

**Minutes of the
Economic Development Council Meeting**
Sept. 4, 2018
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Regents 2N Conference Room

Members Present: Shannen McCroskey, Carl Albert State College; Dr. Anita Thompson, Connors State College; Dr. Kaben Smallwood, Eastern Oklahoma State College; Cecil Carter, Murray State College; Dr. Ron Cambiano, Northeastern State University; John Claybon, Oklahoma City Community College; Dr. David Shideler (via ZOOM), Oklahoma State University; Larry Smith, Seminole State College; Doug Misak (via ZOOM), Southwestern Oklahoma State University; Cassandra Ersland, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma; Dr. Shad Satterthwaite, University of Oklahoma; Patricia Purdue (Via ZOOM), Western Oklahoma State College.

Guests Present: Jarrett Jobe, University of Central Oklahoma (On behalf of Mark Kinders); Matt Eastwood, Cody Ruiz, Joel Dean, Tony Hutchison, OSRHE Staff.

1. Welcome and Introductions of all members and guests, Kaben Smallwood, chair

Kaben Smallwood called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m. Introductions were made and Mr. Smallwood announced that Item 3 would be tabled until next week or at least until after Tony Hutchison had presented Item 6.

2. Approval of May 8 minutes

There was a motion seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2018; meeting of the Economic Development Council. The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Orientation

Tabled.

4. Bring Successes! Be prepared to share in two minutes what is happening at your institution

Cecil Carter – Murray State College: Cecil explained that this is his 18th year working in Economic Development. He explained that community development is a big part of what he does in small town planning for their future. They recently received a grant for emergency management in Tishomingo. He would like the EDC to work on more community development. The nonprofit sector is substantial and he would like to see the EDC move into that area.

Larry Smith –Seminole State College: He stated his communities desire to keep the small communities connected to the college. The communities want us to work on retail development. He specifically mentioned Boomarang Diner has opened new restaurants in Southeastern Oklahoma. Seminole State has renovated a \$1.5 million shopping center into a call center which currently houses the high school after selling that building to the school.

Cassandra Ersland –University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma: They have a new EDC Director, Chris Mosely, who has experience with restoring historic downtowns. They have partnered with an OU program that picked Chickasha to work on the restoration of main street and downtown.

Shannen McCroskey –Carl Albert State College: The city had previously donated an Air Force armory to the college and they have now officially begun renovations to make it into a fitness center. Carl Albert has also installed ZOOM technology in classrooms to be able to offer classes at their main campus at in Sallisaw. They also have a fully staffed nursing college for the first time in many years and six new certificate programs. McCroskey also mentioned that nonprofits are important for the college and she would also like to see ~~the~~ more EDC involvement.

Jarrett Jobe –University of Central Oklahoma: The women’s rowing team won a national title at the Division 2 II level. The Student Transforming Learning Grant Program has demonstrated a +18% increase in its students’ retention rate

John Claybon –Oklahoma City Community College: They have picked up a new automotive manufacturer. They are now working with Nissan and Infinity to train their technicians. Industry is still requiring degrees for instructors; they are looking for people with proper credentialed background and technical skills. There is a massive demand for technicians; there is a lot of opportunity for Higher Ed to partner with those industries.

Anita Thompson –Connors State College: Connors received a \$500,000 donation from St. Francis to increase RN production. This donation has allowed them to increase current salaries to retain faculty. They are finding more ways to add faculty. A new hospital is opening that will require additional nurses. She also stated that St. Francis could use an additional 100 nurses if the college could produce them.

Ron Cambiano –Northeastern State University: They are renovating Seminary Hall and Wilson Hall. They had two ribbon cuttings last week; one was a veteran’s lounge and the other was an academic ribbon cutting that contains a new women’s center. The Foundation is 7/8ths to the goal of the \$25 million scholarship goal.

Shad Satterthwaite –University of Oklahoma: On September 19 they are hosting the Legal Issues in Higher Education Conference. The University has a new president focused on prioritizing research development and partnering with organizations.

Kaben Smallwood –Eastern Oklahoma State University: They have a new board of regents member, Matt Jeffry. They are also seeking a partnership with Redlands Community College for the industrial hemp program. Kaben also mentioned enrollment did not decrease this fall.

David Shideler –Oklahoma State University: OSU offers a unique PHD program specifically for business executives. It is a three year program meant to equip managers to work in ~~their~~ current business environments. The Food Products Innovation Competition is coming up on November 8, 2018. There is also an Equine Enterprise Program launching this fall that came directly from industry inquires in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Organics Conference is also approaching on October 10-11.

Patricia Purdue –Western Oklahoma College: WOSC has completely restructured their executive team. The year started off well with a grant for the rural nursing program that helped get the nursing staff benefits. It is a big year of change for the college.

Doug Misak –Southwestern Oklahoma State University (Read by Joel Dean): SWOSU received another \$1.25 million from USDA for the re-lending program for rural businesses. SWOSU will start loaning these funds in November of 2018.

5. Committee Updates.

a. Economic Development Executive Committee (2018+ Meeting Dates, possible format changes)

There was a motion and a second to approve the calendar as presented (document attached below). The dates were approved as follows: November 12 (after professional development event), January 8, March 12, May 14, and July 9.

b. Economic Development Training Committee

David Shideler explained that the professional development event has moved from a three day to a one day event to take place on November 12. The theme is emerging markets and the committee has lined up speakers from the Attorney General's office, the Brewer's Union, collegiate professionals, and business owners to discuss the changing alcohol, industrial hemp and medical marijuana laws as well as how universities can interact with and succeed alongside these emerging markets.

c. Create RBPEA committee (members, duties, leadership etc.)

Cassandra, Shannen Cecil, Larry and John volunteered to be on the RBPEA committee. The event is scheduled for March 12.

6. OSRHE Update

Tony Hutchinson explained that the Council of Presidents and the Chancellor are considering changes to the EDC. The Chancellor would like to add some non-voting business members. There were a few names and organizations suggested, but at this time no formal recommendations have been provided. The possible suggested names for business members on the committee include: John Reed, Business Round Table Executive Director; Fred Morgan, someone from the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce, and potentially a business partnership representing rural interests.

Tony, the COP and the Chancellor are looking for input from the EDC. The group discussed at length the best ways to re-emphasize the EDC as an advisory committee. Ideas suggested included: Stretching out the RBPEA event to include highlights over time, media emphasis with videos and social media content, inviting business speakers and reimbursing them for travel, getting business and community leaders to advocate for us at the capitol, and garnering better communication and distribution of information between institutions.

Hutchison closed with asking the committee to brainstorm on all that was discussed with the hopes of having a more concrete plan in the near future.

7. Legislative Update

Joel Dean explained that the legislative staff is awaiting pertinent Interim Studies to be scheduled and is watching the election cycle closely. There will be at minimum 51 new members to the legislature.

11 members have been voted out of office and 40 more have left for various other reasons. In the Senate, there will be a minimum of 58% who have served only two years or less; in the House that minimum is 73%. All of these numbers could go up after the General Election in November.

8. Commerce Update

There was no commerce update.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

Seeing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 12