

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

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

Thursday, May 28, 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, May 28, 2023, at the State Regents' offices, 655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. A copy of the agenda for the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.
2. **CALL TO ORDER.** Vice Chair Steven W. Taylor called the meeting to order and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Courtney Warmington, and Steven W. Taylor. Regent Jeffrey W. Hickman arrived at 11:20 a.m. Regents Michael C. Turpen, Dustin J. Hilliary and Joseph L. Parker, Jr., did not attend. Newly appointed but not yet confirmed Regent Mitch Adwon also attended the meeting.
3. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**
 - a. **OSU-OKC.** Update on institutional activities at OSU-OKC. President Scott Newman, OSU-OKC, presented a historical overview of the institution. Furthermore, he shed light on the ongoing endeavors of OSU-OKC to cater to the ever-growing workforce demands in Oklahoma while simultaneously enhancing access to educational opportunities for students seeking both certificates and degrees. Regent Casey inquired about the efficiency of OSU-OKC's ability to adapt to rapidly evolving workforce demands, specifically regarding the turnaround time required to establish new programs. President Newman responded by explaining the institution's proactive approach. He said that OSU-OKC is actively exploring various alternatives to expedite the process of transforming conceptual ideas into fully functional programs.
 - b. **OSU-IT.** Update on institutional activities at OSU-IT. OSU-IT President Bill Path provided a comprehensive report on the institution's recent activities. He highlighted the exceptional teaching methods employed at OSU-IT, which faced significant challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in transitioning to remote instruction via Zoom. To overcome this obstacle, President Path shared that OSU-IT successfully implemented extended reality techniques, leveraging innovative technologies developed by the gaming industry. He also explained that 90 percent of his graduates have multiple job opportunities prior to graduation.

In response to Regent Casey's inquiry regarding student housing on campus and its accommodation in light of student growth, President Path reassured the Regents that housing is presently not a concern. Regent Warmington inquired about OSU-IT's internship program. President Path said that every student enrolled in technical majors is mandated to complete an internship or secure a sponsor. Additionally, President Path explained that faculty members are heavily involved in assisting students in securing internships or sponsors, thereby helping students receive valuable practical experiences.

- c. **OSU Center for Health Sciences and OSU-Tulsa.** Update on institutional activities at OSU-Center for Health Sciences and OSU-Tulsa. OSU Center for Health Sciences (CHS) President Johnny Stephens delivered a comprehensive report encompassing both the CHS and OSU-Tulsa campuses. He discussed various crucial projects at CHS, such as the nursing program for the Cherokee Nation campus in Tahlequah, collaborative efforts with Stillwater College of Veterinary Medicine, Connors State Nursing on Cherokee Nation campus and SWOSU-Pharm/PA/PT potential. During the discussion, Regent Sherry inquired about the Veterans Center. President Stephens clarified that the center would be a 58-bed VA hospital established in partnership with the federal government, the State of Oklahoma, and philanthropic organizations. It would also facilitate the training of 100 new physicians.

Continuing the update, President Stephens transitioned to discussing OSU-Tulsa, which serves as a branch campus of OSU-Stillwater and functions as a transfer institution for junior and senior level courses. OSU-Tulsa focuses on providing industry-aligned education for the professional workforce in Tulsa. He explained that Tulsa has a bachelor's degree shortage and 90,000 adults in the Tulsa area have some college but no degree. He said that OSU-Tulsa has a 5-year goal of reducing this amount by 10,000. Responding to a question from Regent Casey about the collaboration with Google and its impact on the workforce, President Stephens explained that Google's impact on the workforce in the area is relatively small. However, workforce growth can be expected through initiatives like the solar-powered group associated with the Port of Inola and Panasonic.

4. **ONLINE EDUCATION.** Brad Griffith, the Director of Online Learning Initiatives, discussed the current trends in higher education online learning in Oklahoma. In his presentation, he presented statistical data that highlighted the prevalence of online classes among associate and bachelor degree holders. According to the data from 2017, nearly all associate degree holders (99 percent) had taken at least one online class, while the figure for bachelor degree holders was 94 percent. Moreover, between 2020 and 2022, almost all bachelor degree holders (99 percent) had engaged in online coursework. Griffith emphasized that four-year institutions had experienced a significant increase in the integration of online courses into their schedules.

