

**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**  
655 Research Parkway, Suite 200 Oklahoma City

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**

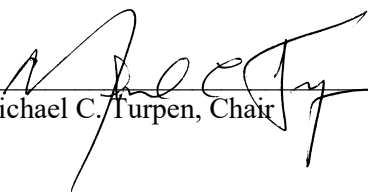
Wednesday, October 26, 2022

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, October 26, 2022, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Banquet Room of Headington Hall at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. Notice of the special meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on October 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, Dustin Hilliary, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Jody Parker, Michael C. Turpen, and Steven W. Taylor. Regent Turpen called the meeting to order. Regent Jeffrey Hickman joined the meeting in progress at 10:35 a.m.
3. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**
  - a. **East Central University (ECU).** President Wendell Godwin provided an update on activities at East Central University. President Godwin commented on being a new president at the institution. President Godwin updated the State Regents on enrollment and persistence increases for the Spring and Fall of 2022. He also commented that campus housing had increased 25 percent over the same period. President Godwin said that ECU has set a goal of doubling the nursing class size to help support the Oklahoma nursing shortage. ECU currently has a 92 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Exam for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN).
  - b. **Western Oklahoma State College.** President Chad Wiginton began by discussing Western Oklahoma State College's enrollment increases, specifically the increase in concurrent enrollment students for the Fall of 2022. Western Oklahoma State College is focusing on nursing needs for southwest Oklahoma. He commented on the partnership with Comanche County Memorial Hospital and the award of \$500,000 to the nursing program. He also explained that Western Oklahoma State College and Redlands Community College received a 5-year Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) grant of \$2.75 million for nursing.
  - c. **University of Oklahoma.** President Joe Harroz discussed the University of Oklahoma's current efforts to match the workforce needs of Oklahoma's business community. He further explained that the university's increase in enrollment, specifically freshmen enrollment, was essential to the future success of the university. While focusing on funding needs, he gave an overview of the needs on both the Norman campus and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. President Harroz explained that the ongoing need to maintain the quality faculty and staff on campus was essential to producing the future leaders of our state.

4. **LUNCH.** The meeting was recessed and the Regents went to Boyd House for lunch with campus leaders and staff.. The meeting was reconvened by Chair Turpen at 1:30 p.m. Vice Chancellor for Administration Kylie Smith took role. Regents Jack Sherry, Courtney Warmington, Jeff Hickman, Dustin Hilliary, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Jody Parker, Michael C. Turpen, and Steven W. Taylor were present.
5. **PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS.** President John Feaver and President Jack Bryant discussed the innovative partnership between the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (Science & Arts) and Redlands Community College (RCC) to increase administrative efficiencies in both schools. President Feaver explained that the two insitutions will share some operational resouces, like the position of vice president for academic affairs, associate vice president of enrollment management, network security specialist, and director of printing services. President Bryant said that this approach would encourage other institutions in the state to explore other ways to collaborate. Both Science & Arts and RCC have very different missions but see this effort as a way to advance the quality and reach of Oklahoma higher educaiton. The State Regents praised both presidents for their continued efforts to increase efficiencies on their campuses.
6. **REVERSE SCHOLARSHIPS.** Dr. Aiyana Henry, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, provided an update on the Debt-Free Teachers Program at OU, which is a merit and need-based assistance initiative directed toward outstanding students in the College with significant debt associated with their education. This program targets high need areas in Oklahoma education to recruit and retain the nation’s best students. For each year they teach in the state, up to \$5,000 of their student loans will be forgiven for a maximum of four years (\$20,000).
7. **OKCOLLEGESTART.** Ms. Theresa Shaklee, Student Portal Coordinator, gave a presentation discussing the OKcollegestart.org student portal. The website offers career planning, high school planning, college planning, and financial aid planning for students of all ages and through various outlets. The site includes virtual campus tours, school profiles and highlights programs like Oklahoma’s Promise and various other scholarship opportunities.
8. **ONLINE EDUCATION.** Mr. Brad Griffith, Director of Online Learning Initiatives, gave an update on the Council for Online Learning and the Online Consortium of Oklahoma initiatives. He discussed the continued growth of the volunteer-based Council for Online Learning Excellence, which included 117 members from 30 organizations serving on seven subcommittees as of October 2022. The Online Consortium of Oklahoma has grown its membership by one, which now includes Oklahoma State University’s main campus, and continues to provide value beyond its annual dues, including a technology pilot grant available to all members for up to \$5,000 in FY23. He also discussed the impact of the State Regents’ support of open educational resources (OER), including new grant funding opportunities available for institutions, faculty, and staff. Mr. Griffith invited Ms. Ann Raia, library director of Oklahoma City Community College to discuss the impact of OER on that campus, which included over \$2 million cost savings for students after the conversion of US History I and II and English Composition I and II to zero-cost OER since fall 2021.
9. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Mr. Mark Tygret provided the budget report and revenue update. He discussed the general revenue fund and the upcoming Board of Equalization meeting.

10. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations Dr. Jarrett Jobe provided an update on interim studies, discussing some of the studies in which higher education had participated. He also discussed the legislative agenda and its focus on policy requests. There was a discussion about upcoming elections.
11. **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.
12. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION.”** Regents received the September 2022 update on institutional activities via e-mail on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.
13. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** The calendar of events was distributed in written form to the Regents.
14. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
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Michael C. Turpen, Chair

  
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Dennis Casey, Secretary