

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Oklahoma State University – Student Union, Council Room 412

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
Wednesday, April 27, 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 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 in the Council Room of the Student Union at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Notice of the special meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on April 19, 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, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Jeff Hickman, and Steven Taylor. Regent Hickman called the meeting to order. Regent Jay Helm joined the meeting in progress.
3. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**
 - a. **Langston University.** President Kent Smith began by stating that this year is Langston University's 125th anniversary year and that they have planned year-long celebrations. He emphasized that Langston University tries to keep everything student-centered. He explained the concept of Fall-mester and May-mester, where students participate in a course either before the fall semester begins or after the spring semester ends, and can earn 1-3 credit hours. He added that renovations to Langston's Student Success Center will be complete in July. Regarding fiscal responsibility, President Smith stated that Langston University has not taken on any new debt in ten years and they were able to build a new school of physical therapy without adding any new debt. He stated that the endowment has grown from \$34 million to over \$51 million in ten years. He added that in 2021 Langston University brought in a company called ISIS to review every facility on Langston campuses and that they reported on facility needs which aids in their budgeting. In discussing academic excellence, President Smith highlighted the expansion of their honors program and online programs and that he believes the growth of Langston University in the future will be in graduate programs. He then discussed graduation rates, scholarships available, and the demographics at Langston University. He concluded by discussing Langston University's status as a land-grant institute and their integrative services.
 - b. **Connors State College.** President Ron Ramming began by discussing Connors State College's history and spoke about their campuses. He highlighted Connors' selection to participate in the Second Chance Pell program and their work in correctional facilities. He added that Connors is unique from the other two-year colleges because of their demographics. He then highlighted some of the partnerships that the institution has, such as their partnership with St. Francis Health Systems. He added that they have been approached by both Cherokee Nation and Northeast Health Systems in Tahlequah to extend the nursing program into Tahlequah to help with the nursing shortage. President Ramming discussed some of the shared services and positions that Connors State College has with other institutions in the A&M system. He also discussed some of the challenges they face with nursing faculty salaries.

- c. **Oklahoma State University.** President Kayse Shrum began by discussing Oklahoma State University's various campuses and their missions. She added that OSU-Tulsa and OSU CHS will bring 100 new residency slots to the state and announced an upcoming research partnership with the University of Arizona for research on addiction and chronic pain management. She highlighted various recognitions that programs at OSU Stillwater have received, discussed some of the unique programs that OSU offers both in-person and online, and highlighted OSU athletic accomplishments. President Shrum noted that they have had a record number of applications this year and that they are on-track for a historic fundraising year. She then stated that OSU is in the process of developing a bold strategy with the goal of becoming a preeminent land-grant university. She stated that Aerospace, Health, Energy, Agriculture, and STEM education will play a prominent role in their strategy. President Shrum added that they will focus on new academic offerings that meet the needs of the future of workforce, discussed their philosophy of how to make communities better, and discussed how they plan to make OSU a preeminent land-grant university.

4. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.**

- a. **Update on Oklahoma State University's Nursing Program Expansion.** Interim President of Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences Johnny Stephens began by discussing the nursing shortage, highlighting a recent study that projects that Oklahoma will be deficient by approximately 10,000 nurses. He added that an increase in aging population, movement out of the state, and salaries for nurses have intensified the problem and that while many jobs can be performed by those with an Associates, often times a Bachelors of Nursing is preferred. President Stephens then discussed the local demand for nurses and stated that applications to Oklahoma Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs have increased by 21 percent. He stated that the goal of OSU's Proposed Bachelor of Nursing Program is to produce 100 graduates per year, and that they intend to start with fifty and would ramp up to 100 over a three-year timeframe. He stated that this program will be a collaboration, bringing together the Stillwater campus, OSU-Tulsa, and OSU CHS. He added that there is a wide array of clinical opportunities in Tulsa and that there are numerous partnership opportunities as well. President Stephens added that they have a funding request before the legislature, both an appropriation request and an ARPA request.
- b. **Credit for Prior Learning.** Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, demonstrated the "Show What You Know" website. She explained that the website is geared toward administrators, students, faculty and staff and that this website also allows students to know how their courses transfer to college credit at various institutions. She stated that the website also includes industry-recognized credentials so that students can see what college credits they would receive from certifications. Dr. Beauchamp stated that they anticipate having the website updated and complete by the end of the year.

