

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

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

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILING OF MEETING NOTICE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT.** The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education held a special meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at the PHF Conference Center at 655 Research Parkway, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Thursday, February 2, 2023. A copy of the agenda for the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.
2. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Michael C. Turpen called the meeting to order and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Jody Parker, Dennis Casey, Jeff Hickman, Steven W. Taylor, Courtney Warmington and Michael C. Turpen. Regent Ann Holloway arrived at 10:50 a.m. Regent Dustin Hilliary was absent.
3. **INVESTMENTS.** Ms. Beth Johnson and Mr. Michael Forestner from Mercer presented an updated on the status of higher education investments to the State Regents. Regent Taylor, Chair of the Investment Committee, reflected on the work that had been done on the portfolio with Mercer, especially during a volatile market.
4. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.** Secretary of Commerce Chad Mariska and Ms. Susannah Gravely, Deputy Director of Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development, provided an update on Oklahoma's workforce and economic development priorities. Secretary Mariska discussed the Oklahoma Innovation Expansion Program (OIEP) which supports high-impact new capital investment across a broad range of industries to help diversify the state's economy. Secretary Mariska also discussed efforts of Governor Stitt's recently appointed Workforce Transformation Task Force to bring together leaders from business, government, education and non-profit sectors to provide better jobs for Oklahoma. Regent Parker observed that the committee did not have a representative from the energy sector. Secretary Mariska mentioned that the energy sector would be represented in a broader group at a later time. Regent Hickman noted that Oklahoma Works' 100 Critical Occupations list has been very helpful to higher education in aligning academic programs with projected workforce needs..
5. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**
  - a. **Murray State College (MSC).** President Tim Faltyn provided a brief background on MSC. He explained that MSC has grown and now has 2,200 students. MSC's model shifted over the past several years to include targeted classes at the Michelin Manufacturing plant and at Mercy. President Faltyn also mentioned that the college's nursing program was expanding through partnerships with the University of Oklahoma and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. He discussed the new Murray State College at Ardmore branch campus, which will provide much needed opportunities to the Ardmore community with a variety of degree options ranging from education to criminal

justice and nursing. Regent Casey and Regent Hickman discussed the concurrent enrollment process through MSC and the rigor for those high school students.

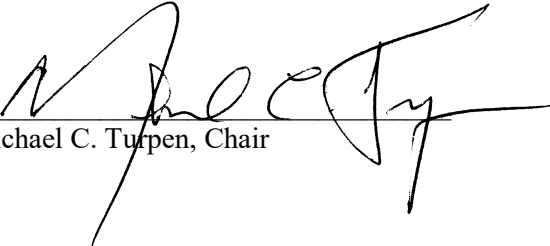
- b. **Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC).** President Janet Wansick presented a short video spotlighting EOSC. EOSC has 1,458 students, and its top 5 majors include General Studies, Nursing, Business Administration, Life Science and Animal Science. She explained EOSC's effort to partner with other higher education institutions and CareerTech to address the workforce needs of southeast Oklahoma. She also discussed partnerships with Connors State College and Carl Albert State College to provide shared services with professors and staff across the three campuses. Regent Taylor expressed his concerns about younger students attending college through the concurrent enrollment program. Regent Warmington asked for more information about the cost savings and the ability to serve more students through these partnerships. President Wansick indicated that she would provide more information.
  - c. **Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SEOSU).** President Thomas Newsom gave a brief update on the shared service that SEOSU provides to Murray State College. He said that the collaborative efforts allow better services to the students. He said that SEOSU's total enrollment was 5,376 students. President Newsom explained that SEOSU is at the forefront of preparing students to meet the critical workforce needs in aerospace, nursing-healthcare, and teaching. In aviation and aerospace, SEOSU has two PA44 Piper Seminole Twin Engine training aircraft, which allows students to train on how to operate the complex aircraft, as well as a Boeing 737 Max Simulator. The total fleet now includes 20 aircraft. In the area of nursing, SEOSU is seeing a major uptick in incoming and transfer students listing pre-nursing as their major. He also said that in the area of teacher education, SEOSU focuses on Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Art, English, Mathematics, Music Physical Education and Social Studies.
6. **EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES.** Ms. Cassidy Minx, Director of Workforce and Economic Development, provided a demonstration of the U.S. Census Bureau's Postsecondary Employment Outcomes Dashboard.
  7. **POLICY.** Mr. Matt Stangl, General Counsel, and Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, discussed the continuing efforts to update and streamline the State Regent's policy manual.
  8. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Mr. Mark Tygret, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, provided the budget report and revenue update. He discussed the general revenue fund and the upcoming Board of Equalization and Tax Commission meetings.
  9. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, provided an update on legislative bills related to higher education. He also invited everyone to attend Higher Education Day at the Capitol on February 14, 2023.
  10. **CAREERTECH.** CareerTech State Director Brent Haken provided an update on CareerTech activities and the strong partnership between higher education and CareerTech. Regent Warmington mentioned that she had toured a CareerTech facility and noted the success of their students entering the medical field.
  11. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Upon advice of Mr. Matt Stangl, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Regent Jody Parker motioned to enter

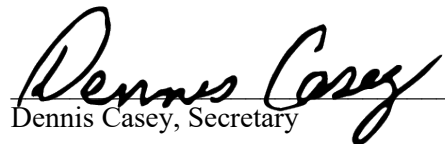
Executive Session, pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the board and its attorneys concerning: (1) Shepherd v. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, et al., CJ-2020-2383, Oklahoma County District Court; (2) Black Emergency Response Team, et al. v. O'Connor, et al., Case No. 5:21-cv-01022-G, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; and (3) Wisdom Ministries, Inc. v. Garrett, et al., Case No. 4:22-cv-00477-CVE, in the United States District Court for the Northern 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. The motion was seconded by Regent Dennis Casey. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Warmington and Turpen. Regent Hilliary was absent.

Following the executive session, Regent Holloway motioned, seconded by Regent Casey, to return to the regular meeting. Voting for the motion were Regents Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Warmington, Turpen and Sherry. Regent Hilliary was absent. Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Parker, to proceed as discussed in executive session. Voting for the motion were Regents Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Taylor, Warmington, Sherry, Turpen and Parker. Regent Hilliary was absent.

12. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION.”** Regents received the February 2023 update on institutional activities via e-mail on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.
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:

  
Michael C. Turpen, Chair

  
Dennis Casey, Secretary