request, SB1550, known as the EPSCoR bill, has successfully passed through both chambers. SB1302 is currently under review by the House, with the hope of it reaching the Governor's desk for final approval. Discussions regarding the deferred maintenance bill are ongoing, and plans are being made to establish a committee inclusive of higher education representation. This committee will be responsible for determining the allocation of funds. Both the House and Senate are still negotiating their separate budgets and will work to come to an agreement before the end of session. Regent Hickman commended the work that the Regent's team is doing at the Capitol.
7. **LUNCH.** The Regents took a brief recess at 12:00 p.m. for lunch hosted by President Tim Faltyn, which featured a demo from MSC Academic Team. The State Regents meeting reconvened at 1:20 p.m., and Chair Jack Sherry called the meeting to order and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Ann Holloway, Jeffrey W. Hickman, Steven W. Taylor, and Michael C. Turpen. Regents Phillip Mitchell "Mitch" Adwon, Dustin J. Hilliary, Dennis Casey, and Courtney Warmington were absent.
8. **BLUEPRINT 2030.**
 - a. **Business and Employer Advisory Council.** Update on creation of State Regents' Business and Employer Advisory Council (Strategy #2B). Chancellor Garrett briefly addressed the establishment of the Business and Employer Advisor Council aimed at fostering stronger connections between higher education and businesses at the state level. The Council's primary role will be to provide advice to higher education on the resources and programs necessary to enhance collaborative efforts. Over the past few months, discussions have been held with potential Council members and the inaugural meeting was held on March 26, 2024. During the initial meeting, the Council discussed the statewide summit as an initial step, with potential topics of discussion including the impact of AI, academic partnerships, and strategies for improving student-employer connections. Shane Cole from Google has generously offered his assistance in securing a speaker for the AI session. Other topics on the agenda may include insights into the nursing industry. The summit is scheduled to take place in early 2025.

- b. **Concurrent Enrollment.** Update on Concurrent Enrollment Working Group and discussion on potential recommendations (Strategy #9C). In the interest of time, this item was postponed until the May meeting.
9. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Matt Stangl, General Counsel, indicated that an executive session was needed at this time pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the board and its attorney(s) concerning Wisdom Ministries, Inc. v. Garrett, et al., Case No. 23-5098. Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to go into executive session.
- Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Turpen, Sherry, Holloway and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Adwon, Hilliary, Casey, and Warmington were not present.
- Following the executive session, Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to return to the regular meeting. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Sherry, Holloway, Hickman and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Adwon, Hilliary, Casey, and Warmington were not present.
- Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to follow the advice of counsel in the Wisdom Ministries, Inc. v. Garrett, et al., Case No. 23-5098. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Taylor and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Adwon, Hilliary, Casey, and Warmington were not present.
10. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION.”** Regents received the update on institutional activities via e-mail.
11. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** The calendar of events was distributed in written form to the Regents on April 23, 2024.
12. **ADJOURN.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned and the Regents toured the MSC campus.

ATTEST:


Jack Sherry, Chair


Steven W. Taylor, Secretary