OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

MINUTES

Eight Hundred and Fifty-sixth Meeting

April 16, 2026

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

April 16, 2026

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 16, 2026, in the Regents Conference Room of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education office (655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City). Notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on October 14, 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, Courtney Warmington, Dustin J. Hilliary, Ken Levit, Dennis Casey, Jeffrey W. Hickman, and Steven W. Taylor. Regents Phillip Mitchell "Mitch" Adwon and Michael C. Turpen were absent.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the minutes of the State Regents' meetings in March 2026. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

4. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.** Chair Warmington commented on several recent events and board matters. She noted that she attended the Association of Governing Boards National Conference on Trusteeship, where discussions focused on emerging issues in higher education, including artificial intelligence, academic innovation, workforce alignment, and governance best practices, and stated that the conference provided perspectives relevant to the work of the State Regents. She also referenced participation in

Higher Education Day at the Capitol and expressed appreciation to Governor Kevin Stitt, Senator Ally Seifried, Senator Adam Pugh, and Representative Mark Lawson for participating in the program. Chair Warmington remarked that the student speakers represented their institutions well and noted that the 2025 Distinguished Service Awards were presented during the event. She thanked Regents Hilliary and Hickman for attending. Chair Warmington further noted that the meeting would be the final meeting for Regents Hickman and Hilliary as members of the Board and expressed appreciation for their thoughtful leadership, commitment to the state system, and service to the State Regents. She stated that the Board would formally recognize them later in the meeting. Chair Warmington also announced that Governor Stitt had appointed Trevor Pemberton and Brian Beller to the Board, pending Senate confirmation, and stated that the Board looked forward to welcoming them at the May meeting.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR.** Chancellor Sean Burrage thanked Chair Warmington and the Regents for the thoughtful and engaged discussion during the previous day's meeting. He stated that the discussions regarding the proposed funding formula and 90-hour bachelor's degree initiatives were productive and emphasized the importance of carefully considering both issues due to their complexity and potential impact on Oklahoma higher education. Chancellor Burrage expressed appreciation for the Regents' engagement and noted that the opportunity to work with an engaged Board committed to long-term improvement in higher education was one of the reasons he was interested in serving as Chancellor. He also thanked Regents Hickman and Hilliary for their service and contributions to the work of the Board. Chancellor Burrage further reported that, since the last meeting, he had represented the State Regents and the state system at several events across the state and region. He noted that he spoke at the investiture of President Don Raleigh at Rogers State University and highlighted the institution's important role in its region. He also reported meeting with Valerie Greenhill to discuss ways the Southern Regional Education Board could serve as a resource for system initiatives. In addition, Chancellor Burrage stated that he participated in the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Student Awards Ceremony and the Oklahoma Association of College and University Business Officers spring conference. Chancellor Burrage concluded his remarks by expressing appreciation to the Oklahoma Legislature and Governor Kevin Stitt for

providing additional funding for the Oklahoma's Promise and Oklahoma Rising Scholars Award Program in the upcoming fiscal year budget. He noted that the investments would directly support student scholarships and expand access to higher education across the state.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING.** Chair Warmington introduced the next item as the annual public hearing on tuition and fees. Before hearing the public comments, Chair Warmington asked Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Nick Hathaway to review the tuition and fee items that are the focus of the testimony. Vice Chancellor Hathaway 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. Oklahoma's average resident tuition and fees remain below peer averages: 72.2% of the Big 12 average for research universities, 83.1% for regional universities, and 64.7% for community colleges. Vice Chancellor Hathaway also reported on academic services fee changes for FY2027. Nineteen of the state's 25 public institutions submitted a total of 269 requests—including 98 new fees, 111 modifications, and 60 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 Warmington reviewed the procedures and guidelines for the public hearing, noting that each speaker would be allotted three minutes for commentary. No members of the public requested an opportunity to speak during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

7. **NEW PROGRAMS.**

   a. **Northeastern State University.** Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #7-a, which is a request from Northeastern State University to offer the Specialist in Education in School Psychology, and asked Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that it is a 72-credit hour program that is designed to strengthen school-based mental health services, intervention capacity, and multi-tiered systems of support across the region. Regent Taylor asked Dr. Beauchamp to clarify what a "Specialist" designation is Dr. Beauchamp indicated educational specialist programs are between a master and a doctorate and these students will always have a master's degree. Regent Taylor asked about delivery format. Dr. Beauchamp indicated the program is hybrid with the majority offered traditionally. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.

b. **Rogers State University.**

(1) Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #7-b (1), which is a request from Rogers State University to offer the Master of Science in Automation, Data Analytics, and Sustainable Practices, and asked Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the request. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that the degree is a 30-credit hour program that will provide coursework and practical application in preparing learners to become automation/data professionals. Regent Taylor inquired how the program will be delivered, and Dr. Beauchamp responded that it is a fully online program, however, there could be some in person components depending on whether the student takes the thesis option. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Sherry, and Warmington. Voting against the motion was Regent Taylor.

