

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

MINUTES

Eight Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Meeting



May 31, 2024

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of the

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

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1. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF 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 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 31, 2024, at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Wednesday, September 12, 2023. 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 9:00 a.m. and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Dennis Casey, Steven W. Taylor, Michael C. Turpen, Jeffrey W. Hickman, Phillip Mitchell “Mitch” Adwon, Ken Levit and Courtney Warmington. Regent Dustin J. Hilliary was absent.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Casey, to approve the minutes of the State Regents’ meetings in April 2024. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.** Chair Sherry welcomed new State Regent Ken Levit. He also expressed gratitude to the Legislature and Governor for their investments in addressing deferred maintenance needs at our college and university campuses and for addressing rising property insurance premiums. Additionally, he thanked them for fully funding the Inspired to Teach program and providing concurrent enrollment tuition waivers for participating high school juniors and seniors.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR.** Chancellor Garrett announced the appointment of several new presidents: Diana Watkins as president of Northern Oklahoma College, Mark Rasor as interim president of Rogers State University, and Jeri Askins as interim president of Cameron University. She acknowledged President John McArthur of Cameron University, who is retiring in July, for his dedicated service. Chancellor Garrett also discussed the challenges with the implementation of the new federal FAFSA form and mentioned that there will be additional messaging to address these issues. She played a video created by President Diana Lovell at Southwestern Oklahoma State University to promote FAFSA completion. Additionally, she announced that preliminary reports indicate a very promising increase in enrollment for the fall.
6. **STATE REGENT.** Administration of Oath of Office. Chair Sherry extended a warm welcome to Justice Yvonne Kauger from the Oklahoma Supreme Court, expressing gratitude for her presence and participation in administering the oath of office to Ken Levit. Furthermore, Chair Sherry introduced Ken Levit, who was recently appointed and confirmed as a State Regent, acknowledging his new role. Subsequently, Justice Kauger proceeded to administer the official oath of office to Regent Ken Levit.
7. **CHANCELLOR HANS BRISCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS.** Presentation of selections for Chancellor's Scholars for the 2024 academic year. This year, Gracey E. Coffelt of Locust Grove High School, Aaron David Mauk, of Coalgate High School and Samuel Keaston Gonzalez of Walters High School were chosen as the Chancellor Hans Brisch Scholars. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
8. **COUNCIL FOR ONLINE LEARNING EXCELLENCE AWARDS.** Ratification and recognition of awards to honor outstanding faculty, staff, institutions, teams, or groups for their work in advancing online learning in Oklahoma. Brad Griffith, Associate Vice Chancellor of Innovation, introduced the recipients. They include:
 - The Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Open Education Impact - The Rose

State College Writing Committee.

- The Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Accessibility - the University of Central Oklahoma Digital Accessibility Coalition (DAC) led by Darren Denham.
- The Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Teaching - Dr. Susmita Hazra, assistant professor at Cameron University.
- The Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Individual Leadership - Dr. Melissa Brevetti, coordinator for teacher education programs for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
- The Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Team Leadership - The CACE (Carl Albert State College, Connors State College, and Eastern Oklahoma State College) Educational Partnership.
- The Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Innovation - Oklahoma State University's College of Arts and Sciences (OSU CAS) Outreach Team

Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the awards. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.

9. **E&G BUDGET.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to approve the allocation of state appropriated operating funds for FY25 appropriations in an amount that totals \$1,023,746,221, as presented in the following schedules. It was also recommended that the State Regents approve \$56.25 million for capital deferred maintenance projects for FY25. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.
- 9.1. **GRANT.** Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the conditional acceptance of the FAFSA Student Support Strategy Grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with Educational Credit Management Corporation. Under this grant agreement, OCAP, in partnership with Communications and Scholarship Administration, will implement a two-part outreach strategy. OCAP and Communications will run a digital FAFSA completion campaign using social media and

video ads targeting recent high school graduates and influential adults. OCAP and Scholarship Administration will also distribute sub-grants to state schools to support local FAFSA completion events for students and parents. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

10. **TUITION.**

a. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the FY2025 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Principles and Guidelines. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none.

b. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve request from the University of Central Oklahoma to approve an exception to policy to waive specific fees for online and in-person delivery of concurrent enrollment classes beginning with the Fall 2024 semester. The University of Central Oklahoma will offer online concurrent enrollment classes starting Fall 2024. This expansion will provide high-quality, accessible courses to high school juniors and seniors, helping them graduate faster and lower their college costs. UCO estimates the cost of these waivers to be \$75,000 at current enrollment levels. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Turpen and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.

11. **CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.**

a. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to approve contracts exceeding \$100,000 for FY24. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Turpen, Hickman and Adwon. Voting against the motion were none.

c. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to approve contracts exceeding \$100,000 for FY25. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington,

Sherry, Casey, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon and Levit. Regent Taylor abstained from the AT&T portion of the item. Voting against the motion were none.

12. **INVESTMENTS.** Regent Taylor announced that the Investment Committee met with consultants from Mercer but had not action items to bring forward.

13. **NEW PROGRAM.**

a. The University of Oklahoma.

(1) Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Levit abstained.

