

**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**MINUTES**

**Eight Hundred and Forty-ninth Meeting**



May 30, 2025

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

**Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education**

May 30, 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 Friday, May 30, 2025, at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education office (655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, OK 73104). Notice of the meeting was 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, Phillip Mitchell “Mitch”, Ken Levit, and Courtney Warmington. Regents Dustin J. Hilliary and Michael C. Turpen were absent.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the minutes of the State Regents’ meetings in April 2025. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.** Chair Casey began his remarks by commenting on how honored he is to continue serving on the board. He thanked Governor Stitt for reappointing him and the Senate for confirming that appointment earlier this week. He’s grateful for the opportunity to advance higher education in the state. He also thanked the

Legislature for their continued support of higher education, noting that their investment reflects a strong commitment to our students, campuses, and the future of Oklahoma.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR.** Chancellor Burrage began his remarks by expressing gratitude to Chair Casey and members of the board for the opportunity miss the previous day's meeting in order to attend his son Truman's graduation from Harvard. He thanked the board for their support in allowing him to be present with his family for the milestone event. Chancellor Burrage congratulated Chair Casey on his recent confirmation by the Senate for a full nine-year term on the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. He recognized Chair Casey's steady leadership and commitment to public higher education, noting the continued value of his service to the board and system. He echoed Chair Casey's appreciation to the Legislature for its strong support of higher education in the FY26 budget. Highlights included: \$12.5 million to help offset rising property insurance costs at campuses; \$2 million in new funding for the Rising Scholars Award program; \$70 million in funding for Oklahoma's Promise scholarships; and acceleration of \$101.25 million in deferred maintenance funding. Chancellor Burrage noted that the review of low-producing degree programs is ongoing. Each institution has received its list of programs identified for review and is expected to submit plans by mid-September. Additional updates will be provided at the October board meeting. Chancellor Burrage shared that changes have been made to the tuition and fee request presentation process for the June 25 board meeting. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., and each institution will have 20 minutes for presentation and discussion with the State Regents. He acknowledged the recent announcement of Dr. Randy Harp as the next president of Eastern Oklahoma State College. Dr. Harp currently serves as Eastern's Vice President for Academics and Development and will assume the presidency on July 1, 2025. With Dr. Harp's appointment, the State System now has five new presidents: Jim Hess at Oklahoma State University; Don Raleigh at Rogers State University; Shane Hunt at Cameron University; Travis Hurst at Rose State College; and Randy Harp at Eastern Oklahoma State College. Chancellor Burrage concluded by stating the Regents look forward to working with each new president in their leadership roles.

6. **STATE REGENT.** Chair Casey asked Regent Taylor to present Item #6, which is the administration of the Oath of Office to Regent Casey as he begins his new term on the board. Regent Taylor introduced Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Dustin Rowe who subsequently administered the Oath of Office to Regent Casey.
7. **CHANCELLOR HANS BRISCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS.** Chair Casey introduced the recipients of the Chancellor Hans Brisch Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year: Caroline Caldwell, Oklahoma Bible Academy; Jadyn Dykstra, Waukomis High School; Brooklyn Matlock, Cyril High School, Katelyn Myers, Lomega High School; and Addison Rice, Norman High School. Chancellor Burrage explained how the recipients of the scholarship are selected. Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to ratify the selection of recipients. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
8. **NEW PROGRAMS.**
  - a. **Northeastern State University.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #8-a, which is a request from Northeastern State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing in Nursing, and asked Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 120-credit hour program that is designed to prepare students for careers as registered nurses who can perform the nursing skills needed to implement therapeutic care for patients in medically underserved populations of northeastern Oklahoma and the surrounding region. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.
  - b. **Northeastern State University.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #8-b, which is a request from Northeastern State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Military Science, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr.

Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 120-credit hour program that is designed to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of military theory, practice, and operations. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

- c. **Northeastern State University.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #8-c, which is a request from Northeastern State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 120-credit hour program designed for individuals seeking to develop expertise in data-driven decision-making and the practical application of AI technologies.. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.
- d. **Rogers State University.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #8-d, which is a request from Rogers State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 120-credit hour program that will prepare highly qualified students to teach grades 1<sup>st</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>. Regent Adwon moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, and Adwon. Voting against the motion were none.
- e. **University of Central Oklahoma.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #8-e, which is a request from the University of Central Oklahoma to offer the Bachelor of Science in Forensic Accounting, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 132 to 134-credit hour program that will equip students with the professional knowledge and ethical foundation needed to analyze financial information, assess risk, detect and investigate fraud, and apply critical thinking to support auditing, tax compliance, and forensic

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

- f. **University of Central Oklahoma.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #8-e, which is a request from the University of Central Oklahoma to offer the Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics, and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that degree is a 124 to 126-credit hour program that reflects a modern enterprise perspective that fosters collaboration across teams and includes the effective use of data in problem-solving. Regent Sherry moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
9. **PROGRAM DELETIONS.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #9, which is the approval of institutional requests for program deletions. Oklahoma State University requests to delete the Bachelor of Science in Career and Technical Education and the Certificate in Career and Technical Education. The University of Central Oklahoma requests to delete the Master of Education in Early Childhood Education. East Central University requests to delete the Master of Education in Secondary Education and the Bachelor of Science in Special Education Mild/Moderate. He indicated that it appears no students will be negatively impacted by the deletion. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the requests for program deletions. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
10. **COURSE EQUIVALENCY PROJECT.** Regent Hickman presented Agenda Item #10, which is a request to acknowledge receipt of the Course Equivalency Project for the 2025-26 academic year and asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the item. Dr. Beauchamp noted that the CEP contains over 8,000 courses in 48 disciplines articulated for credit across state system institutions. Regent Adwon moved, seconded by Regent Warmington, to