(2) Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #7-b (2), which is a request from Rogers State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, and asked Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the item. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that the degree is a 121-credit hour program that will prepare highly qualified teachers to teach upper-level students (6th – 12th grade) in either public or private schools in Art, Biology, Business, Computer Science, English, Mathematics, Psychology/Sociology, and Social Studies.

Regent Warmington asked for clarification on the delivery format and about the typical delivery format for teacher education degrees across the state. Dr. Beauchamp clarified that the general education requirements can be taken in person or online and the major courses are offered in person. Regents discussed perspectives on online education. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, and Hilliary. Voting against the motion were none.

8. **PROGRAM DELETIONS.** Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #8, which is the approval of institutional requests for program deletions from the University of Oklahoma, Rogers State University, the University of Central Oklahoma, and Tulsa Community College, as listed in the agenda item. It appears that no students will be negatively impacted by the program deletions. Regent Casey noted these program deletions are a continuation of the State Regents work to reduce low-producing programs at state system institutions. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.

9. **ACADEMIC POLICY.**

a. Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #9-a, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to State Regents' policy 3.4 – Academic Program Approval. Regent Casey asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the policy revision process used by staff and involvement from institutions. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the item. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.

b. Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #9-b, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to State Regents' policy 3.9 – Institutional Admission and Retention. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the item. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.

c. Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #9-c, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to State Regents' policy 3.10 – Concurrent Enrollment. Regent Hickman asked about the provision for high school teachers to teach concurrent courses and whether this is new. Dr. Beauchamp indicated that the revision is putting into policy what is already occurring in practice and aligning with HLC policy. Regent Hickman raised an issue with what appears to be missing text in part of the policy revisions. Dr. Beauchamp responded that she will need to review the policy in greater detail to determine how to correct it. Regent Hickman also asked Dr. Beauchamp to explain the geographic service area provisions in the policy. He questioned whether the geographic service area provision is necessary. Regent Warmington stated that if there is uncertainty about the language in 3.10.7.a, there is no reason to vote on the policy today and recommended a vote to table to agenda item. Regent Hickman asked if the Regents have the power to amend a policy without going through the posting process. General Counsel Chris Turner recommended the practice of posting be followed by the Regents have power to revise policy without posting. Regent Hickman moved to table agenda item #9-c, seconded by Regent Hilliary. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

d. Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #9-d, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to State Regents' policy 3.12 – Grading. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the item. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.

e. Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #9-e, which is a request to approve proposed revisions to State Regents' policy 3.16 – Credit for Prior Learning. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the item. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.

10. **EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM.** Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #10, is the approval of a request from Northeastern State University and Connors State College to institute an early college program in partnership with Sequoyah High School with support from the Cherokee Nation. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hilliary, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, and Hilliary. Voting against the motion were none.

11. **GRANTS.** Regent Casey presented Agenda Item #11, which is a request to approve Full STEM Ahead grants for the 2026-27 academic year. A total of 12 projects totaling $73,203 are recommended for funding. These grants will provide STEM exploration opportunities for middle school students. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Hilliary, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, and Levit. Voting against the motion were none.

12. **STATE AUTHORIZATION**.

    a. Regent Casey presented Item #12-a, which is a request from Fielding University for initial authorization to operate as a degree-granting institution in Oklahoma. After reviewing the application and required documentation, State Regents' staff determined that this institution meets the authorization requirements established in our policy. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, and Casey. Voting against the motion were none.

    b. Regent Casey presented Item #12-b, which is the approval of requests from ATA College, Chamberlain University, Columbia College, and the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences for re-authorization to operate as degree-granting institutions in Oklahoma. After reviewing the application and required documentation, State Regents' staff determined that these institution meet the authorization requirements established in our policy. Regent Casey moved, seconded by Regent Levit, to approve the request. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.

13. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Nick Hathaway presented Agenda Item #13, which is the Budget Report and Revenue Update. Mr. Hathaway reported positive trends in the state economy, noting that state revenue collections had increased by approximately $485 million year over year. He reviewed the state's business conditions index and discussed indicators related to the future economic outlook. Mr. Hathaway explained that a business conditions index above 50 is generally considered indicative of economic growth and noted that the current index was 56.1. He stated that the overall economic health of the state appeared strong.

