

**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**MINUTES**

**Eight Hundred and Forty-eighth Meeting**



April 24, 2025

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

**Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education**

April 24, 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, April 24, 2025, at the Northeastern State University Broken Arrow campus (3100 E. New Orleans Street, Broken Arrow, OK). Notice of the meeting had originally been filed with the Secretary of State on September 11, 2024, and amended on April 10, 2025. 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, Phillip Mitchell “Mitch”, Ken Levit, and Courtney Warmington. Regent Dustin J. Hilliary was absent.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the minutes of the State Regents’ meetings in March 2025. 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 reported an outstanding turnout from Oklahoma’s public colleges and universities for Higher Education and Oklahoma’s Promise Day at the Capitol. He expressed appreciation for the engagement of legislative and executive leaders who participated in the Higher Education Day program, including Speaker Kyle Hilbert, Secretary of Education Nellie Sanders, and Senator Ally Seifried.

Chair Casey also thanked Regent Warmington and Regent Hickman for their attendance at this year's event. Chair Casey extended gratitude to President Rodney Hanley for hosting the State Regents meeting at Northeastern State University. He noted that the Regents appreciated the opportunity to meet at both the Tahlequah campus on the previous day and the Broken Arrow campus that day. As a graduate of Northeastern State University, Chair Casey remarked that it is always a privilege to return to campus and witness the important work being done to serve students and communities across the region. Finally, Chair Casey congratulated Regent Steven Taylor on his upcoming recognition with the Lifetime Achievement Award from Leadership Oklahoma. He stated that this is a well-deserved honor reflecting a career of distinguished service to the state.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR.** Chancellor Burrage began his remarks by thanking Chair Casey and echoing his appreciation to President Rodney Hanley and the team at Northeastern State University for their hospitality in hosting the State Regents' meetings—both at the Tahlequah campus the previous day and at the Broken Arrow campus that day. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to spend time on campus and observe the impactful work taking place across NSU. Chancellor Burrage provided an update on key initiatives discussed at the previous meeting, including the development of a new funding formula and a revised process for reviewing low-producing academic programs. He emphasized that both efforts remain top priorities and that progress continues as the details are further refined. He also shared recent outreach efforts, noting that he has been traveling across the state to speak about Oklahoma's higher education system. Recent engagements included presentations to the Oklahoma City Rotary Club, Enid Rotary Club, and the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. He has also continued his campus visits, most recently visiting Seminole State College, Langston University, and Langston-Tulsa. Chancellor Burrage announced the appointment of Dr. Joel Kendall as the next Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, effective July 1. Dr. Kendall brings over 25 years of experience in Oklahoma higher education and most recently served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He has led strategic planning, overseen institutional accreditation, and developed initiatives to expand degree pathways in high-demand workforce areas. He also expressed appreciation

to Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp for her service as Interim Vice Chancellor during the search process, noting her steady and thoughtful leadership over the past several months and her ongoing commitment to academic and student affairs across the system. In closing, Chancellor Burrage reported that the State Regents continue to closely monitor the legislative session, including budget negotiations and proposed legislation that may impact the higher education system. He committed to keeping the Regents informed as developments occur.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Chair Casey introduced the next item as the annual public hearing on tuition and fees. Before hearing the public comments, Chair Casey asked Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance to review the tuition and fee items that are the focus of the testimony. Vice Chancellor Tygret provided an overview of legislative tuition and mandatory fee limits as outlined in 70 O.S. § 3218.8. State Regents staff compiled a comparison of Oklahoma institutions' tuition and fees to peer institutions in the Big 12, surrounding states, and similar professional programs. While many peer institutions increased their rates in FY25, Oklahoma's average resident tuition and fees remain below peer averages: 71.1% of the Big 12 average for research universities (up 0.3 percentage points), 81.4% for regional universities (down 3.8 percentage points), and 63.6% for community colleges (down 0.4 percentage points). Vice Chancellor Tygret also reported on academic services fee changes for FY2026. Nineteen of the state's 25 public institutions submitted a total of 241 requests—an increase of 45 from the prior year—including 82 new fees, 115 modifications, and 44 deletions. The requested changes cover categories such as special instruction, facility and equipment utilization, testing and clinical services, classroom and lab supplies, and other special fees. Chair Casey reviewed the procedures and guidelines for the public hearing, with each speaker allotted three minutes for commentary. One individual (Chloe Clinton, senior at the University of Central Oklahoma) provided commentary via Zoom. A transcript of her comments is attached the minutes.
7. **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME.** Northeastern State University President Rodney Hanley welcomed Regents to the NSU-Broken Arrow Campus and provided a history of the campus. President Hanley began by introducing RUSO Regent Chuck Perry, who was