(2) Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Bachelor of Science in Software Development and Integration. Oklahoma State University (OSU) submitted a protest of the letter of intent based on unnecessary duplication. Through communication between OU and OSU leadership, OSU withdrew their protest. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.

b. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the request from Oklahoma State University to offer the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.

- c. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the request from Northeastern State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Sport/Recreation Management. Rogers State University (RSU) submitted a protest of the letter of intent based on unnecessary duplication. Through communication between NSU and RSU leadership, RSU withdrew their protest. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
 - d. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request from Rose State College to offer the Associate in Science in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Technology. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none.
 - e. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request from Redlands Community College to offer the Associate in Science in Computer Science. Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) submitted a protest of the letter of intent based on unnecessary duplication. Through communication between RCC and OCCC leadership, OCCC withdrew their protest. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Turpen and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.
 - f. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the request from Southwestern Oklahoma State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Turpen, Hickman and Adwon. Voting against the motion were none.
14. **PROGRAM DELETIONS.** Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve requests from the University of Oklahoma to delete the Bachelor of Microbiology

in Microbiology; from Northeastern Oklahoma A& College to delete the Associate in Arts in Natural Resource Ecology and Management, the Associate in Arts in Native American Studies, the Associate in Arts in Speech and Theatre, the Certificate in Natural Resource Ecology Management and the Certificate in Natural Resource Ecology Management; from Southwestern Oklahoma State University to delete the Bachelor of Science in Public Health; and from Western Oklahoma State College to delete the Associate in Applied Science in Military Studies. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.

15. **GRANT.** Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve a modification to the Interagency Agreement for the Administration of Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Funds and the proposed GEER II program allocations. Southern Nazarene University (SNU) has opted out of receiving funds for Teacher Micro-Credentials due to their inability to meet course requirements. As a result, these funds will be reallocated to Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU). Initially, OPSU had requested additional funds for scholarships but were informed that none were available. With SNU's withdrawal, OPSU will now receive an extra \$52,480, increasing their total funding for Teacher Micro-Credentials to \$62,976. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.

16. **SCHOLARS FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHILDCARE.** Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness contract in the amount of \$110,000. Starting May 1, 2024, financial support for child care providers in the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care program dropped from covering 100% of tuition and fees to 90%. The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness will cover the 10% gap through December 30, 2024, with the option to extend funding for two more grant cycles until December 30, 2026. This partnership ensures that scholarship participants can still receive free education to pursue their child care credentials. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Casey and Sherry.

Voting against the motion were none.

17. **STATE AUTHORIZATION.** Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve requests for re-authorization from John Brown University, Miller-Motte College, Southeastern University, Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology, Saint Paul School of Theology, and Upper Iowa University to operate as degree-granting institutions in Oklahoma. After reviewing the applications and required documentation, State Regents' staff determined that these institutions meet re-authorization requirements under policy for the 2024-25 academic year. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Casey, Sherry and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
18. **POLICY.** Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve a new policy section (5.19) establishing the Amanda Winge Study Abroad Scholarship. The Amanda Winge Study Abroad Scholarship provides additional financial support to undergraduate students from Oklahoma's public regional universities who are chosen to study as Brad Henry International Scholars at the University of Wales in Swansea each spring. The scholarship was started with private funds and the fund's corpus continues to grow with support from family and friends. To date, over \$10,900 has been received in donations for the scholarship fund. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Casey, Sherry, Taylor and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none.
19. **COMMENDATIONS.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to recognize State Regents' staff for service and recognition on state and national projects. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Levit, Warmington, Casey, Sherry, Taylor, Turpen and Adwon. Voting against the motion were none.
20. **CONSENT DOCKET.** Regent Adwon moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve/ratify the following routine requests which are consistent with State Regents' policies and procedures or previous actions:

- a. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Ratification of institutional requests for annual renewal of participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement.
- b. Operations.
 - (1) Ratification of purchases exceeding \$25,000.
 - (2) Personnel. Ratification of personnel appointments.

Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Warmington, Casey, Sherry, Taylor, Turpen, Adwon and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.

21. **REPORTS.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Warmington, to acknowledge receipt of the Reports.

- a. Programs. Acknowledge receipt of the Current Status Report on program requests.
- b. Annual Reports.
 - (1) Acknowledge receipt of the Faculty Advisory Council Annual Report.
 - (2) Acknowledge receipt of the Chiropractic Education Scholarship Program Year-End Report.
 - (3) Acknowledge receipt of the William P. Willis Scholarship Year-End Report.
 - (4) Acknowledge receipt of the Policy Exception Quarterly Report.

Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Casey, Sherry, Taylor, Turpen, Adwon, Hickman and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.

22. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES.**


- a. Academic Affairs and Student Services Committee. The Academic Affairs and Student Services Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.
- b. Budget and Audit Committee. The Budget and Audit Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.
- c. Strategic Planning and Personnel and Technology Committee. The Strategic Planning and Personnel and Technology Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.
- d. Investment Committee. The Investment Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.

23. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Mr. Matt Stangl, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, advised State Regents that an executive session was not needed.

24. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING.** Chair Sherry announced that the next regular meetings are scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

25. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no additional items to address, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



Jack Sherry, Chair



Steven Taylor, Secretary