

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
655 Research Park in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**
Wednesday, October 22, 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 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, in the Physical Therapy Building – Multipurpose Room 142 of Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, and amended on October 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 Courtney Warmington called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Ken Levit, Jack Sherry, Steven W. Taylor, Dennis Casey, Courtney Warmington, and Phillip Mitchell “Mitch” Adwon. Regents Jeffrey W. Hickman, Dustin J. Hilliary, and Michael C. Turpen were absent. Regent Hilliary entered at 10:35 a.m. Regent Hickman entered at 10:49 a.m.
3. **PRESIDENT’S WELCOME.** President Ruth Ray Jackson welcomed the State Regents and attendees to the historic Langston University campus and noted that the afternoon campus tour would highlight Langston’s land-grant mission. She recognized several students in attendance and introduced Jasilyn Spivey, a graduating senior, to share the impact that attending Langston University has had on her life. Ms. Spivey reflected on her time at LU, including the organizations she joined and the offices she held. In response to Regent Warmington’s question about her future plans, she shared that she intends to pursue a master’s degree in public administration and hopes to work with the Oklahoma City Thunder, where she currently serves as a college ambassador. Regent Casey asked which Oklahoma Student Government Association legislation she was most proud of; Ms. Spivey noted her work on NIL-related legislation and the value of becoming more informed on the issue.
4. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**
 - a. Langston University. President Jackson provided an institutional update beginning with a brief history of Langston University. She reported that Fall 2025 headcount enrollment increased by 1.1 percent to 1,959 students, including 585 freshmen – a 4.7 percent increase – with 504 Oklahoma residents enrolled. She highlighted the celebration of the 135th anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1890. She emphasized the role of cooperative extension and the state-match program supporting Langston’s mission in teaching, research, and outreach. She credited the State Regents and Legislature for achieving the 1:1 state-to-federal match in FY25 and continuing it in FY26. This additional funding will allow LU to expand its extension presence from 21 to 48 counties, increasing student opportunities for undergraduate research, mentorships, competitive internships, scholarships, and career placements. She stated that academic programs remain closely aligned with workforce demand, particularly in business, computer science, education, agriculture, natural sciences, and health. LU is engaging industry advisory boards to ensure curriculum relevance and has increased employer presence on

campus through partnerships with organizations such as Teach for America and Arvest Bank, which assist students with résumé preparation, interview skills, and professional headshots. Students also benefit from internships with Tinker Air Force Base, USDA, OG&E, and hospitals and media companies across the state. To promote access and affordability, LU hosts Roaring Registration nights and financial aid workshops and provides scholarships and emergency grants through the LU Foundation, in addition to pursuing grants that support graduate and undergraduate research stipends. President Jackson reported ongoing strategic partnerships with local governments, nonprofits, and industry leaders, including collaborations to expand agricultural research, urban outreach, and STEM pipeline development. Through the Tulsa Higher Education Consortium, LU is working with Tulsa-area institutions to strengthen transfer pathways, advising, and shared support services. She highlighted LU's nationally ranked rehabilitation counseling graduate program and the Doctor of Physical Therapy program's 100 percent employment rate. In response to Regent questions, President Jackson noted that LU's concurrent enrollment offerings are not yet robust but continue to be explored, and she identified facility funding as the institution's greatest challenge, estimating approximately \$150 million in remaining deferred maintenance needs despite appreciation for recent state support. She added that geographic location remains a significant institutional strength. Regents encouraged expanded adjunct recruitment from local high school teachers for concurrent courses and requested a list of counties participating in extension programs.

- b. Oklahoma Panhandle State University. President Dinger reflected on Chancellor Burrage's recent visit to OPSU and expressed her interest in hosting a future regents' meeting. She highlighted OPSU's recognition as the first Oklahoma institution to win the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture National Championship, noting that the award reflects students' mastery of industry-standard skills. She also recognized OPSU's success in rodeo, track, shooting sports, and livestock competitions, as well as individual honors, including Executive Director of the Panhandle State Foundation Chy Black being named a 2025 Cowgirl 30 Under 30 and Head Rodeo Coach Shelby Rose earning her fifth Central Plains Coach of the Year award. President Dinger reported that OPSU has refocused on in-person recruitment and achieved a 15-point increase in first- and second-year retention since 2022, bringing this year's rate to 62 percent. She emphasized the need for deferred maintenance funding, as most campus buildings date to the 1960s. She outlined the Panhandle Path Forward strategic priorities – academic program innovation, administrative excellence, technology and data governance, and revenue and partnership development – and noted employer concerns about gaps in basic and technical skills. In response, OPSU launched Panhandle Tech, providing career-ready certifications for high school students, and is finalizing an MOU to expand Diesel and Power Mechanics programs into Guymon Public Schools. Additional initiatives include an industry-designed STEM program and multiple efforts to address the teacher shortage through Inspired to Teach, Panhandle Promise, Future Educators Day, and GEER II funding that supported 24 adults in earning certification. She discussed OPSU's demographics, including its growing Hispanic population, and noted expanded internship opportunities in agriculture-business facilities and strengthened career services. OPSU continues to receive national recognition for affordability, ranking first in Oklahoma by Nasdaq, with 99 percent of incoming students receiving aid in 2025-26. OPSU also partnered with community colleges on the OPSU pathways nursing scholarship, allowing RN graduates to complete their degrees at the same tuition rate they paid previously. Additional community partnerships include Golden Mesa Casino Hospitality, PTCI Telecommunications, Harrison Energy and Vybe Energy AI Pilot, and deferred maintenance initiatives. In response to a question from Regent Hickman, President Dinger reported that Texas leads OPSU's out-of-state enrollment. She expressed appreciation to the State Regents for providing access to the Lightcast data dashboard.

