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

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
Wednesday, June 24, 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 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 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 Michael C. Turpen, Ken Levit, Jack Sherry, Brian Beller, Steven W. Taylor, Dennis Casey, Courtney Warmington, Phillip Mitchell "Mitch" Adwon, and Trevor Pemberton.

3. **TUITION.**

   a. **Tuition and Mandatory Fees Review.** Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Nick Hathaway briefly reviewed the institutional requests being brought forward. He stated that all the rates to be considered for the 2026-27 academic year are in compliance with the peer limits defined by statute. Including the proposals today, the institutions remain at a combined 73.4 percent of their peer averages. He also reported that nine institutions are not requesting an increase and will keep a flat tuition rate for the upcoming academic year. The system-wide average of those proposing increases is an average increase of 2.96 percent. The materials provided to the Regents are summaries of the requests from each of the institutions.

   b. **Institutional Presentations.**

      University of Oklahoma. President Joe Harroz presented the University of Oklahoma's tuition and fee request, which included a proposed 3.0 percent increase, or $10.15 per credit hour. President Harroz reported that OU has enrolled a record number of Oklahoma residents for the fourth consecutive year and that enrollment is growing at its fastest rate since 1975. He noted that 58 percent of OU students graduate debt-free, well above the national average. He also reported that 81 percent of graduates secure employment after graduation, with 58 percent employed in Oklahoma. President Harroz stated that OU's donor campaign has reached $1.92 billion, scholarship funding has increased 38 percent over the past six years, and need-based aid has increased 39 percent. He further reported that the average net price of attendance for Oklahoma students has decreased 20 percent during that period. Regent Casey asked how OU has managed increased enrollment and administrative costs. President Harroz responded that OU has reduced costs by $160 million since 2019. In response to a follow-up question from Regent Casey regarding reserves, President Harroz stated that OU's goal is to maintain reserves sufficient to cover 120 days of operations and that the university currently has approximately 99 days of cash on hand. Regent Turpen asked what OU is doing to help students reduce costs. President

Harroz explained that, among the 42 percent of students who graduate with debt, the average debt is slightly more than $32,000. Regent Taylor commended OU for reducing the number of online course hours offered. Regent Levit asked President Harroz about the benefits of concurrent enrollment. President Harroz stated that concurrent enrollment gives students a head start on completing their education and entering the workforce.

Oklahoma State University. President Jim Hess presented Oklahoma State University's tuition and fee request, which included a proposed 4.7 percent increase, or $14.60 per credit hour. President Hess reported that OSU launched a $2 billion comprehensive fundraising campaign in October 2025, with approximately half of the funds designated for scholarships. He discussed the importance of the university's research programs, partnerships, and extension services, as well as planned investments in essential information technology infrastructure. President Hess reported that nearly half of OSU students graduate without debt and stated that the university intends to increase that percentage significantly, while maintaining graduate employability as its primary goal. Regent Casey asked how OSU had increased its reserves. President Hess explained that integration across the university system contributed significantly and reported that OSU currently has approximately 119 days of cash on hand. Regent Taylor commended President Hess for OSU's reduction in online course hours. Regent Pemberton asked what tuition increase requests might look like over the next five years. President Hess responded that future requests would depend in part on the level of state funding available to offset operational costs but indicated that he anticipated additional tuition increases.

Rogers State University. President Don Raleigh presented Rogers State University's tuition and fee request, which included a proposed 4.1 percent increase, or $11.00 per credit hour. President Raleigh reminded the State Regents that RSU transitioned to a block tuition and fee model in 2024, under which students taking 12 or more credit hours pay the same tuition amount. He reported that 54 percent of RSU graduates had no student debt in 2025, an increase of 7 percentage points from the previous year and 13 percentage points from two years earlier. President Raleigh stated that revenue generated from the increase would support faculty hiring in business, chemical engineering, teacher education, and allied health to meet workforce needs in surrounding industries. He also explained that RSU strategically used deferred maintenance funding for HVAC improvements and other projects intended to reduce ongoing costs. Regent Taylor noted that 55 percent of RSU's credit hours are delivered online and asked whether that represented the university's long-term goal. President Raleigh responded that it did not, but explained that many RSU students are first-generation, commute to campus, or need flexible course options to accommodate their employment. Regent Turpen asked about the sources of RSU's enrollment growth. President Raleigh stated that he believed the increase was attributable to both concurrent enrollment and online students. Regent Casey asked why RSU was requesting a tuition increase given its healthy reserves. President Raleigh responded that the university must budget for future initiatives and necessary improvements and noted that RSU experienced two emergencies during the previous year for which its reserves allowed the university to be prepared.