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

11. **STATE AUTHORIZATION.**

a. Regent Hickman presented Item #11-a, which is approval of requests from Baylor University, Central Oklahoma College, Chamberlain University, and Miller-Motte College for re-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 re-authorization requirements established in the OSRHE Institutional Accreditation and State Authorization policy. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the requests. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

b. Regent Hickman presented Item #11-b, which is approval of requests from Claremont Lincoln University, Golden Gate University, South University, Southwestern Law School, the University of California – Berkeley, the University of California – Davis, and the University of Saint Augustine Health Sciences 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 Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Warmington, to approve the requests. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.

12. **ACT AGREEMENT.** Regent Hickman presented Item #12, which is a request to approve the 2025-26 ACT agreement. For the 2025-2026 academic year, it is expected that over 40,000 tenth-grade students across both public and private schools will have the opportunity to take the Pre-ACT assessment. The cost will not exceed \$567,000. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion



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

13. **E&G BUDGET.** Regent Hickman presented Item #13, which is a request to approve the allocation of state appropriated funds to institutions and programs for FY26, and he asked Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Mark Tygret to explain the item. Vice Chancellor Tygret discussed the reallocation of \$11.5 million in at-risk funding for STEM and health programs, concurrent enrollment funding, Oklahoma's Promise funding, property and casualty insurance funding, deferred maintenance, and funding for legislative initiatives. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the allocation of state appropriated funds. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.
14. **TUITION AND FEES.** Regent Hickman presented Item #14, which is a request to approve FY26 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Principles and Guidelines for dissemination to state system institutions. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
15. **EPSCoR.** Regent Hickman presented Item #15, which is a request to approve EPSCoR matching funds in the amount of \$50,000 to participating institutions for NASA EPSCoR projects. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
16. **CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.**
  - a. Regent Hickman presented Item #16-a, which is a request to approve purchases exceeding \$100,000 for FY2025. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.

- b. Regent Hickman presented Item #16-b, which is a request to approve purchases exceeding \$100,000 for FY2026. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
17. **ENDOWMENT.** Regent Hickman presented Item #17, which is a request to approve the renaming of an endowment account within the portfolio as requested by Western Oklahoma State College based upon review of the donor agreement. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.
18. **INVESTMENTS.** Regent Taylor presented Item #18, which is a request to approve new investment managers. He noted that the Investment Committee met with representatives from Mercer in person the previous day and recommend three new managers for consideration. The first is Great Hill Equity Partners XI in the amount of \$12,000,000. This firm seeks growth buyout companies in targeted segments within the Digital Media, eCommerce, Internet Infrastructure, Financial IT, Healthcare IT and Software. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve \$12,000,000 for Great Hill Equity Partners XI. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, and Adwon. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Taylor noted the second recommendation is JMI Equity XII in the amount of \$10,000,000. This private equity fund will target structured preferred equity investments and execute a strategy in North American software and technology-enabled service businesses. Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve \$10,000,000 for JMI Equity XII. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, and Levit. Voting against the motion were none. Finally, Regent Taylor noted presented the third recommendation to submit a conditional “indication of interest” for Lead Edge Capital VII in the amount of \$10,000,000, subject receipt of the final due diligence report

from Mercer. Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to submit an indication of interest in the amount of \$10,000,000 for Lead Edge Capital VII subject to a satisfactory due diligence report from Mercer. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.

19. **COMMENDATIONS.** Vice Chancellor for Administration Kylie Smith presented the following staff for commendations: Dr. Stephanie Baird, Dr. Colbi Beam, Jay Kretchmar, Matthew Lann-Wolcott, Kelli Kelnar, Brittney Morgan, and Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp. Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, to recognize staff for service on state and national projects. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.

20. **CONSENT DOCKET.** Regent Levit moved, seconded by Regent Adwon, 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 77.
- b. Contracts and Purchases. Possible action to ratify purchases exceeding \$25,000 but less than \$100,000. Page 79.
- c. Personnel. Possible action to ratify personnel appointment. Page 81.

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

21. **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. Page 89.
- b. Annual Reports.

- (1) Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Program 2024-25 Year-End Report. Page 91.
- (2) Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Chiropractic Education Scholarship Program 2024-25 Year-End Report. Page 97.
- (3) Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the William P. Willis Scholarship 2024-25 Year-End Report. Page 99.

Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, and Casey. 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, 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.

- ## 23. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
- Chris Turner, Interim General Counsel, advised Regents that an executive session was needed pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the board and its attorney(s) concerning: (a) Black Emergency Response Team, et al. v. Drummond, et al., Case No. 5:21-cv-01022-G in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; and (b) EEOC Charge #564-2024-02714; and pursuant to 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 Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to enter executive session. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none. Regents entered executive session. Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to exit executive session. Voting for the motion were Regents Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Sherry, Casey, Taylor, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none. Regents entered executive session.

24. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING.** Chair Casey announced that the next regular meetings are scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents' office in Oklahoma City.

25. **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