

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Research Park, Oklahoma City

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE Wednesday, April 24, 2019

- 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 10:07 a.m. on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in 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 September 18, 2018 and amended on April 18, 2019. 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 Toney Stricklin, Ron White, Jay Helm, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Andy Lester and Michael C. Turpen. Regent Jeff Hickman joined the meeting at 10:16 a.m. Regent John Massey joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Regent Helm called the meeting to order.
- 3. UPDATE ON 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.** Representative Kevin Wallace was present to give a brief update on the 2019 legislative session. Representative Wallace began by stating that it is a new day in the state legislature with a new governor and a significant amount of new legislators. Currently, the state is estimated to have \$574.6 million in additional funds and the Senate and House are divided on using that money for teacher and state employee pay raises. Representative Wallace did indicate that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) will receive some of the additional funds for concurrent enrollment. He stated that it has been a good legislative session so far and has been somewhat of a fresh start with so many new people.

Representative Wallace finished by stating that he anticipates the state making a \$90 million deposit into the Rainy Day Fund.

- 4. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.** Mr. Sean Kouplén, Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Development, gave a brief presentation on statewide workforce development priorities and initiatives. Secretary Kouplén began by stating that he is honored to be in this role and has known Governor Kevin Stitt for a very long time and was part of his transition team.

Oklahoma is ranked 43rd in workforce and Governor Stitt is very focused on economic development and producing more graduates in the state to meet workforce demands. According to a recent Brookings Report, Oklahoma is ranked fifth for entrepreneurial growth and Oklahoma needs to be strategic in its recruitment efforts. Secretary Kouplén stated that increasing communication is a great way to start these efforts, and to do that, he is creating a minority business council, a non-profit leadership council and a tribal economic development council. Additionally, his goal is to bring 10,000 new jobs with an average wage of \$52,000, \$1 billion in investments, 250 new communication improvement projects, and 100 out-of-state CEO's to the state in the next year. Secretary Kouplén also stated that the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) has created a program called Opportunity Zones. These zones are low-income communities designated by Governor Stitt, and if an individual makes an investment in that zone and holds it for ten years, there is no tax for that investment.

Secretary Kouplén finished by stating that there are many remarkable business stories in Oklahoma and each Monday, the ODOC will begin sharing these stories on social media.

Chancellor Glen D. Johnson stated that higher education is the main solution for these problems and asked Secretary Kouplen how the higher education system can help even further. Secretary Kouplen stated that higher education needs to integrate with industry and be as responsive as possible.

5. **GOVERNOR'S UPDATE.** Oklahoma State Governor Kevin Stitt gave a brief update on his key initiatives. Governor Stitt began by stating that he feels his administration has been quite accomplished in the first 100 days of office. He has filled his cabinet positions and selected a Chief Operating Officer for the state, which has never been done before. Additionally, he created a Secretary of Digital Transformation cabinet position which will help move the state's systems to an all-digital format; for example, campsites at Oklahoma's state parks can now be reserved online instead of having to reserve it in person with cash.

Additionally, he is working with the Department of Public Safety on the Real ID driver's license to move it to fruition instead of continuing to request waivers, and due to those efforts, the Real ID is currently in beta testing. Governor Stitt stated that one important initiative for him is to hold the most expensive agencies accountable, and he is meeting with those agencies to work with them on accountability and try to change the culture of state government. Governor Stitt finished by stating that his goal is to make Oklahoma a top ten state in education and is very supportive of the three higher education agencies.

6. **RECOGNITION OF SERVICE.** Chancellor Johnson honored Regent John Massey for his 27 years as a State Regent and noted that Regent Massey is the only Regent to serve three consecutive terms in the history of the board. State Regents staff also honored Regent Massey with a video presentation.
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Regent Parker made a motion, seconded by Regent Stricklin, 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 White, Helm, Parker, Lester, Hickman, Turpen and Stricklin. Voting against the motion were none.
8. **OKLAHOMA MESONET.** Dr. Kevin Kloesel from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey at the University of Oklahoma, gave a brief update on the Oklahoma Mesonet. Dr. Kloesel stated that Mesonet's 25th anniversary is this year and he thanked the State Regents for their support of the program. Dr. Kloesel also presented a video about Mesonet and introduced Dr. Ron Elliott from Oklahoma State University and Dr. Chris Fiebrich, Mesonet.
9. **COUNCIL FOR ONLINE LEARNING EXCELLENCE.** Dr. Debbie Blanke, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, stated that the Council for Online Learning Excellence (COLE) held their annual Learning Innovations Summit in April and announced the winners of the Oklahoma Online Excellence Awards. The following award recipients were present to accept their award:
 - a. Innovation Category: The Institute for Learning Environment Design, University of Central Oklahoma;
 - b. Teaching Category: Ms. Dawn M. Pearce, EDU-Innovator and Instructor of Educational Leadership, University of Central Oklahoma; and
 - c. Leadership Individual Category: Ms. Marci Grant, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

