

**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**MINUTES**

**Eight Hundred and Forty-sixth Meeting**



February 6, 2025

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Minutes of the Eight Hundred and Forty-sixth Meeting  
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**Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education**

February 6, 2025

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 Thursday, February 6, 2025, at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on September 11, 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 9:00 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, and Phillip Mitchell “Mitch” Adwon. Regent Dustin J. Hilliary was absent.
3. **MINUTES. OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Warmington, to approve the minutes of the State Regents’ meetings in December 2024. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.** Chair Casey mentioned that the 2025 legislative session is underway. The State Regents remain focused on advocating for policies that support students and strengthen Oklahoma’s public colleges and universities. He reminded Regents that Higher Education Day at the State Capitol is scheduled for February 11, with the formal program set to be held in the House Chamber at 2:30 p.m. He encouraged Regents’ attendance if schedules allow.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR.** Chancellor Burrage reflected on multiple opportunities he has had over the last month to present the State Regents' FY26 system-wide budget request, including the Senate budget hearing on January 9, the House budget hearing on January 29, and the Senate Appropriations Committee on February 3. Additionally, Chancellor Burrage noted that he has had the opportunity to engage with several institutions and stakeholders across the state, and has been to numerous institutions and presented to the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents. He also participated in media appearances to highlight the value of higher education, including OETA's News Report and Flashpoint. He mentioned that later in the meeting, Regents will be presented a great report on the Oklahoma's Promise program, which highlights that over 10% of all degrees and certificates awarded in the last academic year went to current and former Oklahoma's Promise recipients. Finally, Chancellor Burrage noted that the agency is in full compliance with Governor Stitt's return-to-office executive order that was issued in December.
  
6. **HIGHER EDUCATION HALL OF FAME.** Chair Casey introduced several members of the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society that were in attendance to present the Higher Education Hall of Fame medallion to State Regent Emeritus Ann Holloway given that she was unable to attend the induction ceremony and banquet in November due to inclement weather. Three former Chancellors – Allison Garrett, Glen Johnson, and Phil Moss – were in attendance as were family members of Regent Holloway. Phil Moss, president of the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society, presented the medallion to Regent Holloway.
  
7. **NEW PROGRAMS.**
  - a. **University of Oklahoma.**
    - (1) Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #7-a (1), which is a request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Master of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence, and asked Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Interim Vice Chancellor for

Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp explained that the degree is a 30-credit hour program that will provide students with a deep and comprehensive understanding of Artificial Intelligence (AI) principles, tools, and applications. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve OU's request offer the Master of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Warmington, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Levit abstained.

(2) Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #7-a (2), which is a request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Master of Science in Cybersecurity Leadership, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that the degree is a 30-credit hour program designed to mold leaders in the latest cybersecurity technologies along with developing skills in governance, risk management, compliance, and strategic planning. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve OU's request to offer the Master of Science in Cybersecurity Leadership. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.

(3) Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #7-a (3), which is a request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Master of Science in Cybersecurity, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that the degree is a 30-credit hour program that will provide comprehensive education in cybersecurity, combining theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve OU's request to offer the Master of Science in Cybersecurity. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.

(4) Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #7-a (4), which is a request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Master of Science in Software Development and Integration, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that the degree is a 30-credit hour program that will provide a comprehensive education in software development, combining theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve OU's request to offer the Master of Science in Software Development and Integration. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Levit abstained.

b. **Oklahoma State University.** Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #7-b, which is a request from Oklahoma State University to offer the Doctor of Education in Learning, Design and Technology, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated the degree is a 60-credit hour program designed to prepare professionals as leaders who apply research to design, enhance, and evaluate human experiences associated with teaching, learning, performance, and emerging technologies in a variety of settings. She mentioned that the University of Oklahoma initially submitted a protest based on unnecessary duplication but that the protest was withdrawn based on communication between leadership and the two institutions. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve OSU's request to offer the Doctor of Education in Learning, Design, and Technology. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.

c. **Southwestern Oklahoma State University.**

(1) Chair Casey indicated that Agenda Item #7-c (1) had been deleted.

(2) Regent Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #7-c (2), which is a request from Southwestern Oklahoma State University to offer the Bachelor of Arts in

Digital Design, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated the degree is a 120-credit hour program designed to provide students with the skills to both design and produce multimedia materials. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve SWOSU's request to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Digital Design. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none.

d. **Murray State College.** Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #7-d, which is a request from Murray State College to offer the Associate in Arts in Communication, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated the degree is a 60-credit hour program designed to study human communication in aesthetic/creative, intercultural, interpersonal, digital, legal, organizational, and political contexts. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve MSC's request to offer the Associate in Arts in Communication. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, and Adwon. Voting against the motion were none.

e. **Oklahoma City Community College.** Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #7-e, which is a request from Oklahoma City Community College to offer the Associate in Arts in English Pre-Education/Literature and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated the degree is a 62-credit hour program designed to better prepare students to comprehend complex texts, articulate ideas clearly, and engage in thoughtful discussions that will be valuable in the field of secondary education and across many industries. Regent Adwon moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve OCCC's request to offer the Associate in Arts in English Pre-Education/Literature. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.

