

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Research Park, Oklahoma City

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE Wednesday, April 23, 2014

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 10:40 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2014, in the Regents Conference Room at the State Regents' offices in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on December 11, 2013. 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 Toney Stricklin, Ron White, Jay Helm, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Ike Glass, Jimmy Harrel, Mike Turpen and John Massey. Regent Harrel called the meeting to order and presided.
3. **PRESENTATION.** Dr. George Pernsteiner, President of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) gave a brief profile of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and framed the Oklahoma State System in the broader national context. Dr. Pernsteiner started by stating that he compared the Oklahoma State Regents with other boards around the country and researched what authority a coordinating board needs in order for students in their state to be successful. He looked at all 50 state boards and how they are structured. His conclusion is that Oklahoma's structure is not unusual but not universal either and in terms of legal authority, Oklahoma has exactly what it needs to be successful.

Dr. Pernsteiner stated that in 1950, fewer than half of American's had a high school diploma. The GI Bill of 1944 forever changed the education level demanded of adults in America and transformed our society. He stated that students must now have a postsecondary education to be competitive and successful locally, nationally and globally. Oklahoma has already taken a lot of important steps to move the needle on degree attainment in Oklahoma and Oklahoma is the only state that has taken a holistic approach to create programs for each target population.

Dr. Pernsteiner discussed nine key items that governing boards must do effectively to help students be successful:

- a. **Agenda and goal setting:** Coordinating boards must set the public agenda for student achievement and then devise plans and strategies needed to achieve the goals. Effective boards do two things to make sure the agenda is embraced by the state legislature: 1) find elected champions and; 2) maintain their student success agenda for longer than the political terms of their initial champions.
- b. **Budget preparation and the allocation of state appropriations:** Effective boards have the ability to present a consolidated budget and frame the discussion that will occur with the legislature. The allocation of money is also critically important. To be effective, boards must, in consultation with institutions and elected leaders, develop a way of allocating money focused on ways to advance student success.
- c. **Data:** Data is often the overlooked power that boards have to define, receive and report consistent information about students, student progress, institutions and their finances.

Dr. Pernsteiner stated that Oklahoma does this more effectively than any other state. The data must be used to inform decision-making, institutional decision-making, how boards and institutions hold each other accountable and how well we are making progress with the goals and measures that have been set. It keeps us focused on student success.

- d. Allocation of student financial aid: Dr. Pernsteiner stated that many students can no longer afford tuition. The demographics of our country indicate that future students will have fewer resources available to them than students of the past. The cost of education is higher than ever before and students have fewer dollars to pay them. Oklahoma needs to work on allocating financial aid in a way that advances student success.
- e. Capital planning and budgeting: Coordinating boards are in a unique position of prioritizing institutional building requests. Oklahoma should be valuing capital projects that advance student success.
- f. Programs and mission approval: Dr. Pernsteiner stated that the original purpose for the creation of coordinating boards was to assure adequacy of programs but no duplication of programs. That issue has morphed into assuring adequacy but also now quality of programs. Oklahoma should be assuring that the programs offered are high quality and students can be successful in those programs.
- g. Alignment and transfer policies: Last year, more than half of the bachelor degrees awarded, were to students who did not complete their degree at the institutions they started at. Most students attend multiple institutions on their way to a degree. Dr. Pernsteiner stated that it is important that programs and curriculum align and transfer easy. Oklahoma has created approaches to allow that to happen and may also want to look at multi-institutional degree programs in the future.
- h. Convening authority: Dr. Pernsteiner stated that Oklahoma has the real power to bring together leaders in the state to organize a goal and an agenda to aim at student success.
- i. Effective advocacy and integration into the success agendas of state leaders: Dr. Pernsteiner stated that most coordinating boards have legislative advocacies as one of their functions and they must be effective in this function or they will not meet their other objectives.

Dr. Pernsteiner stated that the Oklahoma State Regents compare very well with other states and Oklahoma has the attention of the governor and the legislature to a degree not found in all states. He also stated that Oklahoma is among the top ten states that receive the highest proportion of the state budget and that shows the investments that have been made in Oklahoma because of the effectiveness of the State Regents. Several State Regents asked questions and Dr. Pernsteiner closed by thanking the board for their commitment to student success.