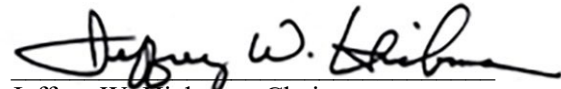
5. **DATA ANALYTICS.** Vice Chancellor for Administration Ms. Kylie Smith introduced Mr. Wes Rehm from SAS to demonstrate the different dashboard and predictive modeling capabilities. Ms. Smith clarified that for institutions that do not use SAS, there will be no burden on them as far as how they submit data to the State Regents' office. She added that this project was initially based on a four to five-year timeline but that the engagement with SAS put it on a ten-month timeline.

6. **ONLINE EDUCATION.** Dr. Brad Griffith, Director of Online Learning Initiatives, provided an update on online learning trends, noting that 63 percent of students in the database took at least one online course during the academic year before the pandemic. He added that for 2020-2021, 82 percent took at least one online course and that 99 percent of graduate students in the system took at least one online class during their course of study. Dr. Griffith then provided an update on online collaboration groups, including the Council for Online Excellence, the Online Consortium of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Quality Matters, and the Coursera partnership. He then discussed efforts to enhance teacher competencies with online capabilities.
7. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Interim Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Ms. Sheri Mauck provided State Regents with a budget and revenue update. She stated that March was another good month for revenue for the state, with March collections up 37.7 percent. She added that for the full nine-month period for FY22, they are \$1.1 billion ahead of the estimate, representing 23.3 percent in recurring revenue. Ms. Mauck stated that individual income tax collections and corporate taxes were 61.6 percent above the estimate, representing a gain of \$79.9 million, sales tax collections were up 20.1 percent, representing \$33.6 million, and gross production taxes were up 74.9 percent above the estimate for March, which represents \$56.4 million. She stated that as of February 28, the institutions have reported spending approximately \$465.9 million in CARES and ARPA stimulus money, with \$212.1 million going to student grants and scholarships and the next largest category was \$158.6 million as reimbursements or transfers to institutions for lost revenue.
8. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations Dr. Jarett Jobe began by discussing stating that April 28 is the deadline so they are expecting a lot of activity and movement during the day. He started by mentioning items that had already been passed and signed by the Governor, including two National Guard bills which extend and expand funding to help cover fees, and a free speech bill which Dr. Jobe stated will require the State Regents to form a committee. He stated that the current focus is on Senate Bill 1627, a workforce bill, a teacher incentive bill by Representative McBride and Senator Pemberton, and a Tulsa reconciliation bill by Representative Goodwin and Senator Young. He noted that all of the aforementioned bills are important because they have to deal with appropriations. He also added that the legislature is still working on the budget. Dr. Jobe stated that the main message to the legislature has been that investment in general appropriations is the best way to support the institutions. Dr. Jobe also updated State Regents on the ARPA process and that some of the feedback they have received so far is that the agency produced the most detailed asks and that is why those requests have moved to the front-end and that they have relayed the message that timing is important to the institutions so they can begin making plans.
9. **CAMPUS SAFETY.** Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications Ms. Angela Caddell shared that another offering of the Crisis Intervention Training for campus law enforcement has been scheduled for September 26-30 at the University of Central Oklahoma. She stated that this will be an in-person, intensive training.
10. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Mr. Matt Stangl, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, advised State Regents that an executive session was not needed.
11. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION.”** Regents received the April 2022 update on institutional activities via e-mail on April 26, 2022.

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

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

ATTEST:


Jeffrey W. Hickman, Chair


Steven W. Taylor, Secretary