14. **E&G ALLOCATION.** Regent Hilliary presented Agenda Item #14, which is a request Item #14 is a request to approve the allocation of $663,561.61 to Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU CHS) and $663,561.61 the University of Oklahoma Health Campus (OUHC) 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 $118,947,722.77. Regent Hilliary moved, seconded by Regent Sherry, to approve the item. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

15. **MASTER LEASE PROGRAM.** Regent Hilliary presented Agenda Item #15, which is a request to authorize for submission to the Council of Bond Oversight the 2026 Equipment Master Lease Series. Projects from two entities total approximately $2,300,000. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.

16. **INVESTMENTS.** Regent Taylor provided a status update on the State Regents' investment portfolio and presented Agenda #16, which is a request to approve a new investment manager recommendation. It is recommended that the State Regents approve $10 million to Avalon BioVentures. The manager will source early stage, next-generation

therapeutics and drugs with the goal of improving patient outcomes and generating significant value for investors. Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve the recommendation. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.

17. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, provided the Regents with an update on current legislative activity. Dr. Jobe reported that a budget agreement had been signed and noted that, while the higher education system received a flat operating budget, additional funding was included for the Oklahoma's Promise and Oklahoma Rising Scholars Award Program programs. He stated that the State Regents had received positive feedback regarding the increased scholarship amounts for the Oklahoma Rising Scholars program and noted that the increases are viewed as an important strategy for retaining high-achieving students in Oklahoma for college. Dr. Jobe also discussed legislation related to concurrent enrollment credentials of value, accreditation, the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, and Oklahoma’s Promise. In addition, he reviewed several state questions expected to appear on the November general election ballot and provided an update regarding executive appointment confirmation hearings for Regents.

18. **HIGH SCHOOL INDICATORS REPORT.** Regent Sherry presented Agenda Item #18, which is a request to acknowledge receipt of the 2024 High School Indicators Report and asked Dr. Stephanie Baird, Associate Vice Chancellor for System Analysis and Reporting, to present the report. Dr. Baird noted that Section 13 of Senate Bill 183 requires the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to provide reports evaluating college-going rates, academic performance, ACT scores, and developmental education participation for Oklahoma public high school graduates. Dr. Baird reported that 45,637 students graduated from Oklahoma public high schools during the 2023-24 academic year and that 40.3 percent enrolled at an Oklahoma college or university during the 2024-25 academic year. She further noted that, using National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker data, an additional 6.5 percent of graduates enrolled at out-of-state institutions, resulting in an overall college-going rate of 46.8 percent for the 2024-25 entering cohort. Dr. Baird also reviewed data regarding the academic performance of first-time entering students,

reporting that 54.0 percent of first-time freshmen earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher in freshman-level coursework during Fall 2024 and that 78.0 percent earned at least a 2.0 GPA. She noted that students collectively completed more than 325,000 freshman-level credit hours, with over 91 percent earned by students with GPAs of 2.0 or higher. Dr. Baird then presented information regarding ACT performance for Oklahoma public high school graduates, stating that 42,965 graduates took the ACT in 2024 and that the statewide average composite score declined to 17.6. She further reported that only 11 percent of Oklahoma students met ACT college readiness benchmarks in all four subject areas and that only five percent met the ACT STEM readiness benchmark. Finally, Dr. Baird reviewed developmental education participation rates and reported that 28.7 percent of first-time entering students enrolled in at least one developmental education course in Fall 2024, including both traditional remedial coursework and co-requisite support courses. She explained that the report now includes co-requisite course enrollment data for the first time in order to provide a more comprehensive representation of developmental education participation and college readiness among entering students. Regent Sherry moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to acknowledge receipt of the report. Voting for the motion were Regents Levit, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, and Hilliary. Voting against the motion were none.

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

a. Contracts and Purchases. Possible action to ratify purchases exceeding $25,000 but less than $100,000. Page 125.

b. Personnel. Possible action to ratify personnel appointment. Page 127.

c. Resolutions.

(1) Resolution honoring the service of Regent Jeffrey W. Hickman. Page 135.

(2) Resolution honoring the service of Regent Dustin J. Hilliary. Page 137.

Voting for the motion were Regents Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Sherry, Warmington, Hilliary, and Levit. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Hilliary abstained from Item #19-a.

