

Meeting of the
Oklahoma Free Speech Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Notice. The meeting notice was posted with the Secretary of State on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 3:17 p.m. The meeting agenda was posted on the State Regents' website on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 10:28 a.m.

1. **Call to order.** Regular Meeting called to order at 12:02 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Andy Lester (Chair), Representative Caldwell, Dr. Raúl Font, Mariana Pitts, Senator Floyd, and Regent Levit. Judge Valerie Couch, Dr. Rick Hall, and Hayley Jones were unable to attend.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Representative Caldwell moved to approve the June meeting minutes. Dr. Font seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Comments from the Chair.** Chairman Lester kept his comments brief, but welcomed the Committee's newest member, Regent Ken Levit. Regent Levit is the Executive Director of the George Kaiser Family Foundation and has been active in the community for many years. He will be a welcome addition to the State Regents and to this Committee. The Committee will of course miss Regent Hickman, but he has earned a bit of a break. Chairman Lester thanked Regent Levit for joining. Regent Levit was happy to join and thanked Chairman Lester for the introduction. Chairman Lester noted that the Committee is a great group of people, all of whom are committed to upholding free speech. The Committee has done great work in the last two years.
4. **Task Force Reports.**
 - a. **Institutional Policies Task Force Report (Representative Caldwell).** Representative Caldwell gave an update on the completed policy review meetings and presented Recommendations and Reports for Cameron University, Murray State College, and Northern Oklahoma College.
 - The task force and review teams have completed policy review meetings for the University of Central Oklahoma, Cameron University, Murray State College, Cameron University, Langston University, and Oklahoma State University. The Recommendations and Reports on the agenda for approval are: Cameron University, Murray State College, and Northern Oklahoma State College. The Langston University and Oklahoma State University Recommendations and Reports should be ready for the Committee at the December meeting. The Task Force is hoping to complete four to five additional visits before the end of the year. Representative Caldwell introduced the Cameron University Recommendations and Report. At the time of the meeting, Cameron was in a time of a transition, and the team had a great visit. There was discussion about the review teams' use of FIRE memos during their review of institutional policies. The use of case law citations in the Recommendations and

Reports, and the totality of research, opinions and resources that go into them was discussed as well. Concerns about the implementation of the Committee's institutional policy recommendations were also discussed. Dr. Font reminded the Committee of the importance of drafting the reports in a scholarly manner.

Representative Caldwell moved to approve the Cameron University report as presented. Ms. Pitts seconded the motion. The Committee discussed how to serve the institutions better and that the Committee could always provide the FIRE memo as a supplement. Voting for the motion were Chairman Lester, Representative Caldwell, Dr. Font, and Ms. Pitts. Senator Floyd voted against the motion. Regent Levit abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Representative Caldwell then presented the Murray State College report, where the review team was Ms. Pitts and Judge Couch. Murray State brought a lot of administrators from different areas of the college and had a great conversation. The same concerns surrounding the FIRE memo were stated to apply to this report and the next report. Representative Caldwell moved to approve the Murray State College report as presented. Ms. Pitts seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Chairman Lester, Representative Caldwell, Dr. Font, and Ms. Pitts. Senator Floyd voted against the motion. Regent Levit abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Representative Caldwell then presented the Northern Oklahoma College report, where the review team was himself and Ms. Pitts. Northern Oklahoma College brought a great, excited energy to the meeting which was appreciated. Representative Caldwell moved to approve the Northern Oklahoma College report as presented. Dr. Font seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Chairman Lester, Representative Caldwell, Dr. Font, and Ms. Pitts. Senator Floyd voted against the motion. Regent Levit abstained from voting. The motion passed.

- b. Complaints Task Force Report (Chris Turner). Mr. Turner gave an update on the task force.

- Mr. Turner said there have been no new complaints submitted on the online form. A Committee member was contacted by a student, and the member informed the student of the official process and the complaint form.

- c. Training Task Force Report (Mariana Pitts). Ms. Pitts gave an update on the training webpage.

- The video of the training and some additional resources will be going live soon. Hopefully those that did not get to attend the April training will be able to watch the video before the end of the year.

5. Staff Report. Mr. Turner presented the new 2025 meeting dates: Feb 11, June 10, Sept 9, and Dec 9 2025, all at noon.

6. Other Business or Discussion. Regent Levit asked if the Free Speech meeting dates could take place on the same day as Regents meetings.

7. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.