

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

MINUTES

Eight Hundred and Fifty-second Meeting



October 23, 2025

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CONTENTS

Announcement of Filing of Meeting and Posting of the Agenda	20348
Call to Order	20348
Minutes of Previous Meetings	20348
Comments from the Chair.....	20348
Comments from the Chancellor	20349
President's Welcome	20349
State System Institutional Update.....	20350
New Programs.....	20350
Intensive English Program.....	20352
State Authorization	20352
Oklahoma's Promise.....	20352
E&G Budget.....	20353
Revenue Bonds	20353
Fiscal Policy.....	20353
EPSCoR	20353
Contracts and Purchases	20354
Endowment	20354
Investments	20354
Legislative Agenda	20354
Fall 2025 Preliminary Enrollment Report.....	20355
Employment Outcomes Report.....	20355
Consent Docket.....	20356
Reports	20356
Report of Committees	20357
Proposed Executive Session	20357
Announcement of Next Regular Meeting	20357
Adjournment	20357
Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes.....	20358

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**Minutes of the Eight Hundred and Fifty-second Meeting
of the
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education**

October 23, 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, October 23, 2025, at the University of Central Oklahoma, Nigh University Center – Heritage Room (100 N. University Drive, Edmond, OK 73034). Notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on 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 9:00 a.m. and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Dennis Casey, Courtney Warmington, Ken Levit, Jeffrey W. Hickman, and Steven W. Taylor. Regents Phillip Mitchell “Mitch,” Michael C. Turpen, and Dustin J. Hilliary were absent. Regent Dustin J. Hilliary entered the meeting at 9:30 a.m.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the minutes of the State Regents’ meetings in September 2025. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Warmington, Levit, Casey, Hickman, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.** Chair Warmington thanked Langston University, President Ruth Ray Jackson, the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents, and the Langston staff for hosting the State Regents and showcasing the Sherman Lewis School of Agriculture and Applied Science, including its research and farm facilities. She noted the visit

highlighted Langston's strong commitment to agricultural innovation and hands-on learning. She also thanked President Lamb, the Regional University System of Oklahoma Regents, and the University of Central Oklahoma team for hosting the Regents for dinner and today's meeting, noting the group looks forward to touring the Forensic Science Institute. Chair Warmington concluded by sharing that she recently spoke to the Enid Rotary Club and will speak next week at the Oklahoma Education Policy Conference, continuing to highlight the system's progress in aligning education and workforce.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR.** Chancellor Burrage began by echoing Chair Warmington's appreciation to Langston University and the University of Central Oklahoma for hosting the State Regents' meetings, noting it is always a privilege to visit campuses and see firsthand the important work taking place across the state system. He shared that over the past month, he has met with several legislators in their home districts to discuss higher education priorities, describing those conversations as productive and reaffirming a shared commitment to strengthening Oklahoma's workforce and expanding student opportunities. Chancellor Burrage also spoke to the Woodward Rotary Club about higher education's role in driving economic growth and innovation, thanking Regent Hickman for joining him for that event. While in western Oklahoma, he visited Oklahoma Panhandle State University and commended the institution's efforts to meet regional workforce needs. He highlighted two positive updates that would be discussed later in the meeting: a 3.6 percent increase in statewide headcount enrollment compared to last fall, with growth across all tiers of institutions; and new employment data showing that 91 percent of resident graduates and over half of non-resident graduates are employed in Oklahoma one year after graduation, demonstrating higher education's impact on retaining and importing talent to the state.
6. **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME.** President Todd Lamb welcomed Regents to UCO. He introduced a student – Kaitlyn Kraft – who is a graduating senior with a bachelor of science in biology. Kaitlyn explained her reasons for attending UCO. She explained the activities she's been involved with while at UCO, including service as executive director of Broncho-Thon. She's applied to medical school and looks forward to continuing her education to become a pediatrician or OBGYN. She plans to stay and work in Oklahoma.

7. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE.** President Todd Lamb provided an update on institutional activities aligned with Blueprint 2030. He discussed Old North, which is the oldest building on campus. President Lamb mentioned UCO has over 4,000 internships. UCO has a strong economic impact. President Lamb mentioned that UCO primarily educates Oklahoma residents, although it has students from 26 states and numerous countries. He discussed athletics, including the UCO football team, which won the championship last year. He noted that UCO leads the nation in undergraduate research. UCO has the premier ROTC program in Oklahoma. President Lamb discussed the goal of UCO becoming an R2 institution by 2032 and compared UCO to peer metropolitan universities. Regent Casey asked about capacity for growth at the institution. President Lamb noted that last year was the first year in 12 years with enrollment growth. Currently, there are 12,500 students. At its peak, UCO had 17,000. President Lamb's goal is to grow to 14,400 students. UCO has capacity to sustain growth. Chair Warmington asked about the biggest challenges. President Lamb would love to reach R2 designation much sooner than 2032. He also hopes to change Oklahomans perceptions of UCO. Regent Levit asked about how President Lamb is addressing the perception UCO. President Lamb responded that he is focusing on strengthening and adding partnerships. He gave the example of partnering with Deer Creek High School for concurrent enrollment. Regent Hickman noted that UCO leads the state in converting concurrent students into college students after high school graduation. Regent Hickman asked which of the metropolitan university peers would be closest to UCO in size. Dr. Barthell indicated Towson University in Baltimore would be most similar. Regent Hilliary asked about deferred maintenance needs. President Lamb thanked the Legislature for the deferred maintenance funding and discussed deferred maintenance needs on campus.