Chair Warmington recognized Regents Hickman and Hilliary and presented resolutions honoring both Regents for their service and leadership contributions to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and Oklahoma's state system of higher education. The resolutions recognized Regent Hickman's leadership as chair of the Board and chair of the Funding Formula Committee and recognized Regent Hilliary's leadership as chair of the Budget and Audit Committee. Both resolutions extended the title of "State Regent Emeritus" in recognition of their service and commitment to Oklahoma higher education and student success. Chair Warmington thanked both Regents for their leadership and service and opened the floor for comments from fellow Regents and the honorees.

20. **REPORTS.** Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to acknowledge receipt of the following Reports:

a. Programs. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Current Status Report on Program Requests. Page 139.

b. Annual Reports. Possible action to acknowledge receipt of the Current Operating Income and Expenditures, Oklahoma State Colleges and Universities, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Report. Page 141. (Supplement)

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

21. **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.

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

23. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING.** Chair Warmington announced next meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, May 29 at 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents office in Oklahoma City.

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

ATTEST:

Courtney Warmington, Chair

Steven W. Taylor, Secretary

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

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
Wednesday, April 15, 2026

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 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at the Presbyterian Health Foundation Conference Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on October 14, 2025, and amended on April 2, 2026. 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 1:00 p.m. and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Ken Levit, Jack Sherry, Steven W. Taylor, Dennis Casey, Courtney Warmington, Phillip Mitchell "Mitch" Adwon and Jeffrey W. Hickman. Regents Dustin J. Hilliary and Michael C. Turpen were absent.

3. **STATE REGENTS PERFORMANCE FUNDING FORMULA.** Discussion and update on progress toward the development of a new performance funding formula. Chair Warmington thanked Regent Hickman for his leadership in chairing the Funding Formula Committee for the past several years and expressed appreciation for his service alongside Regents Casey and Taylor. Chair Warmington introduced HCM Strategists consultants Tom Allison, Director of State Policy and Finance, and Brenae Smith, Associate Director. They provided a walkthrough of the latest iteration of the model and shared updates based on feedback received through the stakeholder engagement process. Chancellor Sean Burrage also thanked Regent Hickman for his service and work on the committee and board. Chancellor Burrage noted that most institutional funding has historically been driven by base allocations with limitations, including that the model does not account for enrollment changes and does not provide a meaningful pathway for institutions to increase funding when the overall higher education budget remains flat. He explained that the proposed model is intended to address those challenges by more closely aligning a portion of funding with enrollment, student success, and workforce outcomes while maintaining institutional stability through phased implementation and funding guardrails. He noted that no institution would experience more than a two percent reduction in funding in a single year and that only five percent of total appropriations would initially be subject to the model, gradually increasing over time. Chancellor Burrage stated that a clear outcomes-based model better positions higher education to demonstrate value and advocate for future investment. Director Allison reviewed the timeline for development of the new formula. In February 2026, OSRHE hosted engagement sessions with institutional councils and legislators. HCM developed recommended changes based on stakeholder feedback and circulated a proposal package to the Funding Formula Committee. Director Allison noted that the goal is for the Regents to consider the new model and begin implementation with future budget allocations following passage of the state budget. Regent Taylor commented that discussions regarding development of a new funding formula had actually been ongoing for approximately two years. Director Allison explained that Oklahoma has used the current performance-based funding formula since 2012, though it has only been used to distribute new appropriations, peaking at $29 million in FY24. He reviewed the guiding principles of the proposed model, stating that it is intended to support the Blueprint 2030 strategic plan, align with state priorities and initiatives, provide evidence-based incentives to improve student access and success, create a sustainable and consistent model, and strengthen the state system's ability to advocate for

increased funding. Director Allison reviewed the proposed framework for the model, which includes five primary components: core costs, enrollment, retention and success, opportunity, and workforce. Enrollment measures include first-time enrollment, headcount, adult students, Pell recipients, and academically underprepared students. Retention and success measures include student progression, transfer outcomes, on-time completions, and total completions. Opportunity measures focus on completions among Pell, adult, and academically underprepared students. Workforce measures include STEM and critical occupation completions, employment outcomes, and median wages of graduates employed in Oklahoma. Retention and success account for 30 percent of the framework, enrollment and workforce each account for 25 percent, and opportunity accounts for 20 percent.

