

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Northwestern Oklahoma State University – Enid Campus, Boardroom

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
Wednesday, March 23, 2022

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 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 in the Boardroom at Northwestern Oklahoma State University – Enid Campus in Enid, Oklahoma. Notice of the special meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on March 14, 2022. 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 Jack Sherry, Courtney Warmington, Jay Helm, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Jeff Hickman, Michael C. Turpen, and Steven Taylor. Regent Hickman called the meeting to order.
3. **WELCOME.** Northwestern Oklahoma State University President Janet Cunningham welcomed State Regents to the Northwestern Oklahoma State University – Enid Campus and introduced her administrative team. She then highlighted the collaborative partnerships taking place on the campus both with local public schools and Northern Oklahoma College.
4. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**
 - a. **Update on Northwestern Oklahoma State University’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program.** President Janet Cunningham began by providing a brief history of Northwestern Oklahoma State University’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program, stating that this program was starting with private funds and that the donations had now been matched. She highlighted the success of the programs graduates, noting that 100 percent of graduates passed the certification test to be family nurse practitioners. She noted that the majority of the program is online with a brief in-person requirement, and that their faculty are also remote. Chancellor Garrett added that she also discussed how automation is impacting workforce
 - b. **Update on Oklahoma Business Roundtable Executive Briefing.** Chancellor Allison D. Garrett began by summarizing the discussions and information from the Business Roundtable briefing that she attended on March 10. She shared recent national and local data, noting that only 15 percent of Oklahoma high school students are college ready in all four areas of the ACT and also sharing information about the relationship between average income in a state and educational attainment. Regarding the production of STEM degrees, Chancellor Garrett stated that although this degree production has grown, it is still not enough to meet demand and there is hope that the legislature will invest more in higher education to produce even more STEM degrees. Chancellor Garrett stated that she also spoke with the Business Roundtable about the different business services that are available on campuses. She concluded by mentioning a survey that went out to businesses in the state regarding whether they are providing any sort of tuition benefit or higher education benefit and that a website is being created to highlight those businesses that are offering such benefits and that this is a great opportunity to partner with businesses to assure their pipeline.

- c. **Update on State Regents' micro-credentials initiative.** Dr. Debbie Blanke, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, began by stating as they are discussing business cooperatives and meeting workforce needs, micro-credentials are one way in which Oklahomans can upscale their skills and higher education can help meet those workforce needs. She then explained the definitions of micro-credentials and digital badges and then discussed the proposed policy changes. Dr. Blanke stated that they will create an inventory so that businesses, students, and employers will be able to see what credentials are available and where they are offered. She then discussed the technology elements that they are piloting with the micro-credentials, such as Credly and Coursera. Dr. Blanke spoke about the kickoff event with institutions that took place in February, noting that Secretary of Commerce Scott Mueller and Executive Director of Workforce Development Don Morris were present and spoke about the value of micro-credentials and digital badging and how it is breaking down the skills gap. She then stated that they are providing funding to institutions so that they can have scholarships for students and that they are also working on open educational resources for the credentials because they do not want a lot of additional costs.
5. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.** Redlands Community College President Jack Bryant began by thanking Regents for the opportunity to speak. He first spoke about the scholarships that Redlands is able to provide through its Veterans Community College Foundation that have been generated from their relationships with the local community. President Bryant stated that if approved through the master lease program, Redlands will have the ability to build two new athletic fields and that they are wanting to start playing women's softball. He discussed how the Redlands Board of Regents has been adamant about keeping tuition down and stated that they have been able to help keep student costs down by faculty using open educational resources instead of having students purchase textbooks. He then discussed data around the student population at Redlands, the results of their year-end audit, and their foundation and gifts and scholarships. President Bryant also discussed their acquisition of land and what they plan to do with it. He concluded by highlighting Redlands' numerous partnerships, including partnerships with other institutions, their partnership with Canadian Valley Career Tech, and some of the local organizations and activities that Redlands participates in.
6. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Interim Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Sheri Mauck provided State Regents with a budget and revenue update. She stated that it was another good report for the February collections, noting that the total February collections were 27.6 percent above the estimate, representing \$95.8 million. She noted that for the first eight months of the fiscal year, the collections were 21.6 percent above the estimates or \$904.6 million. Ms. Mauck stated that the individual income tax and corporate taxes posted a net gain of 172.8 percent or \$88.8 million, sales tax was up 5.9 percent above the estimate or \$9.9 million, and gross production collections were up 20.3 percent above the estimate or \$12.12 million. She added that regarding CARES money, institutions have reported spending \$456.9 million through January 28 and that \$206.6 million of that or 45 percent was been for student grants and scholarships and \$158.4 million or 37.7 of that was for reimbursements to institutions.
7. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** This item was taken after the update from Redlands Community College President Jack Bryant. Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations Dr. Jarett Jobe started by highlighting the recent final legislative tour at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and noting the upcoming Senate leadership dinner on April 5. He mentioned Oklahoma's Promise Day that is scheduled for April 20, and stated that the focus will be on student narratives. Dr. Jobe then highlighted a few legislative items that he stated they are

following, including Senate Bill 1627, which focuses on workforce development, and a couple of bills that deal with Oklahoma's Promise. He also discussed Senate Bill 1418 that expands National Guard support to cover fees and additional charges outside of the traditional tuition. He also talked about a bill that they are actively trying to amend or move to another session so they can give better advice and counsel to Career Tech as it creates a diploma nursing program that may institutions are not supportive of creating such a program. He concluded by stating that Chancellor Garrett will have a meeting with the new superintendent of career tech to have a broader conversation.

8. **TASK FORCE REPORTS.**

- a. **State Regents' Campus Safety and Security Task Force.** Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications Angela Caddell stated that at the last Task Force meeting they brought in a representative from the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office to speak about traffic education programs that are available to the campuses. She stated that the next Task Force meeting is on April 6 and that they will look into a campus case study on incident management. Ms. Caddell also mentioned that it is their goal to have another round of crisis intervention training for campus law enforcement personnel, and that she hopes that this will become regularly scheduled trainings as there is a lot of turnover at that level so they need to ensure that they are offering this training regularly.

9. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

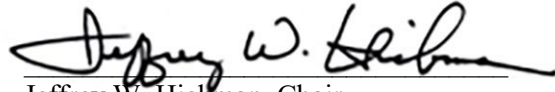
- a. Possible discussion and vote to enter into executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the board and its attorneys concerning: (1) Shepherd v. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, et al., CJ-2020-2383, Oklahoma County District Court; and (2) Black Emergency Response Team, et al. v. O'Connor, et al., Case No. CIV-21-1022 in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; if the board, with the advice of its attorney, determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the board to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest. Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Helm, 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 Jack Sherry, Courtney Warmington, Jay Helm, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Jeff Hickman, Michael C. Turpen, and Steven Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
- b. Enter into executive session.
- c. Open session resumes.
- d. Vote to exit executive session. Regent Parker moved, seconded by Regent Holloway to exit executive session. Voting for the motion were Regents Jack Sherry, Courtney Warmington, Jay Helm, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Jeff Hickman, Michael C. Turpen, and Steven Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

10. **"BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION."** Regents received the March 2022 update on institutional activities via e-mail on March 24, 2022.

11. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** The calendar of events was distributed in written form to the Regents.

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

ATTEST:


Jeffrey W. Hickman, Chair


Steven W. Taylor, Secretary