

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Research Park, Oklahoma City

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE Wednesday, September 3, 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 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 3, 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 August 27, 2014. 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, Jay Helm, Ann Holloway, Ike Glass, Jimmy Harrel, Mike Turpen and John Massey. Regent Turpen called the meeting to order and presided.
3. **QUARTZ MOUNTAIN RESORT ARTS AND CONFERENCE CENTER AND NATURE PARK.** Dr. Terry Mosley, Executive Director, gave a brief update on the status of the Quartz Mountain Resort Arts and Conference Center. Dr. Mosley started by thanking Chancellor Glen Johnson and the State Regents for their support of Quartz Mountain in the last several years as it has been crucial to its survival. He distributed a marketing folder with a profile of the facility, an organizational chart, a list of the board of trustees and the legislation that moved Quartz Mountain under the authority of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) from the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (Tourism).

Dr. Mosley stated that their board is made up of representatives from Jackson, Kiowa and Greer counties, representatives from Western Oklahoma State College (WOSC), Cameron University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University and three board positions from not-for-profit arts institutions that use the facilities. Dr. Mosley stated that Quartz Mountain has a significant agreement with the Oklahoma Arts Institute (OAI). The OAI has a 50-year agreement with Quartz Mountain to host their activities. Additionally, Quartz Mountain has an agreement with WOSC to handle Quartz Mountain's financial duties, such as payroll and accounts payable.

Dr. Mosley stated that Quartz Mountain is very seasonal and, as such, there are several challenges. In 2008, Quartz Mountain's revenues began to decline as Lake Altus levels dropped. There were large fluctuations in the lake's ability to recover from the annual cotton irrigation and now, the lake is in its fourth year at less than 25 percent capacity – a chronic low lake level condition. This has a tremendous impact on not only Quartz Mountain but also the agricultural economy in that part of the state.

Dr. Mosley stated that there came a critical point when Quartz Mountain could no longer keep doing what they had always done and they negotiated their contract with their third party property management company to exit their contract early. Quartz Mountain could no longer afford their services and it allowed them to have control of their own expenses and to make the best use of the resources given to them.

Quartz Mountain staff started managing the property on October 1, 2013 and in the past year they have surpassed \$1 million in lodging revenues and have trimmed their expenses from \$3 million to \$2.245 million. Dr. Mosely believes they are headed in the right direction and the

supplemental funding from the State Regents have allowed them to have a cash flow, better positioning them to move into FY2015.

Regent Turpen asked how many staff Quartz Mountain employs, how many days the lodge is reserved in a month and how often the board meets. Dr. Mosely stated that they have 35 full time staff and 30-36 part time staff. Dr. Mosely also stated that the lodge is reserved approximately 80-85 percent of the month and the board meets every other month.

Regent Turpen also asked if Quartz Mountain has a development officer that helps with private fund raising. Dr. Mosely stated that there is not a lot of private interest and it is very difficult to position Quartz Mountain for that kind of philanthropy.

Regent Helm asked if cotton farmers have total control of the lake. Dr. Mosely stated that Quartz Mountain owns very little land around the lake and the water is owned by the water district. The City of Altus has an allocation of water to use for its residents. Regent Helm also asked if Quartz Mountain is the last lodge the state owns. Dr. Mosely stated that Quartz Mountain is not the only lodge the state owns, however, it is the first not owned by Tourism.

Dr. Mosely closed by inviting the State Regents and Chancellor Johnson to Quartz Mountain to visit the facilities.

4. **OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG.** Ms. JoLynn Horn, Assistant Vice Chancellor for GEAR UP gave a brief presentation on the OkCollegeStart.org website. Ms. Horn stated that in 2005, the OSRHE used GEAR UP grant money to design a student portal, one of the first of its kind, and then a few years later created the second phase, a transcript exchange. The transcript exchange allowed high school counselors to send transcripts online to colleges directly. Then, in 2013, Ms. Horn said that the OSRHE used College Access Challenge Grant funds to redesign and restructure the website. One of the changes was to make the website role-based, so that the content displayed depends upon who you are - student, parent, teacher, etc. Ms. Horn stated that in May 2014, the OSRHE conducted a soft launch of the website allowing selected groups to test the website for glitches and mistakes.