10. **OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE STATE UNIVERSITY.** President Tim Faltyn, Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU), gave a brief update on enrollment and retention initiatives at OPSU. President Faltyn began by stating that OPSU has had record-setting freshman enrollment for the last two-years, making OPSU the fastest growing regional university in the central plains region. OPSU has updated their educational model to become centers of excellence with a small number of programs instead of trying to be everything to everyone. This change has allowed OPSU to focus on Rodeo, Business and Nursing degrees and allow other institutions to focus on other programs. He stated that OPSU was founded as an agricultural college but now Nursing is OPSU's largest major and they are hiring more faculty to train more Nursing students to meet the region's needs.

President Faltyn stated that the population in the Oklahoma panhandle is decreasing, so OPSU has to be very good at what they do to keep students. President Faltyn also presented a video segment from ABC News in Amarillo, Texas called "Panhandle Spirit" and it showcased OPSU and their growing enrollment.

11. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Ms. Amanda Paliotta, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, gave a brief budget report. She stated that FY19 is going well and has no concerns.

She also stated that the OSRHE has contracted with Huron Consulting Group to conduct five institutional fiscal viability studies per year. Huron has already conducted the first study at Redlands Community College (RCC). She commended RCC staff and faculty for being very timely and organized during the study and for volunteering to be the first institution to start the process. The preliminary findings include the following: RCC leadership has stabilized the institution's finances after a rough period in 2014-2015; RCC continues to have limited cash flow due to budget cuts the last few years; and RCC has limited resources. Vice Chancellor Paliotta stated that a full report will be given at the May State Regents meeting.

12. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Ms. LeeAnna McNally, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, gave a brief legislative report. She stated that she is tracking the following legislation:

- a. House Bill 1921 – Creates the Oklahomans Virtually Everywhere Act of 2019, directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the State Board of Career and Technology Education, the Department of Commerce, and the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to research and develop a proposal to make Oklahoma a leader in virtual presence.
- b. Senate Bill 584 – Requires state agencies whose information technology systems are not consolidated with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) to have an information security audit conducted by a firm approved by OMES' Information Services Division that is based upon the most current version of the NIST Cyber-Security Framework. It requires agencies to submit a report on how they plan to address any deficiencies to OMES. It requires any agency unable to comply with the requirement to consolidate their information technology with OMES. It exempts agencies subject to National Energy Regulatory Commission standards.
- c. Senate Bill 996 – Requires that a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) block course, whether taught at a comprehensive high school or technology center school, when taken in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, be taught by a certified teacher and approved by the State Board of Education and the independent district board of education to the list of courses eligible to meet the mathematics requirement and the laboratory sciences requirement for high school graduation.

- d. Senate Bill 765 – Prohibits the smoking of marijuana in public places. The bill permits institutions of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to declare themselves marijuana free, including free of marijuana and marijuana products. It exempts from the restrictions on marijuana smoking medical research or treatment centers, if marijuana smoking is integral to the research or treatment.
- e. Senate Bill 1043 – Appropriations; making an appropriation to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
- f. Senate Bill 361 – Deems the outdoor areas of public institutions of higher education public forums for the campus community. It prohibits public institutions of higher education from creating "free speech zones" or other designated areas of campus outside of which expressive activities are prohibited.

13. TASK FORCE REPORTS.

- a. **Online Education Task Force.** Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Debbie Blanke stated that the Online Education Task Force will meet on April 25, 2019 and will have an update from the Council on Online Learning Excellence and on the Academic Online Excellence Consortium.
- b. **State Regents Campus 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 a training by Dr. Kimberly Dickman has been scheduled for September 17, 2019 at Oklahoma City Community College to discuss campus safety in-depth. Additionally, the task force is meeting with FEMA to discuss building cultures for preparedness and the next task force meeting will be June 19, 2019.

14. “BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION” REPORT. Regents received the April 2019 update on institutional activities via e-mail.

15. CALENDAR OF EVENTS. Chancellor Johnson discussed several upcoming events:

- Thursday, May 30, 2019 - State Regents Meeting – 10:30 a.m. at the State Regents’ Office in Oklahoma City.
- Thursday, May 30, 2019 – State Regents Dinner – 6:00 p.m. – TBA.
- Friday, May 31, 2019 – State Regents Meeting – 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents’ Office in Oklahoma City.
- Wednesday, June 26, 2019 - State Regents Meeting – 10:30 a.m. at the State Regents’ Office in Oklahoma City.
- Wednesday, June 26, 2019 – State Regents Dinner – 6:00 p.m. – TBA.
- Thursday, June 27, 2019 – State Regents Meeting – 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents’ Office in Oklahoma City.

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

ATTEST:



Jay Helm, Chairman



Jody Parker, Secretary