4. **CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY.** President David Boren gave a brief presentation on the Gould Hall safety incident that occurred on January 22, 2014. President Boren stated that on January 22nd, the University of Oklahoma Police Department (OUPD) received a call from a faculty member in Gould Hall reporting sounds of gunshots in or near the building. President Boren was immediately notified of the situation and a text alert was sent to the campus community alerting all to “shelter in place.” All students were evacuated within 4 minutes and President Boren, the OUPD and the SWAT team were on the scene within 6-7 minutes. Emergency responders swept the building three separate times and no sign of gunfire was ever

found. There was ongoing construction in Gould Hall at the time and it could have been backfire from some of the construction equipment.

President Boren also stated that after any safety incident, he hosts an executive committee review of the incident and OU's emergency response. Overall, the committee thought OU's response was very effective but did have some recommendations such as, to change future alert notification language from "shots fired" to "possible shots fired," provide definition of "shelter in place," and ensure emergency responders have updated building maps.

President Boren stated that the university has invested approximately \$1.2 million in the Blackboard Connect System and the Vox Outdoor Alert System in an effort to reach all students, faculty and staff on campus in the event of an emergency. OU also continually encourages students, faculty and staff to keep their emergency contact information current. OU has approximately 37,000 contacts in their emergency response systems.

Regent Parker asked if this safety report has been shared with other institutions. President Boren said it has not but it certainly can be shared with any institutions interested. Regent Parker also asked if the State Regents phone numbers could be added to the alert system and President Boren stated that they could be added.

Regent Helm asked if this report could be shared with the legislature and President Boren stated it certainly could be shared with them.

Mr. Bob Anthony, General Counsel, stated that Mr. Anil Gollahalli, OU General Counsel, will be giving a presentation on the Gould Hall incident at the 2014 Legal Issues in Higher Education conference on September 30, 2014.

Chancellor Glen Johnson stated he would also like to have President Boren give this same presentation at the next Council of Presidents meeting.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Mr. Robert Anthony, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, advised Regents that there was not a need to go into executive session.
6. **UPDATE ON THE UNIVERSITY CENTER AT PONCA CITY.** Mr. Adam Leaming, Chief Executive Officer at the University Center of Ponca City (UC), gave a brief update on the Center activities. Mr. Leaming stated that the UC was created after it was determined through strategic planning that Ponca City was the largest community in Oklahoma that didn't have access to higher education within 40 miles. In 1998, the State Regents designated the UC as a learning site and it started in the basement of the Conoco complex with 45 students and 2 classrooms. The UC was given furniture, supplies and community support and Conoco supplied the facilities for 12 years at no cost to the state. Mr. Leaming stated that in 2011, the UC Foundation raised \$2.1 million to acquire and renovate the current 16,000 square foot facility.

In Fall 2013, there were over 400 students enrolled, with primary partnerships with Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Northern Oklahoma College. The UC serves both non-traditional and traditional students and pulls students from all over Kay County and southern Kansas. Mr. Leaming also stated that the UC Foundation helps harness the overwhelming community support and assists with facility maintenance needs and strives to ensure the UC has adequate resources.

In 2013, the UC launched a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree as a three-year pilot program. The BSN program has an instructor on site and there are currently 30 students with a BSN declared major.

The UC is currently discussing their strategic plan and how to expand the number of program offerings through partnerships with other institutions. Specifically, the UC would like to expand their STEM program offerings. Currently, there are no science labs or equipment to have STEM programs due to facility design. The UC is also working on meeting the needs of businesses in the community as well as learning how to budget and plan for expenses. Mr. Leaming finished by thanking the State Regents for their support for making the UC an affordable convenient option for higher education.

Regent White asked what the tuition structure is for the UC. Mr. Leaming responded that each student pays the tuition for their home institution plus a \$25 UC fee. Regent White said that the State Regents may need to review how the UC tuition is structured since students are paying variable tuition for the same instruction.

Chancellor Johnson thanked Regent Glass for his involvement and support of the UC.

7. **UPDATE ON EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES (ECS) MEETING.** Mr. Tony Hutchison, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning, Analysis and Workforce and Economic Development, stated that Oklahoma was invited to participate in the ECS meeting in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Hutchison and Dr. Debra Stuart, Vice Chancellor for Educational Partnerships, attended the meeting along with faculty members Ms. Alana McAnally, University of Central Oklahoma, Ms. Linda Tucker, Rose State College, and Dr. Tamara Carter, Oklahoma City Community College. The meeting was at Arapaho Community College and focused on how Colorado has been reforming remediation. Mr. Hutchison stated that four Colorado institutions have implemented supplemental academic instruction in the form of embedded remedial courses or corequisites in math and statistics courses.