present for the meeting. President Hanley noted that the history of the Broken Arrow campus dates back to the University Center at Tulsa in the 1980s. Legislation was passed to establish a branch campus of NSU in Broken Arrow and classes started being offered in 2001. The Tulsa County Vision 2025 initiative allowed NSU to expand the size of its campus. The Broken Arrow campus has 60 classrooms and focuses primarily on serving transfer students and working adults. Nearly 30 undergraduate and 18 graduate degrees are offered on the campus. He also noted that NSU works closely with Broken Arrow Public Schools. Regent Levit inquired about the legislative restrictions on NSU related to delivery of lower division courses at the Broken Arrow campus. President Hanley noted that the legislation specifically calls out NSU-Broken Arrow, although the campus itself is not in Tulsa County.

8. **NEW PROGRAMS.**

- a. **University of Oklahoma.** Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #8-a, which is a request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work, and asked Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 90-credit hour program that is designed to provide students with a rigorous and comprehensive education in social work research, practice, and pedagogy, preparing them for scholarly careers in academia, research institutions, or leadership positions in government or community-based organizations. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
- b. **University of Oklahoma.** Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #8-b, which is a request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Master of Fine Arts in Drama, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 60-credit hour program that is designed to prepare graduate students for professional careers in theatre. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to

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

- c. **East Central University.** Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #8-c, which is a request from the East Central University to offer the Master of Science in Sports Psychology, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 30-credit hour program that focuses on developing enhanced skills in various psychological topics along with research design, data analysis, and critical thinking skills. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Levit, 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.
  - d. **East Central University.** Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #8-d, which is a request from the East Central University to offer the Master of Science in Applied Psychology, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 45-credit hour program that focuses on developing skills in motivation, performance enhancement, and the ability to maximize human potential. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.
9. **PROGRAM DELETIONS.** Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #9, which is the approval of institutional requests for program deletions. The University of Oklahoma requests to delete the Graduate Certificate in Communication, Culture, and Pedagogy for Hispanic Populations in Educational Settings. Southeastern Oklahoma State University requests to delete the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and the Bachelor of Science in Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College requests to delete the Associate in Arts in Mass Communications. Tulsa Community College requests to delete the Associate in Applied Science in Interior Design. He indicated that it appears no students will be negatively impacted by the deletion. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the requests for program deletions. Voting for the motion were

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

**10. ACADEMIC POLICY.**

- a. Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #10-a, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to the Undergraduate Transfer and Articulation of Courses policy. He asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the changes. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Sherry to approve the proposed policy revisions. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, and Adwon. Voting against the motion were none.
- b. Regent Turpen presented Agenda Item #10-b, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to the Student Assessment Plan policy. He asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the changes. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Sherry to approve the proposed policy revisions. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.

**11. STATE AUTHORIZATION.**

- a. Regent Turpen presented Item #11-a, which is approval of requests from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Heavy Equipment Colleges of America, and New York University for re-authorization to operate as degree-granting institutions with a physical presence in Oklahoma. After reviewing the application and required documentation, State Regents' staff determined that this institution meets the re-authorization requirements established in the OSRHE Institutional Accreditation and State Authorization policy. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the requests. 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 Item #11-b, which is approval of requests from the University of San Diego and Walden University for initial authorization to operate as degree-granting institutions in Oklahoma. After reviewing the application and required documentation, State Regents' staff determined that this institution meets the authorization requirements established in the OSRHE Institutional Accreditation and State Authorization policy. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the requests. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
  - c. Regent Turpen presented Item #11-c. which is a request to approve a substantive change in ownership related to Miller-Motte College. Miller Motte College is a private, for-profit career college physically located in Tulsa that has been authorized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) since 2017. Miller Motte College was recently sold to Lindenwood Education System, a Missouri nonprofit and approval is necessary. Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Hickman, Turpen, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.
12. **E&G ALLOCATION.** Regent Hickman presented Item #12, which is a request to approve the allocation of \$1,359,149.58 to Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU CHS) and \$1,359,149.58 the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) from revenue collected from the taxes placed on the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products. The current accumulated allocation to each institution, including this allocation, totals \$115,384,478.57. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, 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.
13. **CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.** Regent Hickman presented Item #13, which is a request to approve purchases exceeding \$100,000. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen,

