

# OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Research Park, Oklahoma City

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE Wednesday, October 15, 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, October 15, 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 October 10, 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, Ron White, Jay Helm, Ann Holloway, Ike Glass, Mike Turpen and John Massey. Regent Turpen called the meeting to order and presided.
- 3. 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 White, Helm, Holloway, Glass, Turpen, Massey and Stricklin. Voting against the motion were none.

Following executive session discussions, Regents returned to open session.

- 4. GOVERNANCE AND CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.** Dr. Constantine Curris, Chair of the Board of Regents for Murray State University, gave a brief presentation on governance and the changing landscape of higher education. Dr. Curris stated that he appreciated the opportunity to discuss the heritage and responsibility of statewide governing boards and the issues those boards may face.

Dr. Curris began by reviewing the history of governing boards, starting with the first model of higher education when the original universities were created in medieval Europe. These universities were more like guilds of scholars that were set apart from society; it was very similar to a private institution, in that students were chosen to attend these universities. The faculty made all the decisions of what would be taught and who the students would be. The closest parallel to these guilds in the modern world would probably be Harvard University or the University of Virginia. Their boards are called the Board of Overseers and the Board of Visitors, respectively, with the expectation that the board oversees but does not control.

The second model, Dr. Curris stated, is the ministry of education, where the universities are instruments of the state. These higher education institutions are governed by the current political party in power, such as the University of Puerto Rico. The president and administration of this are members of the current political party until it is ousted. Then new administrators take over from the new political party.

Dr. Curris stated that the founding members of our country rejected both of these models and created the lay board. In most states, members of the lay board are appointed by the governor, but in some states they are elected by the people and are not controlled by the government, political parties or the faculty. Dr. Curris stated that all statewide boards have a common

heritage, are responsible to the public and are expected to provide accessible, affordable high quality education to serve the public interest.

Dr. Curris stated that governing board members have twin responsibilities: 1) to ensure academic freedom exists on our campuses, and 2) ensure the boards serve the public good. Dr. Curris referenced The Morrill Act, signed in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln, which created the land grant universities in every state. President Lincoln referred to them not as public universities, but as the public's universities. They provided educational opportunities for the sons and daughters of the working class and laid the foundation of governmental support for research, extension and public service. Then after the Civil War, the normal schools were established that were then transformed into state colleges and universities. Community colleges were largely formed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and over this 150 year period, a covenant was created between the people and their higher education institutions. The mission of higher education was broadened to embrace the civic, economic and cultural aspirations of the people and in turn, citizens provided funding and support for their colleges and universities.

In contrast to other parts of government, the public really has very few expectations for the amount of money they invest in higher education. They expect that their children will be educated, that their knowledge and skill levels will be expanded and that higher education will be good stewards of its resources. Dr. Curris stated that this is the covenant between the people and higher education and the board is the guardians of this covenant.

Dr. Curris also listed some authorities that are not spelled out in the constitution:

1. Boards are a lightning rod for legislative and governmental unhappiness with what is going in higher education or on a campus. When unhappiness occurs, everyone looks back on the state board of regents.
2. Boards serve as translators. The chancellor and boards spend time translating legislation to campus officials and sometimes translating campus events and issues to legislators. The board serves as a bridge between government and campuses.
3. Boards also address governance dysfunction that may arise at an institution. Rarely, there are governmental conflicts that arise on campus, for example, a wayward board member or president and there is no one there to address it. Someone needs to come forward to address the issues and that usually is the governing board.

Dr. Curris continued by stating that the covenant between the people and higher education rests on one key component: higher education is responsible to students and citizens in fulfilling their public confidence and ensuring that institutions are run with integrity, efficiency and goodwill. Upholding and strengthening the public's trust in higher education is the board's most important responsibility. Dr. Curris stated that the Oklahoma State Regents are doing excellent work in fulfilling the public trust. The State Regents have considerable transparency, excellent communications and very thorough agenda background materials, reinforcing public confidence that as a board, they are making good decisions. Dr. Curris continued by stating that the most impressive action is that over the years, the citizens of Oklahoma have added additional responsibilities by legislative action. The expansion of responsibilities bespeaks of the legislative and public confidence in the State Regents, Chancellor Glen Johnson and staff.

Dr. Curris stated that in the future there are five key issues that higher education will face and will need to address:

1. The cumulative amount of student debt. Dr. Curris stated that the average student in the United States has \$30,000 in student debt. The cumulative national indebtedness has

now surpassed the cumulative national credit card indebtedness. Dr. Curris congratulated the State Regents for all their efforts in this area.

