

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Research Park, Oklahoma City

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE

Thursday, May 24, 2018

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILING OF MEETING NOTICE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT.** The Committee-of-the-Whole met at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 24, 2018, in the Regents Conference Room at the State Regents' offices in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on October 12, 2017. A copy of the agenda had been posted as required by the Open Meeting Act.
2. **CALL TO ORDER.** Participating in the meeting were Regents Ron White, Jay Helm, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway and Andy Lester. Regent Jeff Hickman joined the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Regent White called the meeting to order and presided.
3. **MERCER HAMMOND.** Ms. Beth Johnson and Mr. Dave McMillan from Mercer were present to discuss the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's (OSRHE) current investments and market environment. Ms. Johnson stated that the OSRHE endowment had good returns in March 2018 and she was pleased overall with the portfolio performance.

Ms. Johnson finished by discussing the new investment managers below:

- a. Bain Capital Real Estate Fund I – \$7 million.
 - b. Golub Capital Partners, Fund 11 – \$5 million.
4. **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.** Dr. Bryon Clark, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Tim Boatman, Dean of Graduate Studies, E-Programming and Academic Services, Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SE), gave a brief presentation on the Master of Business Administration programs at SE. Dr. Clark began by stating that starting in the 2010-2011 academic year, SE's annual enrollment began declining. To combat the declining enrollment, SE created a new model focused around its most popular degree program, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and offered it entirely online. Dr. Boatman stated that to make this program successful, SE created a competitive price point, multiple entry points so students do not have to wait to get started, no closed classes, and a three-day admission decision turnaround. Dr. Boatman finished by stating that since the new online MBA program began, enrollment has increased 103 percent and SE is working to manage the new growth of the program by adding new faculty and administrative staff.
 5. **RESPONSE TO WESTERN OKLAHOMA WILDFIRES.** President Randy Beutler, Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), introduced Mr. Nate Downs, Director of the Pioneer Cellular Event Center (PCEC) on the campus of SWOSU. Mr. Downs gave a brief report on the role of the PCEC during the historic fire outbreak in April 2018. Mr. Downs began by stating that the Rhea Fire started on Thursday, April 12 as a grassfire and within 12 hours had burned 126,000 acres, ultimately burning 288,694 acres before it was fully contained on April 25, 2018. Southwest Oklahoma had seen no significant rainfall for over 100 days and the day the fire began had a Historic Level Red Flag Warning from the National Weather Center.

The PCEC served as a fire incident command center and staging area for the United States Forestry Service and provided equipment and resources to both the Florida Gold Incident

Management Team and the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management who managed fire operations. Additionally, SWOSU provided housing for emergency personnel at Mann Hall.

Mr. Ryan Haggard, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Management Program, SWOSU, gave a brief overview of SWOSU's Wildland Fire Management Program. Mr. Haggard stated that the Wildland Fire Management consists of two degree programs: 1) Wildland Fire Management Minor; and 2) Associate's degree in Wildland Firefighting. Students in these programs learn how to do prescribed burns, conduct fire fuel reductions and how to deploy fire shelters. Additionally, this is the only program of its kind in the Midwest.

6. STUDENT FINANCIAL LITERACY.

- a. Ms. Aileen King and Mr. Colton Holmes, Northeastern State University (NSU), gave a brief overview of NSU's student financial literacy initiatives. Ms. King began by stating that NSU's financial literacy program is designed to help students learn financial sense and know how to do simple tasks such as balancing a checkbook and finding scholarship opportunities. NSU started with two programs, Prize Patrol and Money Matters, and has since grown to include the President's Ambassadors Network Award that provides one-on-one consultations with students, the Hawkcent Student Financial Literacy program that provides students the opportunity to learn about financial literacy and receive a scholarship, as well as several other initiatives and events to help students learn financial skills.
- b. Ms. Becky Heeney, University of Oklahoma (OU), and Mr. Daniel Adams, MidFirst Bank, gave a brief overview of OU's student financial literacy initiatives. Ms. Heeney stated that OU created the MoneyCoach program to address student financial challenges. She stated that 43 percent of first-year students expressed a concern with being able to pay next year's tuition and fees and 32 percent stated that they did not plan to return for the next academic year because of financial reasons. OU partnered with MidFirst Bank to create the MoneyCoach program and they have a shared vision for financially preparing students. MidFirst Bank provides one-on-one financial coaching, financial literacy programming, and financial success plans for students in the MoneyCoach program. In the 2017-2018 academic year, MoneyCoach provided coaching and financial literacy programming to over 3,000 students and 75 percent of those students stated that MoneyCoach was very effective in helping them create a financial plan.
- c. Ms. Angela Bacon, Oklahoma State University – Center for Health Sciences (OSU – CHS), gave a brief overview of OSU – CHS's student financial literacy initiatives. Ms. Bacon began by stating that OSU – CHS ensures students receive financial literacy assistance at every step of their medical education. Additionally, each student receives a personalized summary of their estimated student loan debt since 86 percent of students enrolled at OSU – CHS rely on financial aid. Additionally, Ms. Bacon stated that OSU – CHS has several scholarship opportunities for students as well as a low cost of attendance.
- d. President Steve Smith, Ms. Jamie Irwin and Ms. Melissa Juarez, Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC), gave a brief overview of EOSC's student financial literacy initiatives. President Smith stated that one of EOSC's financial literacy initiatives is a partnership with the Choctaw Nation to create the College Freshman Year Initiative (FYI). FYI was created to empower Choctaw freshmen to make informed decisions and develop life skills. The program started in fall 2015 and has Success Coaches on campus to work with Choctaw students. Camp Chahta was created as an orientation session specifically for Choctaw freshman as part of FYI so students can move in early, resolve financial aid