Langston University. President Ruth Ray Jackson presented Langston University's tuition and fee request, which included a proposed 3.0 percent increase, or $7.14 per credit hour. President Jackson reported that most of the additional revenue would be used to offset increases in costs associated with inflation. She stated that state appropriations have not kept pace with inflation and that the university has experienced declining net margins from tuition, fees, housing, and food services. She noted that the most significant change to LU's

budget resulted from the expiration of federal stimulus funding, representing a 100 percent decrease in that revenue source. President Jackson also reported a decline in enrollment and stated that a portion of the additional revenue would support student recruitment efforts. She reported that the average student loan debt is approximately $26,000. Regent Turpen asked how LU specifically recruits students in Logan County. President Jackson explained that the university works directly with local principals and superintendents to build partnerships with area schools. Regent Casey asked how a tuition increase could assist the university amid enrollment increases or declines. President Jackson responded that student support services are essential to student success.

Oklahoma Panhandle State University. President Julie Dinger presented Oklahoma Panhandle State University's tuition and fee request, which included a proposed 2.4 percent increase, or $7.00 per credit hour. President Dinger reported that most OPSU students pay approximately $3,000 annually after scholarships and financial aid. She noted that OPSU launched an expanded scholarship program in 2025-26 that guaranteed scholarships for students entering with a 3.0 high school GPA. To reduce expenses, OPSU suspended or eliminated academic and athletic programs, renegotiated contracts, froze non-mission-critical positions and travel, and reduced hourly wage budgets. President Dinger reported that 89 percent of the 2026 graduating class had student loan debt, although most owed less than $12,000, and that 96 percent of graduates received some form of financial aid. She stated that state appropriations totaled approximately $7.3 million in 2007 compared with approximately $6.9 million currently, representing a 41 percent decline when adjusted for inflation. Regent Turpen asked how OPSU builds upon the diversity of its student body. President Dinger responded that the university focuses less on students' differences and more on what unites them. Regent Taylor asked why approximately 60 percent of OPSU's credit hours are delivered online. President Dinger explained that the majority are generated by the university's online RN-to-BSN program and that other fully online degree programs account for only a small portion of the total. She also noted that the Oklahoma Panhandle's population has declined significantly over the past 30 years and that expanding online education has helped sustain the university's operations. She added that Goodwell has fewer than 1,000 residents. Regent Pemberton expressed concern that increasing tuition could negatively affect recruitment. President Dinger responded that OPSU's recruitment strategy is focused on enrolling students the university can retain. Regent Casey asked whether the tuition increase was intended to address the operating budget or rebuild reserves following a recent decline. President Dinger explained that unforeseen circumstances had reduced the university's reserves and that OPSU was continuing to recover from those expenses.

Connors State College. President Ron Ramming presented Connors State College's tuition and fee request, which included a proposed 1.9 percent increase, or $3.00 per credit hour. President Ramming highlighted significant improvements in graduation rates and reported that the number of degrees conferred has doubled over the past five years. He stated that the proposed increase would generate approximately $135,000 if the college meets its enrollment goal. President Ramming reported that 30 percent of CSC students graduate with debt, with an average debt of approximately $11,500 per student. Regent Taylor asked whether maintaining a majority of credit hours online was the college's goal. President Ramming responded that the percentage was not intentional and was expected to decline during the next year. He explained that concurrent students account for the majority of CSC's online credit hours. Regent Taylor asked how CSC had used the $15 million donation from MacKenzie Scott. President Ramming reported that the full amount had been placed in the CSC Foundation's endowment, with $3 million designated for

scholarships. He added that partners had provided $120,000 in matching funds to date. Regent Casey asked why CSC was requesting a tuition increase given its healthy reserves and the significant donation received by the institution. President Ramming explained that CSC's reserve level was approximately 2 percent in 2016 and had since grown to approximately 23 to 25 percent.