Dr. Stuart stated that Colorado has asked their institutions to submit a remediation reform plan and that each institution must demonstrate certain benchmarks. Dr. Stuart also stated that the two out-of-state speakers at the meeting were Boise State University and Austin Peay State University.

Mr. Hutchison also stated that ECS paid for the Oklahoma team to attend the meeting.

8. **BUDGET REPORT.** Chancellor Johnson stated that the legislature has indicated they would like to see no budget cuts to higher education during the budget discussions; however, there may be a budget shortfall for May and June. Ms. Amanda Paliotta, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Information Technology, Telecommunications and OneNet, stated that all agency directors were notified by Secretary Preston Doerflinger of this shortfall of approximately \$2 million but it all hinges on what the April collections are. Ms. Paliotta also stated that the shortfall is only on the dollars we receive from general revenue.
9. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Ms. Hollye Hunt gave a brief legislative update and started by stating there were only a few bills that were of concern:
 - HJR1026 – This joint resolution would restrict the state from imposing laws on licensure, registration or special taxation on the acquisition, ownership or possession of arms, ammunition, or the components of arms or ammunition. Ms. Hunt stated that this

resolution was moved back to conference and Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) staff will work with the author to modify the language.

- HB 3211 – This bill would require an Oklahoma’s Promise student to enroll in a minimum of 30 credit hours each academic year. OSRHE staff are working with the author on this bill to find a workable solution.
- HB 2873 – This bill would require institutions to not take action or enforce a policy that would deny a religious student association any benefit available to any other student association.

10. ANNUAL REPORT. Ms. Angela Caddell, Interim Director of Communications, gave a brief update on the 2013 Annual Report. Ms. Caddell stated the report design was revamped this year and has received very positive comments. The report contains an overview of public higher education, the OSRHE public agenda, key initiatives and outlines programs and services in several areas. Chancellor Johnson provided a “Year in Review” summary and Regent Harrel outlined the role of the State Regents. The report also includes a profile for every public higher education institution in the state. Ms. Caddell said that this report is distributed to the legislature, the state cabinet, the presidents, governing board chairs, advisory councils and the media. The report is also available online at the State Regents website.

11. TASKFORCE REPORTS.

- a. **Online Education Task Force.** Dr. Blake Sonobe, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, gave a brief update on the work of the Online Education Task Force. Dr. Sonobe stated that the task force has expressed interest in having institutional presentations on their online education programs, perhaps a large and small 2-year and 4-year institution at the May and June task force meetings.

Dr. Sonobe also stated that on Friday, April 25th, the first annual Quality Summit Conference will be at Rose State College. This conference is for online education providers and there are approximately 150 participants registered.

Dr. Sonobe also stated that the subcommittees are continuing their work on developing the policy and procedures necessary to approve institutions in Oklahoma for SARA. That work should be done in the next six months.

Chancellor Johnson stated that it may be necessary to keep the task force in tact beyond Regent Harrel’s term.

- b. **State Regents Campus Safety and Security Task Force.** Ms Angela Caddell, Interim Director of Communications, gave a brief update on the work of the State Regents Campus Safety and Security Task Force. Ms. Caddell stated that the task force has three work groups currently working on projects.

The Campus Best Practices workgroup is working on finalizing best practice compilations for each of the key security topics: guns on campus, campus threat assessment, drug, alcohol and mental health counseling, cyber security, weather safety, Title IX and Clery Act reporting compliance, and student travel. The compendium for each issue will include a set of original documents, notes, summary and best practices recommendations. This information will be available on the State Regents website in spring 2014.

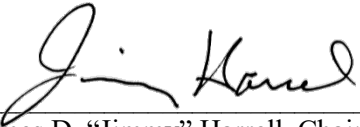
The Issue Monitoring Advocacy and Research workgroup will be working closely with Ms. Hollye Hunt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, on the composition of the legislature with respect to the State Regents view of no guns on campus.

The Training and Plan Development workgroup met to develop an assessment tool to help identify training needs on campus with respect to campus safety and security. The results of this survey will drive campus training needs going forward. Ms. Caddell stated that the survey did go out and OSRHE staff are currently compiling those survey results which will be brought to full task force for review.

Ms. Caddell also stated that the task force would like to hold a statewide summit this fall. The conference will be in partnership with the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, the City of Midwest City and Rose State College. The target date for the conference is October 27, 2014.

12. **“BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION” REPORT.** Regents received the April 2014 update on institutional activities.
13. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



James D. “Jimmy” Harrell, Chairman



Toney Stricklin, Secretary