

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

MINUTES

Eight Hundred and Forty-fourth Meeting



November 7, 2024

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**Minutes of the Eight Hundred and Forty-fourth Meeting
of the**

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

November 7, 2024

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 special meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, November 7, 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, and amended on October 3, 2024. A copy of the agenda for the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.
2. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Dennis Casey called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Dennis Casey, Steven W. Taylor, Jeffrey W. Hickman, Michael C. Turpen, Ken Levit, Courtney Warmington. Phillip Mitchell “Mitch” Adwon. Regent Dustin J. Hilliary arrived at 9:01 a.m.
3. **MINUTES. OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the minutes of the State Regents’ meetings in September and October of 2024. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hilliary, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.** Chair Casey commended Chancellor Garrett for her unwavering dedication to advancing higher education in Oklahoma. He praised her steadfast commitment to excellence, recognizing her efforts in driving progress and fostering innovation across the state’s institutions, ensuring they continue to thrive and serve the needs of students and communities effectively.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR.** Chancellor Garrett reflected on her tenure, emphasizing the meaningful relationships she has built with exceptional colleagues and friends. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Presidents, staff, community leaders, and Regents for their unwavering support and collaboration, acknowledging their vital roles in advancing the mission of higher education in Oklahoma. Her reflections highlighted the collective efforts that have shaped her journey and the shared commitment to excellence and progress.
6. **OKLAHOMA THUNDERBIRD MEDAL.** Major General Thomas Mancino of the Oklahoma National Guard honored Chancellor Garrett by presenting her with the prestigious Oklahoma Thunderbird Medal. This recognition celebrates her outstanding dedication and tireless efforts in expanding educational opportunities for members of the Oklahoma National Guard, airmen, and veterans. General Mancino commended Chancellor Garrett for her commitment to supporting those who serve, ensuring they have access to the resources and programs needed to succeed academically and professionally. Her work exemplifies a deep respect and gratitude for the sacrifices made by these service members and their families.
7. **ACADEMIC POLICY.** Items #7-a through 7-f are the postings of revisions to the following State Regents policies:
 - a. Posting of revisions to the Institutional Accreditation and State Authorization policy sections 3.1.2, 3.1.4 and 3.1.5.
 - b. Posting of revisions to the Cooperative Agreements between Higher Education Institutions and Other Entities policy.
 - c. Posting of revisions to the Academic Program Review policy.
 - d. Posting of revisions to the Grading policy.
 - e. Posting of revisions to the Undergraduate Degree Requirements policy.
 - f. Posting of revisions to the Credit for Prior Learning policy.

These items are for posting only.

8. **PROGRAM DELETIONS.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve an institutional request from East Central University to delete the Bachelor of Science in Cartography. It appears that no students will be negatively affected by this deletion. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hilliary, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
9. **STATE AUTHORIZATION.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to authorize Grand Canyon University (of Arizona) as an out-of-state institution to operate with a physical presence in Oklahoma. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Hilliary, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.
10. **TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to acknowledge receipt of the 2022-23 Teacher Education Program Admission Study. Dr. Goldie Thompson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Teacher Preparation and Special Programs, highlighted that recent increases in teacher education program enrollment result from enhanced state funding to support teacher recruitment and retention efforts. Education Preparation Programs (EPPs) have received targeted funding to address Oklahoma's teacher shortage. Statewide initiatives, such as Inspired to Teach, the Teacher Shortage Employment Incentive Program, and the Paid Student Teaching Program (in partnership with OSDE) have been instrumental in mitigating the shortage. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
11. **E&G BUDGET NEEDS FOR FY2026-FY2028.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the FY2026 appropriations request in the amount of \$95 million over the FY25 appropriation for legislative initiatives and system-wide strategic priorities and to advocate for institution-specific funding in the amount of \$403 million to meet campus needs. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor and Hilliary. Voting against the motion were none.