2. A growing pressure for regents to become involved in shaping the academic curriculum. Dr. Curris warned that there is great danger in regents becoming active in that area.
3. An increasing amount of federal governmental efforts to regulate higher education. Higher education has always been a state function, but the increasing amount of federal dollars flowing into federal aid has allowed the federal government to flex its muscles. Dr. Curris asked regents to be aware of the federal government's efforts, do not compromise the integrity of higher education, demonstrate that degrees are valuable, that student retention and graduation rates are excellent and the use of state and federal funds are carefully considered and justified.
4. There is a growing movement for college campuses to be proactive in helping local communities and the state develop economically. There is a renewed emphasis on higher education being a player in sustaining and improving economic development, such as providing training and helping restore economic vitality. Dr. Curris stated that he expects that this movement will focus on rural America. In the rural parts of the state, there is depopulation, an outmigration due to limited job opportunities and indebtedness. Regents will be expected to build partnerships to address economic development and it will command attention from boards.
5. Dr. Curris stated that the technological revolution will start to impact the work of higher education. It is a changing landscape with online course work, massive open online courses and change is occurring at an exponential rate. Tomorrow's technology will significantly impact what is taught on and off campus and the nature of the educational experience will be significantly different.

Regents asked several questions and Dr. Curris finished by stating that all these changes in higher education will pass through the regents hands. He asked the State Regents to remember that their greatest asset as the guardian of the covenant is the confidence of their fellow citizens.

## **5. BUDGET REPORT.**

- a. Budget Needs Survey Update. Ms. Amanda Paliotta, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Information Technology, Telecommunications, and OneNet, stated that all institutions have reported their budget needs and staff are currently compiling the data. All institutions were asked to tie their budget needs request to Complete College America initiatives or a degree completion plan, which helps the system as a whole, tie the entire budget request to those goals.
- b. Revenue Outlook. Ms. Paliotta provided Regents with an update on the current revenue outlook and stated that it is well ahead of the estimate, which is good news.

## **6. STUDENT SUCCESS.**

- a. Review of the Student Flow Report. Mr. Tony Hutchison, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Analysis and Workforce and Economic Development, gave a brief overview of the Student Flow Report from the Oklahoma Education Information System Dashboard. Mr. Hutchison gave several statistics related to student flow from high school to college graduate to the workforce:
  - The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that national employment growth from job creation and replacement needs will account for 50.6 million job openings from

2012-2022. More than two-thirds will come from replacement needs as a result of baby boomers retiring or permanently exiting the workforce.

- In a recent study by Georgetown University, the projected employment demand for the year 2020 shows that nearly two out of every three occupations will require postsecondary education. For Oklahoma, Mr. Hutchison stated that 67 percent of occupations will require postsecondary education. The Georgetown study also shows Oklahoma's current average educational attainment levels are below 2020 projected education demand and will fall short of meeting the state's projected needs.
- The Oklahoma Department of Commerce indicates the number of Oklahoma college graduates lags behind projected educational demand for the 10-year period 2010-2020. This is especially true for STEM (73 percent of projected demand), education (27 percent of projected demand), and healthcare (32 percent of projected demand) occupational groups.
- Only 5.2 out of every 10 Oklahoma high school graduates enter an Oklahoma college or university in the fall following high school graduation.

Mr. Hutchison finished by stating that nearly four of every five FTE students persist to their second year, where approximately 1.5 of every five students will go on to attain a bachelor's degree. Less than one in every five will attain a certificate or an associate's degree. These statistics translate to less degree holders for the overwhelming job needs.

- b. Review of the Business Services Matrix. Mr. Hutchison gave a brief overview and demonstration of the business support services database, OK Higher Ed Connect. Mr. Hutchison recognized Ms. Connie Lake, Ms. Angela Caddell, Mr. Randy McCrary and Mr. Michael Carlson for their work on this project, as well as the Communications Council and the Economic Development Council.

Mr. Hutchison stated that the database was created to help individuals and businesses needing a particular service, meeting place or customized training need that Oklahoma higher education institutions can provide. The database is a handy tool to find all the resources and support services they may need in their area. Customers can search for a particular service by type of service, by city, and proximity to a city and by institution and region of the state.

7. **COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA.** Mr. Hutchison gave a brief update on the Oklahoma Complete College America (CCA) goals. Oklahoma's goal is an additional 1,700 degrees or certificates per year to meet the CCA goal. In year two, Oklahoma exceeded the goal with 3,577 new degrees and certificates. Approximately 354 degrees came from research universities, 822 from regional universities and 2,531 from community colleges.
8. **REGENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM.** Ms. Kylie Smith, Vice Chancellor for Administration, gave a brief update on the Regents Education Program held on September 25, 2014. Regents Mike Turpen, Ron White and Ann Holloway attended as well as 80 guests. Governor Mary Fallin gave the keynote address and Mr. Rick Legon, President of the Association of Governing Boards gave a presentation as well.
9. **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 have finished revising Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) policies to become

eligible for the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Those policies will be presented at the October 23, 2014 Council on Instruction meeting for their review.