Regent Hilliary entered the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

8. **NEW PROGRAMS.**

a. **Oklahoma State University.** Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #8-a, which is a request from Oklahoma State University to offer the Master of Science in School Psychology, and asked Dr. Joel Kendall, Vice Chancellor for Academic and

Student Affairs, to explain the request. Dr. Kendall indicated that degree is a 36-40 credit hour program that will provide educational, psychological, and school psychometric foundations to school psychology students enroute to either the Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in School Psychology (291) or the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Educational Psychology (070) programs. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

- b. **University of Oklahoma.** Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #8-b, which is a request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Bachelor of Arts in World Languages and Cultures, and asked Dr. Joel Kendall, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the request. Dr. Kendall indicated that degree is a 120-credit hour program that will combine five language concentrations currently offered at OU and will develop both linguistic and cultural proficiency in the relevant areas. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
- c. **Oklahoma Panhandle State University.** Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #8-c, which is a request from Oklahoma Panhandle State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in STEM Studies, and asked Dr. Joel Kendall, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the request. Dr. Kendall indicated that degree is a 120-credit hour program that will provide an innovative, flexible, and multidisciplinary educational pathway that equips students with broad and adaptable STEM knowledge and skills. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
- d. **Seminole State College.** Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #8-d, which is a request from Seminole State College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in

Paralegal, and asked Dr. Joel Kendall, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the request. Dr. Kendall indicated that degree is a 60-credit hour program that will prepare students for employment as skilled legal assistants by providing practical training in legal research, writing, and procedures. Regent Hickman moved, seconded by Regent Casey, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, and Hilliary. Voting against the motion were none.

9. **INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM.** Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #9, which is request to approve the Center for English Language as a Second Language program at the University of Oklahoma for five years. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.
10. **STATE AUTHORIZATION.** Regent Casey presented Item #10, which is approval of requests from Biola University and Evangel University of the Assemblies of God for initial authorization to operate as degree-granting institutions in Oklahoma. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hilliary, to approve the requests. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.
11. **OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE.** Regent Casey presented Item #11, which is a request to approve a funding estimate of \$88.2 million for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship program for FY2027, and asked Dr. Joel Kendall Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to approve the request. Dr. Kendall explained the factors that were used to calculate the estimate and noted that the increased cost could be attributed to an increased number of students completing the Oklahoma's Promise requirements, extension of the deadline to enroll until December 31st of a student's 12th grade year, and expansion of eligibility to the children of K-12 teachers. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the requests. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.

12. **E&G BUDGET.** Regent Hilliary presented Agenda Item #12, which is a request to approve the FY27 appropriations request on behalf of the state system of higher education. The request includes an increase of \$57 million in strategic operational funding, representing an increase of 5.5% over the FY26 appropriation. It also includes \$21.5 million to support legislatively authorized initiatives, including programs such as the Strong Readers Act, concurrent enrollment tuition waivers, the Oklahoma Rising Scholars Award, and the National Guard Educational Assistance Program. The State Regents will advocate for institution-specific allocations totaling approximately \$349 million to address campus needs across the system, including deferred maintenance, workforce investments at our regional universities and two-year institutions, and research and capital projects at our research universities. Regent Hilliary asked Nick Hathawa, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, to explain the request in further detail. Regent Hilliary moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
13. **REVENUE BONDS.** Regent Hilliary presented Agenda Item #13, which is a request to certify to the Attorney General of Oklahoma that the Statements of Essential Facts for the University of Oklahoma, General Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2025A, in an amount not to exceed \$190,000,000, is substantially accurate. Regent Hilliary moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
14. **FISCAL POLICY.** Chair Warmington noted that Agenda Item #14 is the posting of revisions to Section 4.15.4 – Waiver of Tuition of the State Regents’ policy manual. The item is only for posting at this time.
15. **EPSCOR.** Regent Hilliary presented Agenda 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 Hilliary moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.