University of Central Oklahoma. President Todd Lamb presented the University of Central Oklahoma's tuition and fee request, which included a proposed 3.5 percent increase, or $10.41 per credit hour. President Lamb stated that the request was driven in part by rising health insurance costs, which are expected to increase by more than 10 percent again in 2027. He reported that UCO had implemented several cost-saving measures, including reductions in faculty and staff that generated approximately $3.1 million in savings, a 5 percent reduction in operating budgets totaling approximately $2.5 million, a $1.1 million reduction in international student-related expenses, and efforts to minimize health care costs. President Lamb also reported that $250,000 provided through Presidential Partners and the UCO Foundation supports academic programs, classroom needs, infrastructure, equipment, and other institutional expenses. He stated that 50.7 percent of UCO graduates leave with debt, with an average debt of approximately $25,000. President Lamb also reviewed scholarship opportunities available to first-time students and discussed Broncho Bridge, a grant-funded student support program. He noted that UCO's ROTC program is the largest in Oklahoma and among peer institutions in neighboring states. Regent Casey asked why UCO was requesting a tuition increase given the positive condition of its reserves. President Lamb responded that the reserve was only slightly above the required minimum and that he wanted to preserve it for a true emergency. Regent Casey then asked about UCO's reserve goal. President Lamb stated that the university's immediate goal was to achieve a balanced budget and noted that enrollment had increased 7 percent year over year and freshman retention had increased 2 percentage points.

East Central University. President Wendell Godwin presented East Central University's request for a 3.4 percent tuition and fee increase, or $9.33 per credit hour. He attributed the request primarily to increases of nearly $700,000 in property insurance and $510,000 in health care costs. ECU has held travel, supply, and administrative expenses flat, eliminated two underperforming degree programs, implemented energy-saving measures, and ended its partnership with Online Management Group. Without the additional revenue, ECU would need to reduce expenditures by approximately $1.5 million, likely affecting personnel and student programs. President Godwin reported that ECU's enrollment increased 9.3 percent in 2025-26, making it the fastest-growing four-year institution in Oklahoma, and that reserves exceeded $5.8 million. He noted that 38 percent of spring graduates completed their degrees debt-free, while those with debt averaged $5,066. The ECU Foundation awarded more than $1.6 million in scholarships last year. Of ECU's $17 million gift from MacKenzie Scott, $12 million was invested through the Foundation and approximately $4.7 million was used for critical infrastructure needs. President Godwin explained that recurring tuition revenue is needed to address ongoing operating costs, while reserves must remain available for more than $40 million in deferred maintenance and other urgent needs. Regent Casey asked about the decline in reserves and the effect of enrollment growth on expenses. President Godwin attributed the reserve decline to construction of the STEM building and explained that enrollment growth increases service and maintenance costs. Regent Turpin asked about the Ada Student Attraction Scholarship. President Godwin stated that the City of Ada awards eligible full-time ECU students $1,000 each semester if they live on campus and work at least 10 hours per week in Ada.