During the discussion, Regent Taylor expressed his concern about an entire generation receiving their education solely through a computer. Griffith acknowledged this observation and agreed with the raised concerns. However, he remained optimistic about the future of online learning, suggesting that it holds potential for further development and improvement of the educational experience.

5. **BLUEPRINT 2030.**

- a. **Website.** Update on OSRHE website redesign (Strategy #16D). Angela Caddell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications, conducted a brief demonstration of the the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's newly redesigned website. During the presentation, she explained that the new website would serve as a replacement for the existing 17-year old website. Caddell emphasized that the upgraded website aimed to enhance the user experience by offering increased flexibility and improved functionality for the consumers.

- b. **Public Dashboards.** Update on development of public dashboards (Strategy #16D). Matthew Lann-Wolcott, Director of Student Performance Data, provided an update on the SAS data warehouse and the development of public dashboards in collaboration with SAS. The warehouse consolidates student performance data, while the user-friendly dashboards will offer easy access to key metrics.
 - c. **Career Services Council.** Update on creation of the Career Services Council (Strategy #3C). Dr. Cassidy Minx, Director of Workforce and Economic Development, gave a brief update on the first meeting of the Career Services Council. The council aims to promote collaboration and share best practices among institutions. The update highlighted the Council's commitment to enhancing career services through knowledge-sharing and fostering a supportive environment. During the meeting, discussion topics included organization charts, types of services offered, internships, software data management and reporting methods.
6. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.** Chad Warmington, President and CEO of the Oklahoma State Chamber, discussed the primary concern of business leaders throughout Oklahoma, which is the workforce ecosystem. He highlighted that in 2021 there was a significant disparity between the number of available jobs and the available workforce in the state, with 36,000 fewer workers than job openings. This shortage was particularly evident in key professions such as nurses, teachers, truck drivers, and software developers. To address this challenge, Warmington emphasized the need to optimize workforce productivity on the demand side and increase the number of trained workers with desired skills on the supply side.

To tackle this issue, Warmington mentioned the establishment of the Oklahoma Workforce Commission, a new organization created through SB621. The purpose of this commission is to focus specifically on the workforce and foster collaboration between businesses, the governor, the legislature, and the federal government. Warmington expressed his belief that Oklahoma has the potential to become the first state to effectively coordinate and execute a cohesive workforce action plan, ensuring a well-functioning workforce ecosystem.

At 1:55 p.m. Regent Taylor left the meeting and Regent Casey stepped in to preside.

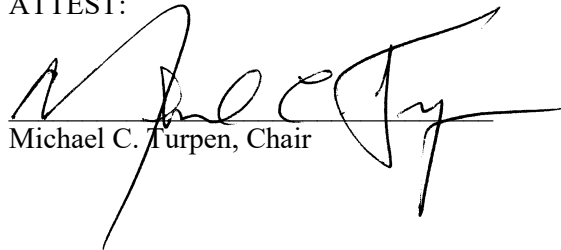
- 7. **CAMPUS SAFETY.** Update on Campus Safety and Security Task Force. Angela Caddell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications, announced the upcoming Statewide Summit on November 7 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. Vennie Gore, Senior Vice President for Student Life and Engagement at Michigan State University (MSU), will be the keynote speaker, offering timely insights following a recent campus shooting at MSU. The summit will also cover important topics such as threat assessment, Title IX reporting, suicide prevention, and an active shooter case study featuring Rose State College. This event aims to promote knowledge sharing and enhance campus safety.
- 8. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Mark Tygret, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, presented an optimistic outlook on the pending budget bill for higher education. Although not finalized, it allocates funds for academic programs, research, and addresses critical needs such as faculty salaries.
- 9. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** During the meeting, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, Dr. Jarrett Jobe, reported on the status of legislation as the legislative session concludes. He also updated the Regents on the proposed list of legislators who would receive Higher Education's Distinguished Service Awards.

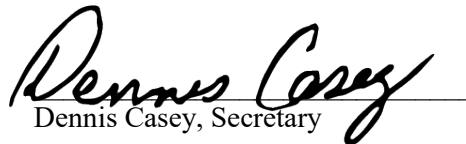
10. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Matt Stangl, General Council indicated that an executive session was not needed at this time.

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; (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; (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.

11. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION.”** Regents received the April 2023 update on institutional activities via e-mail.
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:


Michael C. Turpen, Chair


Dennis Casey, Secretary