Additionally, the task force is continuing plans for an online summit next spring to discuss best practices. It will most likely be in March or April and will feature outside speakers.

- 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 in the final planning stages for the statewide Campus Safety and Security Summit on October 29, 2014 at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City. 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. Ms. Caddell also stated that the task force is currently finalizing plans for the summit speakers: Mr. Jim Caesar, 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. There are currently 225 registrations with a maximum conference capacity of 300.

Regent White asked if there has been an effort to invite legislators to this event and Ms. Caddell responded that all of them were invited.

## 10. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.

- a. **Update on Guns on Campus Interim Studies.** Chancellor Johnson gave a brief update on Interim Study 14-078 – Concealed Carry on College and University Campuses on October 8, 2014. The study was a joint committee of the House and Senate and Presidents David Boren and Burns Hargis were asked to present along with Chancellor Johnson. There were 18 presidents attending, a number of regents and over 20 campus law enforcement officers.

Chancellor Johnson reiterated the state system's position that weapons on campus create a more dangerous environment and it is their responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment for faculty, staff, students and visitors. He stated that the current law gives president's the authority to grant an exemption to any student based on individual circumstances and it is very clear that this law is working. The law also allows students to have a gun in their locked car on a campus and law enforcement personnel to carry a gun on campus.

Chancellor Johnson stated that Oklahoma is one of 23 states that allow presidents to determine if students are allowed to carry concealed weapons on campus. Senator AJ Griffin asked how often those exemptions are granted. From 2009-2014, there were 34 total requests for exemptions, 13 were authorized and 21 were denied.

They wrapped up their presentation by stating that the president is in the best position to make that decision and that there is not a compelling reason to change the current law.

- b. **Update on HB 3399.** Chancellor Johnson advised the Regents that the report on the review of the Oklahoma Priority Academic Student Skills standards would be presented at the October State Regents meeting on October 16, 2014. The report would focus on the process of the standards review and the conclusions made by the Math and English/Language Arts committees.

Chancellor Johnson stated that the process really began when HB 3399 repealed the Oklahoma Common Core State Standards. When that legislation passed, OSRHE staff began identifying subject area experts in Math and English Language Arts to construct two 14 member teams. These subject matter experts came from the research and regional universities and community colleges. To conduct a thorough review of this nature, it was anticipated that the process would last 4-6 months.

The committees met several times, worked on the review in between meetings and then the OSRHE engaged the services of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) to provide consultants for the review of the state standards. The SREB consultants, Sheila Byrd Carmichael and Dr. Janie Schielack conducted an independent analysis of the process and the findings.

Chancellor Johnson stated that the committees concluded that, if mastered, the Math and English/Language Arts standards would adequately prepare a student for college level courses. However, both committees had recommendations to further strengthen the standards.

He concluded by stating that the final report will be distributed at the October 16th meeting.

- c. Ms. Hollye Hunt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, distributed a schedule of the upcoming legislative tours.

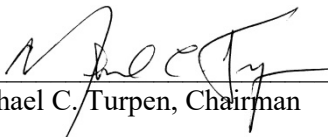
**11. “BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION” REPORT.** Regents received the October 2014 update on institutional activities.

**12. UPCOMING EVENTS.** Chancellor Johnson discussed several upcoming events this fall:

- a. Distinguished Service Award Honoring Representative Scott Martin – October 22, 2014
- b. Campus Safety and Security Summit – October 29, 2014
- c. Annual Staff Picnic – October 31, 2014
- d. State Regents Special Budget Meeting – November 6, 2014
- e. Online Education Task Force – November 6, 2014
- a. Fall Legislative Forum – November 19, 2014
- b. University of Central Oklahoma Legislative Tour Event – November 21, 2014
- f. State Regents Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting – December 3, 2014
- g. State Regents Holiday Event – December 3, 2014
- h. State Regents Meeting – December 4, 2014
- i. Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City Legislative Tour Event – December 12, 2014
- j. Redlands Community College Legislative Tour Event – December 15, 2014
- k. Southwestern Oklahoma State University Legislative Tour Event – December 16, 2014

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

ATTEST:

  
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Michael C. Turpen, Chairman

  
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Toney Stricklin, Secretary