Ms. Horn gave a brief demonstration of the website and highlighted that students can also apply for the Oklahoma's Promise program through this website.

Regent Holloway asked how this information is distributed and Ms. Horn stated that it is currently live on the internet.

Regent Turpen asked how many hits the website has received. Ms. Horn said that information is not available yet, however, 386 of the Oklahoma K-12 schools are using the website.

Regent Harrel asked how to get this information to parents who are very busy and do not have time to browse the website. Ms. Horn stated that this information is sent to every high school counselor as well as being displayed in many community libraries. Additionally, GEAR UP staff will travel and present this information to any community who requests it.

Ms. Angela Caddell, Associate Vice Chancellor of Communications, stated that the portal was designed to be a one stop shop for students, parents and schools. Additionally, all OSRHE signature communication pieces are also posted on this website. Mr. Tony Hutchison, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Analysis and Workforce and Economic Development, stated that the website also has a career planning section that will show salaries and educational requirements for certain occupations, which is a very helpful planning tool for students.

Ms. Horn finished by stating it might be a good idea to have a roundtable brainstorming session with the Regents about to get this information to parents more effectively.

5. POLICY. Dr. Blake Sonobe, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, gave a brief update on legislation that passed this session affecting student veterans.

- HR 3230 provides in-state tuition for both the military service person and their dependents who are eligible to receive an entitlement transfer of their VA benefits. This is mostly for students who are stationed in another state and would otherwise have to pay out-of-state tuition.
- The United States Department of Education has ruled that student loan rates for a borrower who is on active duty will be capped at six percent until they are relieved from active duty.
- SB1829 provides in-state tuition to Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets who receive full ROTC scholarships. Cadets with partial ROTC scholarships are not eligible.
- SB1830 grants a leave of absence of up to five years for students who are called to active duty or may be transferred to another location and unable to finish their degree at their home institution.

SB1829 and SB1830 will require revisions to the OSRHE policy manual which will be presented for a vote at the State Regents meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2014.

6. ONENET. Mr. Von Royal, Executive Director of OneNet and Higher Education Chief Information Officer, gave a brief update on the OneNet strategic plan process. Mr. Royal started by stating that OneNet is in a very good place at this time, however, there are additional challenges that OneNet has not had in the past. Due to these challenges the OneNet staff recently created a strategic plan.

To develop the strategic plan, OneNet created a planning committee and a leadership committee, as well as reached out to every OneNet staff member to ask about the issues they are faced with. The strategic planning committee also looked at OneNet's strengths and weaknesses and compiled this information as a basis for the strategic plan. After analyzing all the data collected, the planning committee focused on five main objectives:

- **Financial:** OneNet does not receive state appropriations; it is driven by user fees. This requires OneNet to function as a business and be financially viable.
- **People:** OneNet has a very productive, driven staff and it must stay that way for OneNet to be efficient.
- **Customer/Constituents:** One of the primary issues indicated in OneNet's customer survey was a need to improve communications with end users. OneNet staff have created a new outreach plan to improve communication.
- **Technology:** For OneNet to maintain its relevance with its customers, staff have to make sure the infrastructure will meet the mission critical needs of its users.

- Processes: OneNet is implementing new and updated processes throughout to make it more efficient.

Mr. Royal stated that there are several challenges but with full participation from staff, OneNet can maintain its momentum. Mr. Royal also thanked Chancellor Johnson and Ms. Amanda Paliotta, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Information Technology, Telecommunications and OneNet for their leadership.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Regent Massey made a motion, seconded by Regent Holloway, to go into executive session for confidential communications between a public body and its attorneys concerning pending investigations, claims, or actions. Voting for the motion were Regents Helm, Holloway, Glass, Harrel, Turpen, Massey and Stricklin. Voting against the motion were none.