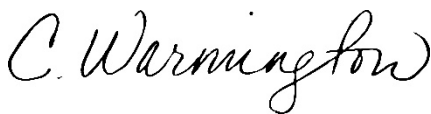
The State Regents recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m. They reconvened at 12:41 p.m. Present were Regents Warmington, Levit, Casey, Hickman, and Taylor. Regent Adwon entered at 12:42 p.m. Regent Sherry entered at 12:43 p.m. Regent Hilliary entered at 12:46 p.m.

5. **BLUEPRINT 2030.** Update on initiatives aligned with Blueprint 2030 strategic plan.
 - a. **Low-Producing Programs Review (Strategy #16B).** Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp reported that 357 programs across the system were identified as low-producing. Of those, 41 will be deleted and 20 suspended, leaving 296 that institutions intend to retain. Among the retained programs, 204 operate at shared or no cost, 15 are already engaged in collaboration, 26 will be restructured, and 51 will submit plans for program growth. Regent Hickman and Chancellor Burrage agreed that an update on this initiative would be valuable to share with all Regents at the November 18 Regents Education Program. In response to Regent Casey's question about follow-up, Dr. Beauchamp explained that institutions proposing to grow their programs will submit timelines and descriptions outlining their planned actions.
 - b. **Common App/Direct Admissions (Strategy #5E).** Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Joel Kendall provided an update on the Common App for direct admissions, noting that after evaluating its strengths and weaknesses, OSRHE will pause pursuing this option. Key barriers include significant institutional costs and staffing demands associated with a potential surge in applications. He reported that staff consulted with other states to explore alternatives, including sending pre-admission letters to students – an approach that mirrors some benefits of the Common App by simplifying the admissions process for students who may be unfamiliar with or uncertain about college eligibility. In response to a question from Regent Warmington, Dr. Kendall clarified that “pre-admitted” means a student is qualified for admission to the institution, though not to a specific program. Implementation steps include securing student data from the State Department of Education and estimating mailing costs, with an anticipated launch in Fall 2027. He added that students receiving a pre-admission letter would still be required to submit a formal application and pay the application fee..
6. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Nick Hathaway presented the Regents with an update on the state budget and revenue. He reported that the budget over the last three months has been up above last year's. September's year-over-year collections are mostly up. The gross production related taxes are 5 percent above last year and income related taxes are up 8 percent. However, sales related taxes are down with the grocery tax being a contributing factor. He also reported that employment has been strong across Oklahoma for the last year.
7. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Government Relations Dr. Jarrett Jobe provided an overview of current legislative activity. He reported that he and Chancellor Burrage have completed legislative tour visits to Bartlesville, Tulsa, Durant, Bristow, Lawton, Elk City, Clinton, Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Enid, with upcoming stops in Poteau and Atoka. He noted that all higher education-related interim studies at the Capitol have concluded, with presentations this year by Dr. Kendall and Vice Chancellor Hathaway. OSRHE participated in a concurrent enrollment study, sharing data and operational updates; while no legislation is currently pending, key issues include reimbursement rates, program growth, and budget implications. Additional interim studies examined funding models across K–12, career tech, and higher education, as well as institutional funding, particularly for rural institutions. Dr. Jobe and Dr. Cass Minx, Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce & Economic Development, presented at a workforce interim study and commended OSRHE's data team for its contributions. He reported that institutions are likely to see flat,

annualized budgets supplemented by one-time payments, and no budget cuts are anticipated at this time. Dr. Jobe also reminded Regents of the upcoming regional legislative tours scheduled for December 5, 8, 11, and 15. In response to Regent Casey, he provided an update on the property insurance issue, noting a recent meeting with Insurance Commissioner Glen Mulready to discuss potential strategies to stabilize costs.

8. **CAMPUS SAFETY & SECURITY TASK FORCE.** Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications Angela Caddell reminded the Regents about the upcoming Campus Safety and Security Summit on November 12 at the University of Central Oklahoma. The keynote speaker will be Timothy Longo, Chief of Police at the University of Virginia. He will present a case study of a previous campus tragedy regarding incident responses, recovery, failures and successes, and lessons learned. Other topics that will be discussed are how to interact with individuals on the autism spectrum, business continuity planning, unifying campus emergency operations, suicide prevention and intervention, the Stop Campus Hazing Act and others. All the sessions will be repeated at least once to ensure all attendees can access all the content. All the content is also CLEET accredited. Regent Hickman asked how the campus safety funding, if appropriated, would be distributed for campus safety and security purposes. Chancellor Burrage proposed that it be distributed based on need since needs vary across the campuses.
9. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Mr. Chris Turner, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, advised State Regents that an executive session was not needed at this time.
10. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION.”** Regents received the update on institutional activities via e-mail on October 21, 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:



Courtney Warmington, Chair



Steven W. Taylor, Secretary