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

14. **INVESTMENTS.** Regent Taylor indicated that there were no investment manager recommendations for Regents' action at this meeting. He noted that the Investment Committee met with Tim Westrich with Mercer by Zoom earlier this week. During the meeting, they received a performance update and reviewed performance estimates through April 15th. The diversification of the endowment portfolio has protected the fund during the recent market volatility, keeping the estimated calendar year-to-date losses at 1.7%, and a fiscal year-to-date return positive at 2.9%.
15. **COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS POLICY.** Regent Warmington presented Item #15, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to the Constitution of the Council of Presidents policy. The proposed revisions align policy more closely with current practice. The revisions: clarify the role of State Regents' staff in coordinating with the Council of Presidents; clarifies the officer positions within the Council of Presidents and adds procedures for selecting the slate of officers each year; clarifies the membership of the Executive Committee; and amends the votes needed from presidents to make changes to the Constitution of the Council of Presidents. Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the proposed revisions. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none.
16. **CONSENT DOCKET.** Regent Sherry 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 to ratify approval of institutional requests for annual renewal of participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Page 59.
  - b. High School Courses for College Admission. Possible action to ratify approval of requests for high school courses to be considered for college admission. Page 61.

c. Contracts and Purchases.

(1) Possible action to ratify a modification to the Statement of Work in the contract between The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Foundation, Inc. and Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Page 63.

(2) Possible action to ratify purchases exceeding \$25,000 but less than \$100,000. Page 69.

d. Agency Operations. Possible action on adoption agreement, plan document, and amendment for existing agency 403(b) retirement plan. Page 71.

e. Personnel. Possible action to approve the Chancellor's formal employment agreement. Page 72.1.

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

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

a. Programs. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Current Status Report on Program Requests. Page 73.

b. Annual Reports. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Current Operating Income and Expenditures, Oklahoma State Colleges and Universities, Fiscal Year 2023-2024 report. Page 75. (Supplement)

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

18. **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.
19. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chris Turner, Interim General Counsel, advised Regents that an executive session was not needed.
20. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING.** Chair Casey announced that the next regular meetings are scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. and Friday, May 30, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents' office in Oklahoma City.
21. **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

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON TUITION AND FEES**

Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.  
Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow  
3100 E. New Orleans Street, Broken Arrow

### **TRANSCRIPT**

**Chair Dennis Casey:** Now we're going to get started. We have Chloe Clinton. You are recognized for comments.

**Chloe Clinton:** Well, good morning, members of the Board regents and distinguished guests. My name is Chloe Clinton, and I'm a proud senior at the University of Central Oklahoma, majoring in psychology with a business administration minor. I'm here today as the voice of students across Oklahoma, those who are working 2 jobs juggling family responsibilities and doing everything they can to stay in school. I stand before you with one simple plea, please do not raise tuition for Oklahoma's public colleges and universities. For many of us even the slightest tuition increase could be the difference between staying enrolled and stepping away from our dreams. Students are carrying the weight of tuition, housing, transportation books, and sometimes even supporting their families. I know classmates who skip meals or textbooks just to make ends meet. Some even leave school altogether, not because they lack the talent or determination, but simply because they can't afford to continue. When tuition goes up, access goes down, and access is everything. It turns a 1st generation student into a college graduate. It allows a rural student to become a registered nurse, and it helps a young Oklahoman go from a shy student in a class of 60 to a CEO leading a company. Oklahoma has always promised to invest in its people, but each tuition increase makes that promise harder to keep. We're not asking for special treatment. We're simply asking for a fair chance to succeed without the strain of constant financial stress. Raising tuition may feel like a quick fix for our institutional gaps, but the long-term cost is greater. We risk losing our future teachers, healthcare workers, engineers, and entrepreneurs, simply because college became too expensive to continue. I urge you to consider alternatives, work with legislators to increase funding, explore partnerships, rethink, spending, and advocate boldly, but not place the burden on students, especially when we're already caring so much. I'm a proud Oklahoman, raised here and educated here and deeply committed to the future of the State. I've been fortunate to attend the University of Central Oklahoma, a place that has nurtured my growth and empowered me to lead. Being a Broncho has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I look forward to proudly joining the ranks of the UCO alumni. I'm an Oklahoma girl who truly loves our state, and I want my success story to be written right here at home. But I cannot do that alone. Thousands of students like me are working hard every day to stay in school, to beat the odds and to build a better future. We need your support to finish what we've started. Thank you so much for your time, and remember keeping college affordable isn't just about tuition. It's about projecting dreams, empowering futures and ensuring Oklahoma continues to thrive through the students who call it home. Thank you so much.

