

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

**Joshua Busby, Vice Chair, Presiding**  
**Via Zoom Video**  
**March 10, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**

### MINUTES

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions – Joshua Busby**

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

#### **2. Approval of February 10, 2022 Minutes – Joshua Busby**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

### **INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL**

#### **3. Legislative Update – Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relation, OSRHE**

Jarrett thanked the council for the work they do on behalf of Oklahoma students. He mentioned the bill deadline was last Thursday. He said currently there is no legislation moving forward that is harmful to higher education regarding weapons on campus. Jarrett mentioned they are tracking legislation that would limit educational and teaching topics, two Oklahoma Promise bills, and also appropriations and investments across institutions. Jarrett also said the hunger bill for food insecurity did not move through committee, but funding is being worked on through a grant to support campus pantries.

#### **4. Complete College America Update – Dr. Rachel M. Bates, Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational Partnerships, OSRHE**

Rachel reminded the council of the remaining scheduled CCA webinars on March 11 and April 22, 2022. She said Oklahoma has been a member of The CCA Alliance for the past 11 years. The alliance is comprised of 48 states, systems and consortia. Rachel announced that Oklahoma was awarded a national grant to participate in the Policy, Equity, and Practice Initiative (PEP) along with two other states, Arkansas and Montana. This initiative will collaborate and focus on addressing achievement gaps, improve educational attainment, and address policies for student success through the implementation of equity-focused, evidence-based strategies. The goal is to have 12-15 institutions participate in this grant. Rachel said the application process will include an informational questionnaire. She said important PEP details will be announced at the Policy, Equity and Practice Webinar on March 31, 2022, at 2 pm, with the state kick-off meeting scheduled for May 10, 2022, at 10 am. Chancellor Garrett will make opening remarks at the kick-off meeting. College and university presidents, provosts, academic vice presidents, SHEEO members, CCA liaisons and the Oklahoma CCA leadership team are asked to participate.

**5. Food Insecurity Among Oklahoma College Students – Bailey Perkins Wright, State Advocacy and Public Policy Director, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma**

Bailey informed the council that the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is Oklahoma's largest hunger relief organization and distributes food to more than 2,000 partner agencies. They partner with nearly 30 colleges and career technology centers across the state on establishing food pantries. She said Oklahoma has the fourth highest food insecurity rate in the nation, which impacts college students and staff. She said a matching grant pilot has been created to help public colleges and universities implement hunger interventions on their campuses. OSRHE will compile the data and share this with the legislature to demonstrate the impact for future investment. Bailey asked the council to email her stories and data points that tell lawmakers about hunger needs on their campuses. She mentioned the Virtual Anti-Hunger Day will be held March 29, 2022, from 1-2 pm. Registration is required. Bailey also mentioned the weekly strategy call held each Friday and asked the council to encourage students and staff to become involved with their campaign efforts.

Ina Agnew (OSUIT) asked for more information on the hunger grant. Bailey said this is a matching grant up to \$25,000 for four-year institutions and \$15,000 for two-year institutions. The goal is for this to be a five-year appropriation. Debbie Blanke (OSRHE) said the appropriation bill has not been seen, and the grant would have to be dedicated funding that is put into the base for higher education. Debbie said the grant application would possibly include a Request for Proposal, rubric and a committee involved to make sure all demographics are met.

**6. Student, Staff & Faculty Mental Health –**

Nikkie Dunnigan, Manager of Mental Health Education and Promotion, Oklahoma State University

Joseph Dunnigan, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Student Counseling Center, Oklahoma State University

Nikkie introduced herself and Dr. Joseph Dunnigan. She provided OSU's counseling services information, as well as the four on-campus community mental health clinics. She also shared several mental health campus resources to the council. Nikkie mentioned the virtual mental health resources OSU has available, which are TAO, University Counseling podcasts, weekly mental health moment videos and Talk about It Tuesday videos.

Nikkie said the OSU Wellness staff offers make and take workshops and a play therapy series. Self-care kits are available to purchase and can be delivered on the Stillwater campus. Their department offers many free mental health training opportunities and health education programs. She said staff is available to present many programs to student organizations, departments, faculty, and staff. They plan to start a mental health department day. Debbie Blanke (OSRHE) asked if smaller institutions could replicate some of these activities and services with minimal costs. Nikkie said their virtual resources are produced in house and a lot of their activities, specifically the make and take items, are very low cost.

Joseph said the shift in the last five or six years has been more involvement from other departments. He mentioned a small clinic cannot be responsible for an entire campus of 25,000 people. They are able to bring in partners from other departments who have expertise, knowledge and ability to promote services. Debbie Blanke asked Nikki and Joseph if they would be willing to be a resource for other institutions who may have limited departments. Nikki said they are happy to be a resource and to share information.

