

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

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**
Thursday, April 20, 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 regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at the Shangri-La Hotel and Conference Center, Roosevelt Ballroom, 57301 E. Oklahoma-124 in Afton, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Thursday, March 30, 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, Joseph L. Parker, Jr., Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Jeffrey W. Hickman, Courtney Warmington, Steven W. Taylor and Michael C. Turpen. Regent Dustin J. Hilliary arrived at 10:45 a.m.
3. **THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.** Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President of the Southern Regional Education Board presented his thoughts on the changing landscape of higher education. He explained that the landscape has shifted in many areas. According to Dr. Pruitt, automation is not necessarily going to replace jobs, rather it will require workers to possess different skills. He mentioned that in Oklahoma, only 5% of the jobs can be fully automated, but 45% of the jobs have the potential for automation, with 37% of workers being highly vulnerable to impacts from automation.

Dr. Pruitt pointed out that higher education struggles to attract talent due to competition with higher-paying jobs outside of academia. For instance, he illustrated the contrast between the shortage of nursing teachers at the college level and the abundance of career opportunities available to them outside the realm of higher education.

Dr. Pruitt said that the post-pandemic challenges facing postsecondary education include decreases in college readiness, changes in perception of the value of a higher education, drops in labor force participation, and the need to align educational offerings and workforce demand. He thinks that with fewer students enrolling in college, we will need to help more students succeed.

Regent Hickman initiated a discussion on the topic of alignment and governance changes and emphasized the importance of addressing this issue. He questioned whether there should be a new alignment between community colleges and CareerTech, highlighting that Oklahoma is the only state with a divided structure in this regard. Dr. Pruitt stressed the significance of continuing to engage in dialogue and analyzing data on this matter. It was noted that in Oklahoma, the division between community colleges and CareerTech is territorial with regard to local power.

He concluded by saying that the State Regents' new strategic plan was very comprehensive and ambitious. He explained that remaining stagnate was not good for any organization. As with all strategic plans, the devil is in the details. He encouraged the board to move forward with implementation of the plan.

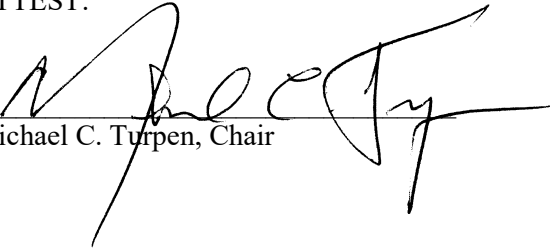
4. **STRATEGIC PLAN: BLUEPRINT 2030.** Chancellor Allison D. Garrett stated that the recently developed strategic plan is comprehensive and grounded in factual information. In her report on the progress of the plan, she mentioned that a nursing working group has already convened several times and a Career Services Council meeting has been arranged. The FAFSA legislation has cleared the Senate and House committee, and is expected to be discussed on the floor soon. Additionally, the funding formula committee has been created, and the policy review is advancing well. Regent Courtney Warmington stated that there is a dynamic strategy in place to execute the plan. Vice Chancellor for Administration Kylie Smith elaborated on the implementation process. She explained that the progress of each of the 67 recommendations will be monitored and documented through a matrix.
5. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** The budget report and revenue update were presented by Mark Tygret, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance. He explained that the general revenue fund was 23% above the estimate, leaving us \$1 billion over the estimate.
6. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** During the meeting, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, Dr. Jarrett Jobe, reported on the status of legislative affairs. He explained that progress on the budget has been sluggish as the two chambers are at odds over the allocation of funding toward vouchers for common education. Dr. Jobe also highlighted other areas of interest, such as property risk management insurance and faculty salary increases. Regent Hickman proposed two ideas for consideration. The first being the implementation of a bond bank and the second being the revival of the Endowed Chairs program. Regent Casey asked about the interim study concerning OneNet and asked that the Regents be given information to use in support of OneNet with the legislators. Regent Holloway asked about SB 550, which would require private and out-of-state institutions of higher education to be held to certain standards. Dr. Jobe said it passed the floor today and will proceed to the Governor for signature. Regent Warmington commended Dr. Jobe for his recent speaking engagement at the Oklahoma City University School of Law.
7. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Upon advice of Matt Stangl, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Regent Hickman made a motion, seconded by Regent Holloway, to go into Executive Session, pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) to discuss the Chancellor's annual performance review; and, 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. Drummond, et al., Case No. 5:21-cv-01022-G in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; (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; and (4) Larry Love University, Muskogee, 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. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Hilliary, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Taylor, Warmington, Hickman, and Turpen.

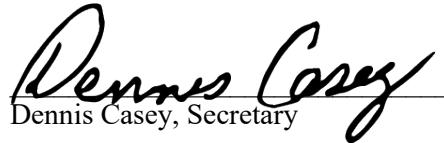
Following the executive session, a motion was made by Regent Casey, seconded by Regent Holloway, to return to the regular meeting. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Warmington, Sherry, Hilliary, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, and Turpen.
8. **"BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION."** Regents received the April 2023 update on institutional activities via e-mail.

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

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

ATTEST:


Michael C. Turpen, Chair


Dennis Casey, Secretary