Regent Hilliary entered the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Director Allison stated that the proposed model aligns with Governor Stitt's Executive Order 2026-08 regarding workforce and economic development alignment. He noted that the Executive Order also references research and development, innovation, technology transfer, intellectual property, affordability, system efficiency, and measurable return on investment for students. Director Allison stated that the formula would initially apply only to main campuses. Regent Hickman commented that funding formulas for constituent agencies would likely be considered in a future phase. Director Allison reviewed the phased implementation schedule, beginning with five percent of appropriations subject to the model in year one and increasing to 25 percent by year five. He also reviewed stakeholder feedback received from institutions and Regents. Concerns raised included institutional mission differences, the use of current base funding, and the impact of peer performance on institutional funding outcomes. Director Allison noted that the addition of enrollment measures and total completions, in addition to on-time completions, helped address some stakeholder concerns. Some institutions also suggested consideration of delaying implementation until FY28. Associate Director Smith reviewed the proposed three-tier institutional structure consisting of community colleges, regional universities, and flagship institutions. She explained that the model utilizes FY26 budget data and a three-year average of academic performance data from FY23 through FY25. She noted that no major institutional funding shifts are expected during the first year of implementation. Associate Director Smith stated that the estimated annual cost of a hold harmless provision to level-fund institutions would be approximately $1.7 million. Associate Director Smith also discussed ways institutions could improve outcomes under the proposed model, including strengthening recruitment efforts, increasing student retention and completion through student support services, and expanding STEM and critical occupation programs to improve workforce outcomes and employer partnerships. Regent Casey emphasized the importance of ensuring institutional funding stability. Director Allison responded that institutions should continue to receive increases in funding under the model, although increases may vary among institutions. Regent Hickman stated that the intent of the new funding formula was for it to be reviewed and adjusted as needed over time. Regent Warmington requested discussion comparing implementation with a year-one hold harmless provision versus delaying implementation until FY28. Director Allison discussed political and policy considerations associated with implementation timing and stated that a hold harmless provision may not be necessary if additional state appropriations are provided in FY28. Regent Taylor stated his support for implementing the model with the June 2026 allocations but expressed opposition to including a hold harmless provision. Regent Hilliary commented that a performance-based model may strengthen future legislative support for higher education funding. Regent Warmington also asked whether there were recurring concerns raised by stakeholders, and Director Allison discussed comments related to access metrics and the potential for future refinement of those measures.

4. **NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION TRNEDS.** Update and discussion on national trends and strategic issues in higher education, including, but not limited to, financial sustainability, academic innovations, degree policy, and workforce alignment. Senior Fellow and Consultant for the Association of Governing Boards Dr. Carlton Brown presented on the changing landscape in higher education. Top strategic issues for boards are reaffirming roles and responsibilities, developing and supporting higher education leaders, improving student access and success, ensuring institutional vitality, managing uncertainty, and renewing higher education's purpose.

The Regents meeting briefly recessed at 2:40 p.m. due to a fire alarm. The meeting reconvened at 2:52 p.m. Present for the meeting were Regents Levit, Sherry, Taylor, Casey, Warmington, Hilliary, and Hickman. Regents Adwon and Turpen were absent.

Dr. Brown discussed several factors contributing to stress on higher education business models, including thinning operating margins, deferred maintenance, increasing costs, limited student ability to pay, cash flow concerns, declining investment returns, and liquidity challenges. He also discussed demographic changes affecting higher education, including a declining K-12 student population and increasing student diversity. Dr. Brown noted that approximately 43.1 million adults in the United States have some college credit but no degree. Dr. Brown discussed the evolving and increasingly blurred roles among higher education institutions. He noted the continued growth of early college and concurrent enrollment programs, universities offering associate degree programs, and community colleges offering bachelor's degrees. He also discussed the increasing involvement of regional entities and businesses in developing educational programs, as well as the growth of online learning opportunities offered through major corporations. He stated that these developments contribute to changing perceptions regarding the traditional role of higher education. Dr. Brown also discussed competency-based education and the continued reliance on the traditional credit hour model. He noted that some employers no longer require college degrees for certain occupations. Potential responses discussed included relaxing credit transfer policies, expanding competency-based education models, strengthening industry alignment, developing stackable and integrated credentials, and expanding opportunities for experiential learning credit. At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Brown discussed considerations related to offering 90-hour bachelor's degree programs, including performance expectations, industry connectivity, personalization, support services, transferability, and compatibility with graduate and professional education pathways. He also discussed questions related to instructional delivery models, including competency-based versus credit-hour structures, expanded coaching and professional development support, internships and practica opportunities, industry integration, general education requirements, and online learning. Dr. Brown and the Regents also discussed the continued importance of traditional in-person learning opportunities alongside online education offerings.

5. **ADJOURN.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

C. Warmington

Courtney Warmington, Chair

Steven Taylor

Steven W. Taylor, Secretary