issues, take part in cultural events, learn financial literacy life skills and earn orientation credit. Camp Chahta has increased retention rates and there have been zero students who have participated that have failed to continue their education due to financial restrictions.

7. **INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.** President Jeanie Webb, Rose State College (RSC), and President Jerry Steward, Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC), gave a brief presentation on their new cost savings partnership. President Webb began by stating that she believes higher education institutions need to be good stewards of their financial resources and be proactive. As a result, RSC and OCCC have partnered to combine fiscal and educational resources to create better services for students and alleviate financial pressures. President Webb stated that this partnership has two initiatives: 1) a joint request for proposal for campus food services, cleaning and paper products, and general supplies; and 2) an exchange partnership to offer French and Russian language courses for students at both campuses. President Webb finished by stating that there may be more joint initiatives in the future.

President Steward echoed President Webb's remarks and stated that there will be additional agreements in the future and he thanked the State Regents for their role in the Task Force on the Future of Higher Education. President Steward stated that the Task Force recommendation asking OCCC and RSC to partner together acted as a catalyst to create this partnership. He finished by stating that every dollar saved by this partnership will be invested back into services for the students.

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Regent White made a motion, seconded by Regent Holloway, to enter executive session for confidential communications between the board and its attorneys concerning pending investigations, claims, or actions. Voting for the motion were Regents Helm, Parker, Holloway, Lester, Hickman and White. Voting against the motion were none.

Following executive session discussions, Regents returned to open session.

9. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Ms. Amanda Paliotta, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, gave a brief budget report. She stated that the current fiscal year budget is on track. Additionally, the agency received the entire oil gross production tax amount in April, which leaves the rest of FY18 to distribute that amount to institutions.

10. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Ms. LeeAnna McNally, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, gave a brief legislative report. She began by reviewing the following legislation:

- SB1600 – FY19 appropriation of \$776,707,167 to the OSRHE, including \$7.5 million for concurrent enrollment.
- SCR16 – Requires the OSRHE to submit a list of all employees, courses, hours taught and tenure policy to the legislature. Ms. McNally stated that the OSRHE has most of this information and is gathering the remaining data and will be submitting it to the legislature soon.
- SB1212 – Amends statute to include wildlife refuges and management areas as places handgun permit holders can carry their gun without restrictions. Ms. McNally stated that Governor Mary Fallin vetoed this bill but she anticipates the issue will arise next year as well.
- SB1196 – Allows students eligible for certain concurrent enrollment to participate in a program offered by any institution with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

- HB3592 – If a student withdraws from a class in which he or she has received an award from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, the awarded funds shall remain available for the student to use to enroll in classes for a five-year period.

Additionally, Vice Chancellor McNally stated she will continue to meet with legislators throughout the summer as well as continue to plan the upcoming Legislative Forum and a new legislative member orientation.

11. TASK FORCE REPORTS.

- Online Education Task Force.** Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Debbie Blanke stated that the Online Education Task Force will meet on May 25, 2018 and will discuss recent activities and potential recommendations.
- State Regents Safety and Security Task Force.** Associate Vice Chancellor Angela Caddell updated the Regents on the status of the Campus Safety and Security Task Force. She stated that the Campus Safety and Security Summit will be held on November 1, 2018 at the Reed Center in Midwest City. The Summit will cover topics such as: cybersecurity, active shooter, and earthquake preparedness.

12. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION” REPORT.** Regents received the May 2018 update on institutional activities via e-mail.

13. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** Chancellor Glen D. Johnson discussed several upcoming events:

- Friday, June 15, 2018 – State Regents’ Annual Employee Recognition Event – 3:30 p.m. at the CHK/Central Boathouse at 732 Riversport Drive, Oklahoma City.
- Wednesday, June 27, 2018 – State Regents Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City.
- Wednesday, June 27, 2018 – State Regents Dinner – 6:00 p.m. – TBD.
- Thursday, June 28, 2018 – State Regents Meeting – 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City.
- Wednesday, September 5, 2018 – State Regents Meeting – 10:30 a.m. at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City.
- Wednesday, September 5, 2018 – State Regents Dinner – 6:00 p.m. – TBD.
- Thursday, September 6, 2018 – State Regents Meeting – 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City.

14. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:


Ron White, Chairman


Jody Parker, Secretary