## **7. Engaging Students Online – Brad Griffith, Director of Online Learning Initiatives, OSRHE**

Brad spoke about roles he has had in the past which have helped him get a sense for how individuals engage or struggle to engage with online students. He said this particular demographic of student requires a high level of support, as they are often disconnected in a certain component from a campus compared to a traditional student. Online learners need to be made to feel as if they are no different than students in a traditional classroom. Brad said a majority of an online student's time is spent completing course work.

Brad explained Google Jamboard, which is an interactive digital whiteboard that allows a person to collaborate in real time, and provided a link for council members to participate in his discussion. He said he sees online students as self-directed, night owls, work full or part time, persistent, self-motivated, organized, scared, busy, parents, and introverted. He said online learners have a different persona and do not have access to resources on campus. Brad provided a chart with formal, informal, physical and virtual learning environments and provided many examples.

He explained the University of Central Oklahoma's Major Hub as another online resource. He said any department or academic program may request a course within the learning management system. This program serves as an informal social networking hub. The program coordinator and faculty have editing access and can control the content, keep it updated and students can contribute as well.

Brad spoke about the virtual reality modules that Rogers State University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University provide for students to participate in interactive learning environments. OneNet has partnered with the Council for Online Learning Excellence to offer virtual reality production toolkits to Oklahoma institutions through a grant.

<https://www.ocolearnok.org/priorities/extended-realities/>

He also mentioned the 2022 Oklahoma Learning Innovations Summit will be held each Friday in April (1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd). Faculty, staff and administrators are invited to share in best practices and innovations that support online learners. These sessions are free but registration is required. <https://summit.ocolearnok.org>

Lastly, Brad mentioned earning recognition via badges. The State Regents have a new initiative to promote workforce development through micro-credential programs. The policy allows for this new program type to combine zero to nine hours of for-credit coursework and also noncredit experiences that include a form of assessment. He asked the council to think outside the box with micro-credentials by evaluating co-curricular or noncurricular experiences that students might be

completing and could be worthy of employer recognition through digital badging. Debbie Blanke said micro-credentials are a good way to incentivize and recognize students in student government, leadership programs and student organizations where they are accomplishing something that can be assessed or learning a leadership skill, etc.

**8. Oklahoma Student Government Association Spring Congress Update** – Lindsay Echols, Executive Director of Campus Compact and Director of Student Affairs and Diversity, OSRHE

Lindsay reminded the council that OSGA Spring Congress will be held at the Oklahoma State Capitol April 8-10, 2022. She is helping OSGA leadership determine a hotel for lodging during this event. Lindsay asked that any outstanding dues be paid as this is a way Spring Congress is funded.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**9. State Regents' Update** – Debbie Blanke

- Debbie thanked the council for their help with Oklahoma Higher Ed Day. She apologized for those that were not able to participate in the photo opportunity with Governor Stitt. Debbie asked for feedback and/or suggestions that she may share with the Council of Presidents to assist with planning next year's event.
  - Joshua Busby (LU) suggested having the program earlier in the day for those with significant travel. He also suggested a group lunch option that could be held in a large room at the Capitol. This would alleviate the need to leave for lunch and having difficulty finding parking upon returning.
  - Chris Snoddy (OSCC) said representatives need to be available to speak to students on that day. He said it defeats the purpose if legislators don't schedule time for the students.
  - Christopher Lynch (UCO) said it turned into more of a photo opportunity. He said the interaction with students was not there for the most part.
- The State Regents' tuition hearing will be held at 9 am during the SR meeting on April 28, 2022, at Oklahoma State University. A Zoom option will also be available. Student speaker information must be provided in advance.
- Oklahoma Works 100 Most Critical Occupation list includes 66 critical occupations requiring an associate degree or higher for entry into these positions.  
<https://oklahomaworks.gov/oklahoma-workforce-data/critical-occupations/>
- OSRHE Policy Guidance regarding COVID. Debbie asked the council for suggestions on which policy exceptions from the previous guidance should be retained.
- OSRHE Academic Plan/Degree Completion Plan. Debbie asked the council to connect with their academic officer to see if important work that Student Affairs is doing can be recognized and included. Stephanie Beauchamp (OSRHE) mentioned areas in academic advising regarding reverse transfer and advising students who complete any remedial course work before the 24-hour policy requirement. She said there are quite a few areas that cross over between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

## **10. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

### **Upcoming Events of Interest to the Council**

CCA Spring Webinar Series - The Power of the 2-Year College Experience, March 11, 2022 and April 22, 2022