## 8. **ACADEMIC POLICY.**

- a. Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #8-a, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to the Academic Program Approval policy. The proposed revisions remove the requirement for institutions to seek State Regents' approval to delete certificates, and require that certificate deletions be reported to State Regents' staff to maintain the official program inventory. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the proposed revisions. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
  - b. Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #8-b, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to the Institutional Admission and Retention policy. The proposed revisions are the result of the annual policy review process and relate to sections 3.9.3 Admission of First-Time Freshman – Performance Requirements; 3.9.5 Special Admission, and 3.9.6 Retention Standards. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the proposed revisions. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
9. **OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE.** Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #9, which is a request to acknowledge receipt of the 2023-24 Oklahoma's Promise Year-End Report, and asked Dr. Colbi Beam, Associate Vice Chancellor for Scholarships and Grants, to review the findings. Dr. Beam presented the report to Regents, highlighting enrollment growth in the program, high school GPA of participants, college-going rates, retention, degrees awarded, and program expenditures. Regent Casey inquired about the differences between Oklahoma's Promise and Texas Promise Plus program, and Dr. Beam clarified that the Texas scholarship is limited to institutions within the UT system and is funded through an endowment rather than state appropriations. Regent Warmington inquired about college completion rates. Dr. Beam indicated that completion rates have remained relatively stable. Regent Warmington asked whether consideration has been given to increasing college completion rates and if we have information on why students do not complete a degree. Dr. Beam explained that the program does not provide supportive services to students. She



also noted that a survey is conducted annually asking students why they stopped out of the program and that responses are mixed. Regent Hickman discussed strategies for addressing fees. Regent Levit inquired about the promise champions and what these schools are doing to have such high enrollment rates. Dr. Beam indicated these schools have a strong culture that is supportive of college-going and the scholarship. Regent Adwon moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to acknowledge receipt of the report. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.

10. **ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCOR).** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #10, which is a request to ratify the payment of annual EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition dues in the amount of \$37,500 for calendar year 2025. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
11. **INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD (IDEA).** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #12, which is a request to approve an allocation of \$250,000 to participating universities for the Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence grant award from the National Institutes of Health. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to approve the allocation. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.
12. **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AWARD.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #12, which is a request to accept the National Science Foundation Campus Cyberinfrastructure Award #2429560 in the amount of \$1,138,496. Under the terms of this two-year grant cycle, OneNet will upgrade connectivity from 10G to 100G to the OneOklahoma Friction Free Network for Langston University and University of Central Oklahoma. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to accept the grant award.

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

13. **ENDOWMENT.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #13, which is a request to approve the renaming of an account within the endowment portfolio as requested by the University of Oklahoma. The change will modify the account name that was originally approved to The Puterbaugh Foundation Chair and realign the funding into the new account with a net total change of zero. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to accept the grant award. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Adwon. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Taylor abstained.

14. **CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.**

- a. Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #14-a, which is a request to approve purchases exceeding \$100,000. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Warmington, to approve these purchases. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, and Levit,. Voting against the motion were none.
- b. Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #14-b, which is a request to approve and adopt the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation from Assistant Attorney General Joe Dewey to uphold the decision of the State Regents' Purchasing Director to deny the protest from SwiftMD related to Request for Proposal B2402-1 and uphold the award to Timely Telehealth LLC. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve this item. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.

15. **INVESTMENTS.** Regent Taylor indicated that there were no investment manager recommendations for Regents' action at this meeting. He noted the estimated 2024 calendar year-to-date return was 10.2% and the 2024 fiscal year return ending June 30, 2024 was 10.9%.
  
16. **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.**
  - a. Regent Warmington presented Agenda Item #16-a, which is a request to approve and adopt permanent rules related to the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Program. The proposed rule revisions focus on the inclusion of flights costs and fees for aviation students. Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the proposed rules. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
  
  - b. Regent Warmington presented Agenda Item #16-b, which is a request to approve and adopt the proposed permanent rules pursuant to 70 O.S. § 24-157(A). The permanent rules will provide guidance to institutions and enrolled students related to the prohibition of race and sex discrimination under House Bill 1775 of the 2021 legislative session. Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the proposed rules. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.
  
17. **CONSENT DOCKET.** Regent Warmington 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. Agency Operations. Possible action on purchases exceeding \$25,000. Page 101.
  - b. Resolutions.
    - (1) Possible action on resolution honoring Janet Jackson. Page 103.
    - (2) Possible action on resolution honoring a retiring staff member. Page 105.

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

Chair Casey asked Regent Hickman to read a resolution in honor of Janet Jackson, who passed away from breast cancer in December 2024. Janet's husband, Justin Jackson, provided comments after the reading of the resolution.

Chair Casey asked Regent Hickman to read a resolution in honor of Irala Magee, a staff member who retired from her position as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Scholarships and Grants at the end of January 2025.

18. **REPORTS.** Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to acknowledge receipt of the following Reports.
  - a. Programs. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Current Status Report on program requests.
  - b. Policy. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Policy Exception Quarterly Report.
  - c. Tulsa Reconciliation and Education Scholarship Program. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Tulsa Reconciliation and Education Scholarship Program Year-End Report.

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

19. **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.
20. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Mr. Matt Stangl, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, advised State Regents that an executive session was needed pursuant to (2) 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for routine, periodic review and/or consideration and adoption, modification, or other action related to employment, including terms and conditions, of the Chancellor. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to enter executive session. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none. Regents entered executive session. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Warmington, to exit executive session. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none. Open session was resumed.
21. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING.** Chair Casey announced that the next regular meetings are scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Vice Chancellor for Administration Kylie Smith clarified that the meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 will be moved to the OSU Hamm Institute for American Energy in Oklahoma City but the meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025 would still take place at the State Regents office.

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

ATTEST:



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Dennis Casey, Chair



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Steven W. Taylor, Secretary