12. **GRANTS.** Regent Hilliary moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to accept a grant for FY 2024-2025 in the amount of \$7,500 from the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements to support the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in fulfilling the duties of state membership in SARA. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hilliary and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.
13. **ENDOWMENT.** Regent Hilliary moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve a distribution of 4.5 percent of the rolling average of June 30th market values totaling \$37.9 million for fiscal year 2024, and \$7.3 million for prior years' carryover totaling approximately \$45.2 million for institutional expenditure from eligible Endowment Trust Fund accounts and approve the corresponding account reports for the year-ended June 30, 2024. The market value of the trust fund was \$1.213 billion as of June 30, 2024. In FY24, the fund posted a return of approximately 8.72 percent in unitized value for the fiscal year. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hilliary, Hickman and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none.
14. **CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.** Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve contracts exceeding \$100,000 for FY24. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Hilliary abstained.
15. **FALL 2024 PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT REPORT.** Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to acknowledge receipt of the Fall 2024 Preliminary Enrollment Report. Dr. Stephanie Baird, Associate Vice Chancellor for System Analysis and Reporting, presented an update on the preliminary data for Fall 2024, including Headcount Enrollment, Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment, First-Time Entering Enrollment, Concurrent Headcount Enrollment and Hours, and Average Concurrent Hours. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hilliary, Hickman, Turpen and Adwon. Voting against the motion were none.

16. **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.** Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to approve the 2025 Legislative Agenda. Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, presented the legislative priorities for the 2025 legislative session, which include 1) advancing education and workforce training for adult learners; 2) expanding the Oklahoma Opportunity Education Scholarship tax credit to higher education; 3) Oklahoma's Promise; 4) stabilizing property insurance rates; 5) enhancing campus safety and security; and 5) concurrent enrollment. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hilliary, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.
17. **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.** Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to make a finding of an emergency and adopt the proposed emergency rules for the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Program; and, further, that the State Regents post proposed permanent rules and approve initiation of the permanent rulemaking process. Regent Taylor emphasized the importance of covering flight fees for students in the 2022 and 2023 academic years as well to ensure fundamental fairness and equal protection for those students. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hilliary, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.
18. **CONSENT DOCKET.** Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve/ratify the following routine requests which are consistent with State Regents' policies and procedures or previous actions:
- a. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Possible action on institutional requests for annual renewal of participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement.
 - b. Operations. Possible action on purchases exceeding \$25,000.
- Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Hilliary abstained from Item #18-b.

19. **REPORTS.** Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Warmington, to acknowledge receipt of the following Reports.

- a. Programs. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Current Status Report on program requests.
- b. Annual Report. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Quarterly Policy Exception Report.

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

20. **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, Personnel and Technology Committee. The Strategic Planning, Personnel and Technology Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.
- d. Investment Committee. The Investment Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.
- e. Tuition and Fees Committee. Regent Adwon provided an update on the work of the Tuition & Fees Committee that was appointed by Chair Casey to address challenges in reviewing tuition and fee requests, including a tight timeline, information overload, and limited time for thorough evaluation. To address these issues, the Tuition & Fees Committee met in September to establish objectives for improving the process. Vice Chancellor for Administration Kylie Smith reviewed outcomes from that meeting. Key goals include extending review timelines, enhancing the clarity of information, and aligning decisions with institutional and system-wide strategies. Proposed actions that can be taken include:
 - Starting the review process earlier for more time to analyze financial data.
 - Standardizing templates for tuition requests to improve clarity.

- Requiring institutions to report key financial metrics for a comprehensive view of their needs.
- Ensuring tuition requests align with long-term strategic goals and measurable outcomes.

These steps aim to support informed, transparent, and balanced decisions on tuition and fees, with ongoing refinements planned.

21. **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.
22. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING.** Chair Casey announced that the next regular meetings are scheduled to be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
23. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no additional items to address, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



Dennis Casey, Chair



Steven W. Taylor, Secretary