**Chair Dennis Casey:** Well, thank you, Chloe, very appreciate it.

**Regent Michael C. Turpen:** Thank you. That was very articulate. Would you please tell me a little bit... You said you grew up in Oklahoma, grew up where? Okay, tell me about your background. You grew up where and went to school, where, before UCO?

**Chloe Clinton:** I was born and raised in Edmond, Oklahoma. So, I've gone to Edmond Public Schools my entire career. And then I stayed right here in Edmond to go to UCO.

**Regent Michael C. Turpen:** Have you ever met the college president at UCO, Todd Lamb?

**Chloe Clinton:** I have met him a couple of times. I've met with him through my student organizations. I was the executive director of our Homecoming Activities Board here, and so I've met with him personally on a number of occasions. Also, I've gotten a lot of selfies with him for his Instagram.

**Regent Michael C. Turpen:** He's very available and very accessible, isn't he?

**Chloe Clinton:** Yes, he is.

**Regent Michael C. Turpen:** Okay, thank you for your testimony this morning, so to speak.

**Chloe Clinton:** Of course. Thank you.

**Regent Jeffrey W. Hickman:** Chloe, can you tell us you mentioned you and other students, you know, working to make ends meet...and I'm just curious kind of what, what you do, your student job, those types of things, that you're doing to earn money to help pay tuition. And then I'm curious about the availability of scholarships. We hear from Presidents a lot that they're raising money for scholarships to try to offset these types of things. I'm just curious if, if you see that as a student – any opportunities for additional scholarships that help offset this or not.

**Chloe Clinton:** Yeah, absolutely well. First and foremost, I work full time as an operations manager at CVS. I have worked there since the fall of my freshman year. So that's how I personally afford school. I do have some small scholarships, primarily academic, based just because I didn't play sports or I didn't have that level of scholarship available to me. As for new scholarships, this was the first time in our scholarship portal here at UCO that I saw a pretty significant difference in what was offered this year. Obviously I did not qualify for them, because I'm an outgoing senior, but I do see that changing. I don't know that it is as accessible because my scholarship portal is specific for my college here at the University of Central Oklahoma. And so I do know friends and other classmates that are struggling to see those additional scholarships because their college hasn't caught up to the College of Education and Professional Studies here. And so I think we're getting there. I think we need to continue to advocate on that end instead of, you know, raising tuition. There's plenty of money out there. We just need to find the resources to give to our students for them to find those scholarships. And I think that's where we struggle a little bit at UCO, because not every college is the same, and not every portal is the same for them.

**Regent Jeffrey W. Hickman:** Your presentation was very impressive. And the fact that you are working full-time, and particularly as the operations manager at CVS, but working full-time and going to school full-time is very impressive, and we're proud of what you're doing to make Oklahoma better, so thank you. What are you doing after graduation? Do you know.

**Chloe Clinton:** Yes, I'm taking a gap year to save money and then going to law school.

**Regent Jeffrey W. Hickman:** Oh, where are you going to law school? Do you know?

**Chloe Clinton:** I'm hoping to stay here in state again. I've looked at OU Law and Oklahoma City. Again, a big factor for me is the cost. So finding a way to afford it will be kind of where what determines where I go.

**Regent Jeffrey W. Hickman:** Best of luck, and thank you for visiting.

**Chloe Clinton:** Thank you so much.

**Chair Dennis Casey:** Thank you, Chloe.