Northeastern State University. President Rodney Hanley presented Northeastern State University's request for a 3.7 percent tuition and fee increase, or $10.00 per credit hour. He reported that NSU ranks eighth nationally for social mobility and has experienced enrollment growth for three consecutive years, allowing the Broken Arrow campus to expand into a four-year campus. NSU is also launching an online bachelor's degree in nursing and adding men's and women's wrestling and volleyball, initiatives expected to generate approximately $1.2 million in additional revenue. President Hanley stated that NSU has incurred more than $3 million in new costs, including nearly $2 million resulting from a 12.2 percent increase in health insurance premiums, as well as higher utility, contract, library, scholarship, and fee-waiver expenses. Cost-saving measures have included eliminating 19 faculty positions while maintaining an 18-to-1 student-faculty ratio, discontinuing underperforming academic programs, expanding shared services and statewide purchasing, implementing preventive maintenance, and modernizing the campus telephone system. He stated that, without the proposed increase, NSU would need to reduce its budget by approximately $1.1 million, potentially affecting positions, employee benefits, and growth initiatives. President Hanley reported that approximately 40 percent of graduates leave with debt, averaging $17,594. NSU's reserves exceed $14 million, although approximately 65 percent is restricted for specific purposes. He also reported that NSU received a $17 million gift from MacKenzie Scott, all of which was endowed, with approximately $500,000 supporting a new scholarship program. Regent Taylor asked about NSU's online credit hours. President Hanley explained that approximately 51 percent are fully online and that NSU is working to reduce exclusively online programs. Regent Levit asked about the Broken Arrow campus, and President Hanley reported that it enrolled 150 new students in January and was performing well.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University. President Bo Hannaford presented Northwestern Oklahoma State University's request for a 2.0 percent tuition and fee increase, or $5.25 per credit hour. He reported that approximately 15 vacant positions are currently generating about $145,000 in savings. Summer enrollment has increased approximately 5.5 percent, fall enrollment is currently up 1 to 2 percent, and overall enrollment has grown 20 percent in recent years. President Hannaford stated that mandatory increases in health insurance, property insurance, transportation, municipal trash services, and technology contracts total approximately $433,000. He reported that NWOSU's reserves are just under $4.5 million and stated that using reserves to cover recurring expenses would not be prudent. Regent Turpin asked about student debt. President Hannaford reported that approximately 61 percent of graduates leave with no debt and that average debt among those who borrow is approximately $16,000 to $17,000.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University. President David Whitlock presented Southeastern Oklahoma State University's request for a 3.5 percent tuition and fee increase, or $9.00 per credit hour. He reported that SE's enrollment has increased more than 60 percent over the past decade and that degrees conferred have increased more than 140 percent. Approximately 95 percent of fully online students are enrolled in graduate programs. President Whitlock stated that state appropriations per full-time-equivalent student declined from approximately $5,900 to $3,700 during the past decade, while the total budget per FTE declined approximately 12 percent. Students and families now provide 72 percent of SE's operating budget through tuition and fees. He reported that SE's composite financial index increased from 2.0 to 3.67 over the past decade and that its projected 2027 reserve balance is 8.26 percent. Even with the proposed increase, SE would remain the second-most affordable institution in the RUSO system. SE has saved approximately $340,000 by holding faculty positions vacant and reducing departmental

supplies, travel, and satellite-location expenses. Without the increase, SE would be unable to cover mandatory cost increases and two new faculty positions in business and nursing without further reducing operational expenses. Regent Taylor expressed concern that 76 percent of SE students take online courses. Regent Turpin asked about the source of enrollment growth, which President Whitlock attributed to new academic programs. Regent Casey asked why a fee increase was requested rather than a tuition increase. President Whitlock explained that the fee applies only to students in aviation programs. He attributed the decline in reserves to unexpected emergencies. Regent Levit asked about offering one statewide online MBA rather than multiple institutional programs. President Whitlock discussed differences in accreditation and price. Regent Pemberton asked about the relationship between affordability and online enrollment. President Whitlock stated that online education had been essential to the institution's continued viability. Regent Warmington discussed the advantages and disadvantages of online options.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University. President Joel Kendall presented Southwestern Oklahoma State University's request for a 2.5 percent tuition and fee increase, or $6.76 per credit hour. He reported that fall 2025 enrollment totaled 5,194 students, the fourth-highest level in 30 years, and that SWOSU awarded 1,465 degrees in FY2025, the highest number in 30 years. Approximately 90 percent of those graduates are employed in Oklahoma. President Kendall highlighted investments in the Hodge Center for Pharmacy and Rural Health, expanded nursing capacity through deferred maintenance funding, institutional partnerships, and programs addressing critical workforce needs. He attributed the request to projected increases of 12 percent in employee benefit costs and more than 20 percent in liability insurance, technology, and infrastructure expenses. President Kendall reported that 58 percent of students graduate without debt, while those with debt average $20,985. The SWOSU Foundation awards more than $2 million in scholarships, and 85 percent of students receive institutional aid. He stated that SWOSU is working to avoid another increase by growing enrollment and expanding scholarship support. The university's reserve balance is also gradually improving and is projected to reach 8.8 percent by FY2028.

University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. President Kayla Hale presented the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma's request for a 2.5 percent tuition and fee increase, or $7.00 per credit hour. She noted that USAO has not requested an increase since 2023 and reported that freshman enrollment increased 18 percent this year. The university's reserve is now in compliance with State Regents requirements. President Hale stated that 91 percent of students receive financial aid, including $5 million in institutional aid and approximately $3.8 million in Pell Grants. She reported that 41 percent of students graduate with debt, averaging $21,170. More than 65 percent of students live on campus, and USAO is reopening a residence hall closed since 2002, adding 166 beds, with another residential facility expected to reopen soon. President Hale stated that USAO projects 31 additional students, plans to award more President's Scholarships, and seeks to improve retention from 62 percent to 67 percent. The university also aims to achieve an employment rate above 88 percent and generate nearly $900,000 in net tuition and fee revenue. Regent Casey asked for clarification regarding the fee requests, and President Hale explained that the proposal included increases to existing fees rather than new fees.