Following executive session discussions, Regents returned to open session.

8. **TASKFORCE REPORTS.**

- a. **Online Education Task Force.** Dr. Blake Sonobe gave a brief update on the work of the State Regents Online Education Task Force. Dr. Sonobe stated that staff are currently working to align OSRHE policies to become eligible for the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement.

Additionally, Tulsa Community College and Oklahoma State University will be present at the next Online Education Task Force meeting to give a brief presentation on their online learning programs.

- b. **State Regents Campus Safety and Security Task Force.** Ms. Angela Caddell, Associate Vice Chancellor for 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 is planning a statewide summit for this fall. The conference will be in partnership with the City of Midwest City, Rose State College, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security and the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. The summit will be on October 29, 2014 and will be held at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City. Ms. Caddell also stated that the task force is currently finalizing plans for the summit speakers: Mr. Jim Caeser, Campus Emergency Manager at the University of California, Santa Barbara and Mr. Ken Trump, President of the National School Safety and Security Services. Additionally, the summit will host concurrent sessions, panel discussions and a media panel. Presidents and career technology center superintendents are invited as well as 4-5 key staff from their campus.

The Issue Monitoring Advocacy and Research workgroup will be working closely with Ms. Hollye Hunt, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, to build a wider coalition in the legislature in support of no guns on campus.

The Training and Plan Development workgroup completed the review of campus training needs and many of the topics will be addressed at the summit. Additionally, the workgroup will be facilitating more in-depth training opportunities in the future.

Regent Turpen asked how many are expected to attend the summit. Ms. Caddell stated that she expects approximately 300-350.

9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.

- a. **Update on HB 3399.** Chancellor Johnson stated that HB 3399 repealed the Oklahoma Common Core State Standards. When that legislation passed the OSRHE staff began identifying subject area experts in math and English language arts to construct two 14 member teams. These experts came from the research and regional universities and community colleges. To conduct a thorough review of this nature, it is anticipated that the process will last 4-6 months. The first meeting of the math faculty was on July 21st and the first meeting of the English faculty was on July 29th. Chancellor Johnson stated that since then, the OSRHE has engaged the services of the Southern Regional Education Board to provide a consultant for the review of the state standards and are finalizing plans for a second faculty meeting with the consultant.
- b. **Update on Interim Studies.** Ms. Hollye Hunt, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, gave a brief update on the upcoming interim studies. Ms. Hunt stated that there were no interim studies on the Senate side pertaining to higher education; they were mostly on the House side. There are two interim studies that have been scheduled:
 - Interim Study 14-078 – Concealed Carry on College and University Campuses – scheduled for October 8th
 - Interim Study 14-013 – Oklahoma Student Loan Debt – scheduled for October 22nd

Ms. Hunt stated that the OSRHE will also be involved in interim study 14-006 regarding monies that are taken off the top of state government revenue sources.

10. ACADEMIC REGALIA. Regents reviewed two recommended color swatches for new regalia and chose the darker blue swatch with gold piping on the sleeves to match the tam tassel.

11. UPCOMING EVENTS. Chancellor Johnson distributed a schedule of events for this coming fall with the following dates:


- a. Regents Education Program – September 25, 2014
- b. Legal Issues in Higher Education Conference – September 30, 2014
- c. STEM Summit – October 7, 2014
- d. Guns on Campus Interim Study – October 8, 2014
- e. Campus Safety and Security Summit – October 29, 2014
- f. Fall Legislative Forum – November 19

12. ORIENTATION. Chancellor Johnson updated the Regents on the recent New President's Orientation that was held on August 28, 2014. President Leigh Goodson, President Sean Burrage and President Jack Bryant were all in attendance. Chancellor Johnson stated that this orientation is a great way to help inform new presidents about how the state system works.

13. "BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION" REPORT. Regents received the September 2014 update on institutional activities.

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

ATTEST:



Michael C. Turpen, Chairman



Toney Stricklin, Secretary