

**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

655 Research Park in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT 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 Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 and amended on January 8, 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 Dustin J. Hilliary, Jeffrey W. Hickman, Jack Sherry, Dennis Casey, Steven W. Taylor, Phillip Mitchell “Mitch” Adwon, Ken Levit. Regents Michael C. Turpen and Courtney Warmington were absent. Regent Courtney Warmington entered the meeting at 9:16 a.m.
3. **TUITION.**
  - a. **Tuition and Mandatory Fees Review.** Review of 2025-26 institutional tuition and mandatory fee requests. Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Mark Tygret reviewed institutional requests for tuition and mandatory fee increases. He reported that the system-wide average proposed increase for resident undergraduate tuition and fees is 1.19 percent, or approximately \$121.80 annually for 30 credit hours. He noted that these requests remain below regional and national peers, at 77.6 percent of their levels.
  - b. **Institutional Presentations.** College and University presidents presented tuition and mandatory fees.

**University of Oklahoma.** President Joseph Harroz presented his request for a tuition and fee increase of 3.0 percent, which would be a \$9.80 increase per credit hour. This additional funding will go toward items in the university’s strategic plan, including faculty salaries. President Harroz reported that there has been a 27 percent reduction in average annual net tuition and fee costs for resident undergraduates compared to six years ago.

**East Central University.** President Wendall Godwin presented his request for a tuition and fee increase of 3.8 percent, which would be a \$10.00 increase per credit hour. This request consists of a \$6 tuition increase per credit hour to address inflation in mandatory costs, employee salaries, and healthcare insurance; a \$3 infrastructure fee increase per credit hour to fund improvements and repairs to aging instructional buildings and student housing; and a \$1 technology fee increase per credit hour to maintain equipment and cover the cost of cybersecurity insurance.

**Northeastern State University.** President Rodney Hanley presented his request for a tuition and fee increase of 3.0 percent, which would be a \$7.70 increase per credit hour.

The additional funding will go toward maintaining campus facilities and employee healthcare insurance. He reported that health insurance premiums increased by 15.3 percent last year.

**Northwestern Oklahoma State University.** President Bo Hannaford presented his request for a tuition increase of 3.5 percent, which would be an \$8.75 increase per credit hour. President Hannaford reported that NWOSU has sustained a flat tuition rate for the last five years. The increase will cover employee health insurance, accreditation dues, and governing board assessments.

Regents took a brief break at 10:28 a.m. Chair Casey called the meeting back to order at 10:32 a.m. Present for the meeting were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Hilliary, and Sherry. Regents Turpen and Hilliary were absent. Regent Hilliary re-entered the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

**Southeastern Oklahoma State University.** President Thomas Newsom presented his request for a tuition increase of 3.6 percent, which would be a \$9.00 increase per credit hour. Funding will go toward increasing healthcare costs for employees.

**Southwestern Oklahoma State University.** President Diana Lovell presented her request for a 3.0 percent tuition increase, which would be a \$7.34 increase per credit hour. This funding will go toward covering employee health insurance and salaries.

**University of Central Oklahoma.** President Todd Lamb presented his request for a tuition increase of 2.6 percent, which would be a \$7.53 increase per credit hour. This funding will go toward faculty promotions, employee healthcare insurance, and contract escalations. It will also help offset inflation and reduce UCO's deficit.

**Langston University.** President Ruth Ray Jackson presented her request for a tuition and fee increase of 3.0 percent, which would be a \$6.93 increase per credit hour. The need for an increase stems from a change in student enrollment mixes, inflation outpacing state appropriations, and several unplanned capital expenses due to infrastructure failures.

**Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College.** President Kyle Stafford presented his request for a 2.9 percent tuition increase, which would be a \$5.00 increase per credit hour. This funding will help cover mandatory campus costs, IT expenses, health insurance premiums, and faculty and staff salaries.

**Connors State College.** President Ron Ramming presented his request for a tuition increase of 0.6 percent, which would be a \$1.00 increase per credit hour. This request consists of a \$4 tuition increase and a \$3 fee decrease. Funding will go toward employee health insurance and faculty and staff salaries.

Regents recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. Chair Casey called the meeting back to order at 12:27 p.m. Present for the meeting were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Hilliary, and Sherry. Regents Turpen, Hilliary, and Hickman were absent. Regent Hickman re-entered the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

**Western Oklahoma State College.** President Chad Wiginton presented his request for a tuition increase of 3.2 percent, which would be a \$5.00 increase per credit hour. This funding will go toward covering employee health insurance.

**Oklahoma City Community College.** President Mautra Jones presented her request for a tuition increase of 8.0 percent, which would be a \$10.77 increase per credit hour. She noted that OCCC had kept tuition and fees flat for seven consecutive years, but an increase is now necessary. Funding will go toward utilities, insurance costs, and maintaining competitiveness.

**Rose State College.** President Travis Hurst presented his request for a tuition increase of 2.3 percent, which would be a \$3.78 increase per credit hour. This will be Rose State College's first tuition increase since FY2021. Funding will be reinvested into academic programming, student services, and the core operational functions that support the student experience.

**Seminole State College.** President Lana Reynolds presented her request for a tuition increase of 3.1 percent, which would be a \$5.00 increase per credit hour. This is the first tuition increase in three years. The request consists of a \$2 tuition increase and a \$3 safety fee increase. Funding will go toward employee health insurance premium costs and safety upgrades such as cameras, door locks, and retaining campus police officers.

**Murray State College.** President Tim Faltyn presented his request for a tuition increase of 2.3 percent, which would be a \$4.20 increase per credit hour. This funding will go toward health insurance, water utilities, and electric utilities.

Regents took a brief break at 1:25p.m. Chair Casey called the meeting back to order at 1:30 p.m. Present for the meeting were Regents Casey, Taylor, Hickman, Adwon, Levit, Warmington, Hilliary, and Sherry. Regents Turpen and Hilliary were absent.

4. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Mark Tygret presented the Regents with an update on the state budget and revenue. He expects revenue to end close to where it was predicted. Income tax adjustments will take effect in January 2026. The full score on an annualized basis will be about \$340 million.
5. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Government Relations Dr. Jarrett Jobe provided the Regents with an overview of current legislative topics. He reported that there were major policy changes in the Oklahoma's Promise bill. The University of Oklahoma's tutoring program and the Oklahoma Rising Scholars program were signed by the Governor. He announced that the legislative visits will start in August and go into the fall. He reported that workforce meetings continue to move forward and that several institutions applied for and received workforce grants.
6. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Mr. Chris Turner, Deputy General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, advised State Regents that an executive session was needed at this time pursuant to: (1) 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; (b) EEOC Charge #564-2024-02714, if the board, with the advice of its attorney, determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the board to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest; and, (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 Sherry moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to enter into executive session. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Warmington, Adwon, Taylor, Casey, Levit, and Turpen. Voting against the motion

were none. Regent Hilliary re-entered the meeting at 1:53 p.m. Following the executive session, Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to exit executive session and return to the open meeting. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Casey, Taylor, Levit, Warmington, Hickman, and Hilliary. Voting against the motion were none.

10. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION.”** Regents received the update on institutional activities via e-mail on June 24, 2025.
11. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** The calendar of events was distributed in written form to the Regents.
12. **ADJOURN.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



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Dennis Casey, Chair



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Steven W. Taylor, Secretary