Murray State College. President Tim Faltyn presented Murray State College's request for a 3.0 percent tuition and fee increase, or $10.15 per credit hour. He reported that enrollment has grown 43 percent over the past four years and that 94 percent of graduates enter the workforce in critical occupations. Degrees conferred increased from 361 in 2022 to 597 in

2026. President Faltyn stated that scholarships increased by $300,000 during the past year, including a 126 percent increase in scholarships provided by the MSC Foundation and a nearly 100 percent increase in tribal scholarships. Only 25 percent of graduates leave with debt, averaging $7,006. MSC has reduced costs through a new health care provider, shared services, technology and energy-efficiency improvements, elimination of low-enrollment programs, and removal of three full-time positions. The requested increase would help offset increases of 12 percent in health insurance premiums, 10 percent in risk management premiums, and 5 percent in electric and water costs. Regent Taylor asked about MSC's high percentage of online programs and students. President Faltyn explained that online education is part of the college's enrollment strategy and provides students flexibility while helping MSC compete with institutions in Texas. He added that many online students still use campus facilities. Regent Casey asked about the use of reserves, and President Faltyn reported that approximately $70 million in campus projects are underway with reserve support. Regent Levit requested an update on the gunsmithing program. President Faltyn reported that 15 students graduated this year and that the program continues to grow, with graduates entering law enforcement armorer positions, starting businesses, or working for firearms companies. Regent Adwon asked about rising utility costs, and President Faltyn noted that MSC began an energy-savings program last year to improve efficiency.

Rose State College. President Travis Hurst presented Rose State College's request for a 2.5 percent tuition and fee increase, or $4.29 per credit hour. He reported that RSC received a flat state appropriation of $18.6 million for FY2027 and that, without the hold-harmless provision, its allocation under the new funding formula would decline 1.1 percent. President Hurst stated that the request would help RSC prepare for future funding uncertainty while supporting instruction, academic and student services, and campus operations. The proposed fee increase would be the college's first since 2020. He reported that enrollment increased 6.7 percent over the previous year and degrees conferred increased nearly 16 percent. Approximately 42 percent of associate degree students are Pell-eligible, while 33 percent of graduates leave with debt averaging approximately $5,600. RSC has awarded more than $1 million through its Ticket to Rose program, $290,000 in Foundation scholarships, and more than $2.5 million in tuition waivers. Concurrent high school students represent approximately one-fourth of enrollment. Regent Casey asked what students receive through the student activity fee. President Hurst explained that it supports student engagement activities and wraparound academic services in mathematics and English. Regent Pemberton asked how RSC is responding to the new funding formula. President Hurst stated that the college is reviewing its performance in each category and evaluating whether some degree programs should be expanded or eliminated. Regent Levit asked about the Ticket to Rose program. President Hurst explained that it is a gap-funding program that covers remaining tuition and fees after a student's financial aid is applied.

Western Oklahoma State College. President Chad Wiginton presented Western Oklahoma State College's request for a 1.8 percent tuition and fee increase, or $3.00 per credit hour. He reviewed WOSC's open educational resources initiative, which has converted 70 courses to free or low-cost instructional materials and saved students more than $300,000 last year. The proposed increase is expected to generate approximately $72,000 in additional revenue. President Wiginton cited rising information technology and personnel costs, including the need to outsource IT and grant-writing services. Cost-saving measures have included sharing a chief financial officer with Carl Albert State College, partnering with Ideal Impact on energy efficiency, and replacing a full-time campus counselor with TimelyCare services. He reported that reserves total approximately $4

million, or 35 percent, and that more than 80 percent of students graduate without debt. Among those with debt, the average is approximately $9,500. The WOSC Foundation awarded $176,000 in scholarships in 2025 and expects to award approximately $265,000 next year. Regent Taylor asked about the high percentage of online enrollment. President Wiginton explained that WOSC is responding to student needs and noted that online students may still participate actively in campus life. Regent Casey asked about the decline in reserves, and President Wiginton attributed it to a significant decrease in enrollment..

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

ATTEST:

C. Warmington

Courtney Warmington, Chair

Steven W. Taylor, Secretary