16. **CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.** Regent Hilliary presented Agenda Item #16, which is a request to approve purchases for amounts that exceed \$100,000. Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Casey, to approve the item. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Hilliary abstained.
17. **ENDOWMENT.** Regent Hilliary presented Agenda Item #17, which is a request to approve a distribution of 4.5% of the rolling average of June 30th market values totaling to the amount of \$38.3 million for fiscal year 2025, and \$6.8 million for prior years' carryover – totaling approximately \$45.2 million – for institutional expenditure from eligible Endowment Trust Fund accounts and approve the corresponding account reports for the year-ended June 30, 2025. Regent Hilliary moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the item. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.
18. **INVESTMENTS.** Regent Taylor presented Agenda Item #18 and noted that the endowment fund made possible the \$45 million distribution to institutions approved in the previous agenda item. He reported that the fund currently totals \$1.32 billion, reflecting a 10.4% annual return over the past year. The Investment Committee met with Mercer consultants earlier in the week and there are no new recommendations this month. Regent Hickman noted that based on discussion in the Budget Committee meeting, State Regents' staff would survey the institutions to ensure that donor intent is being met with the expenditure of endowment distributions at institutions.
19. **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.** Regent Sherry presented Agenda Item #19, which is approval of the State Regents' 2026 Legislative Agenda, and asked Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, to explain the item. Vice Chancellor Jobe presented the 2026 Legislative Agenda, outlining key priorities for the upcoming session, including advancing workforce alignment through credentials of value, outcomes tracking, and adult learner support; strengthening campus research capacity and partnerships; updating the Oklahoma's Promise program to expand eligibility and modernize requirements; addressing rising property insurance costs across institutions; enhancing campus safety and

cybersecurity; and refining the concurrent enrollment program. Regent Sherry moved, seconded by Regent Casey, to approve the item. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.

20. **FALL 2025 PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT REPORT.** Regent Sherry presented Agenda Item #20, which is a request to acknowledge receipt of the Fall 2025 Preliminary Enrollment Report and asked Dr. Stephanie Baird, Associate Vice Chancellor for System Analysis and Reporting, to explain the report. Dr. Baird highlighted continued growth across Oklahoma's public colleges and universities. She reported that both headcount and full-time equivalent enrollment increased systemwide compared to Fall 2024, marking the fifth consecutive year of overall enrollment growth. Dr. Baird noted that first-time entering student enrollment also rose, with particularly strong gains at the research institutions. Concurrent enrollment continued its upward trend, with more high school students earning college credit through partnerships with public colleges and universities. Regent Casey asked about the breakdown between residents and non-residents. Dr. Baird noted the breakdown by tier, for a total of 75% students across the system being state residents. Regent Casey asked about tuition waivers for out-of-state students. Regent Levit commented that these enrollment numbers are something to celebrate, especially given public perceptions concerning the value of a college degree. Regent Sherry moved, seconded by Regent Hilliary, to acknowledge receipt of the report. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.
21. **EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES.** Regent Sherry presented Agenda Item #21, which is a request to acknowledge receipt of the 2024 Employment Outcomes Report and asked Dr. Cass Minx, Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce and Economic Development, to explain the report. Dr. Minx noted the report covers employment rates by degree level and field of study, median annual earnings one and five years after graduation, employment rates by degree level within critical occupations (STEM, engineering, nursing, and teaching) and employment outcomes of Oklahoma's Promise graduates. The 2024 study also supports national data that link salary to educational attainment. More than 91% of

Oklahoma resident graduates and over half of non-resident graduates are employed in state one year after graduation. Regent Casey asked about the engineering rates and if salaries are driving those lower rates. Dr. Minx confirmed that bordering states have higher salaries for engineers. Regent Taylor commented on the value of the report and thinks it should be shared broadly to promote higher education. Regent Sherry moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the item. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

22. **CONSENT DOCKET.** Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Casey, to approve/ratify the following routine requests which are consistent with State Regents' policies and procedures or previous actions:

- a. High School Course for College Admission. Possible action to ratify request to approve a high school course for college admission. Page 91.
- b. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Possible action to ratify institutional requests for annual renewal of participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Page 93.
- c. Contracts and Purchases. Possible action to ratify purchases exceeding \$25,000 but less than \$100,000. Page 95.
- d. Personnel. Possible action to ratify personnel appointments. Page 99.
- e. Resolutions. Possible action on resolutions honoring retiring staff member. Page 117.

Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Hilliary abstained from Item #22-c.

23. **REPORTS.** Regent Sherry moved, seconded by Regent Hilliary, to acknowledge receipt of the following Reports.

- a. Programs. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Current Status Report on New Program Requests. Page 119

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

24. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES.**

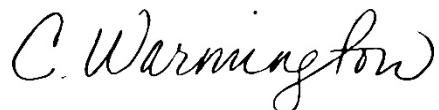
- a. Academic Affairs and Student Services Committee. The Academic Affairs and Student Services Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.
- b. Budget and Audit Committee. The Budget and Audit Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.
- c. Strategic Planning, Personnel and Technology 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.

25. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chris Turner, General Counsel, advised Regents that an executive session was not needed.

26. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING.** Chair Warmington announced that the next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents' office in Oklahoma City.

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

ATTEST:



Courtney Warmington, Chair



Steven W. Taylor, Secretary