

# OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Research Park, Oklahoma City

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE Wednesday, April 8, 2015

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 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 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 Ron White, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Ike Glass, Jimmy Harrel and Mike Turpen. Regent Tony Stricklin joined at 10:44 a.m. and Regent Jay Helm joined at 12:24 p.m. Regent Turpen called the meeting to order and presided.
3. **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.
4. **MERCER-HAMMOND.** Ms. Beth Johnson and Mr. Dick Anderson from Mercer-Hammond were present to facilitate a discussion regarding the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's (OSRHE) current investments.

The Regents asked several questions including how falling oil prices affect the OSRHE investments and rising interest rates. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Anderson made a recommendation to invest \$27 million in Vulcan Value Partners, \$30 million in Tweedy, Browne Company, \$7 million in Related Real Estate Fund II and \$14 million in Vanguard Emerging Markets.

5. **BUDGET.** Ms. Amanda Paliotta, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Information Technology, Telecommunications, and OneNet stated that for the current fiscal year, revenues are strong and are on track with certified estimates. Ms. Paliotta also stated that there is no clear information on what the agency's budget will be this year as some suggest the agency may receive a budget cut and some suggest the budget will be flat. She stated that the legislature is talking of using agency revolving funds to fill the budget shortfall even though institutional revolving funds are often designated for other purposes.
6. **FUNDING.** Chancellor Glen Johnson gave a brief presentation on the history of Complete College America (CCA) funding and comparison to other states since the beginning of CCA. Chancellor Johnson stated that Oklahoma started out very strong compared to other states, ranking 12<sup>th</sup> out of the 33 CCA states in percent of state appropriated support. Since then, Oklahoma's status has shrunk to the bottom third of the CCA states, now ranking 26<sup>th</sup>. Chancellor Johnson finished by stating that all of Oklahoma's surrounding states rank higher than Oklahoma and that is concerning.
7. **OKLAHOMA WORKS.** Mr. Tony Hutchison, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Analysis and Workforce and Economic Development, gave a brief presentation on the Oklahoma Works initiative. Mr. Hutchison stated that the agency has added the Oklahoma Works logo to the website and the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor's email signatures. The committee is also

asking agencies to submit data, and the OSRHE has already submitted it. The committee is also discussing asset mapping and where assets will be relocated to and who has that authority.

**8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Ms. Hollye Hunt, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, gave a brief legislative update highlighting the following legislation:

- HB 2180 – This bill originally required an Oklahoma’s Promise student to enroll in 30 hours per academic year but has since changed to say that the student must complete 24 hours per academic year. This bill also has a fiscal impact.
- SB 177 – This bill would increase the income eligibility for Oklahoma’s Promise to \$55,000. This bill has a \$1.1 million fiscal impact.
- SB 504 – This bill would allow the Oklahoma’s Promise scholarship to be used for an accredited online institution. This bill failed to get out of the House Appropriations and Budget Education Subcommittee.

Ms. Hunt stated that there were only a few pieces of legislation left concerning higher education.

**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 at the next meeting the committee will be reviewing the revisions to the *Electronically Delivered and Traditional Off-Campus Courses and Programs*, a review of the upcoming Online Summit on April 17, 2015 and there will also be presentations by East Central University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University regarding their online education programs.
- b. **State Regents’ Campus Safety and Security Task Force.** Ms. Angela Caddell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications, gave a brief update on the possibility of a mental health first aid instructor training resulting in a national certification. The training is sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and is five day training at no cost. Ms. Caddell stated several institutions were interested in sending faculty and staff members.

**10. TITLE IX.** Ms. Mackenzie Wilfong, General Counsel, Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges (OSU A&M), gave a brief update on Title IX Compliance.

Ms. Wilfong stated that Title IX began when the first compliance statute was passed in the 1970s and focused on anti-discrimination in athletic programs. However, Title IX was transformed in April 2011 when all higher education institutions in the nation received a letter from the United States Department of Education (USDE) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) stating that although the statutes aren’t changing, times are changing and that there would be an increased emphasis on sexual assault. Additionally, they stated that if a higher education institution knew or should have known about a sexual assault on campus, it is their role to investigate immediately, stop what happened, prevent its reoccurrence and remedy its effects.

Then, in March 2013, the Violence Against Women Act was signed into law and expanded what higher education institutions have to address, including, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. In May 2013, the USDE, OCR and the United States Department of Justice settled a two-year investigation at the University of Montana regarding the handling of numerous sexual assault complaints alleged against several football players. Then in April 2014, the White House released the first report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, which focused on bystander intervention. Finally, in July 2014, Senator Claire McCaskill issued 440 surveys to higher education institutions across the country and then created

a report using the results. The report focused on the failure of institutions to protect students and resulted in current pending legislation entitled the Campus Accountability and Safety Act.

Ms. Wilfong stated that there are several upcoming events hosted by the OSU A&M Board of Regents to help institutions address these new regulations:

- Statewide Title IX, Student Conduct, and Clery Act Training  
June 2-4, 2015 (open to all institutions)
- Train-the-Trainer for Student Affairs Vice Presidents  
Mid-June 2015

Ms. Wilfong stated that these events will also focus on the unique challenges institutions face, such as the lack of licensed counselors and advocates in rural areas and the varying campus law enforcement models.

**11. COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA.** Chancellor Johnson stated that all institutions have been asked to give a brief presentation on their 2014-2015 Institutional Degree Completion plans at the spring 2015 Committee-of-the-Whole meetings. The institutions presenting at the April meeting were: Southeastern Oklahoma State University, East Central University, Murray State College, Eastern Oklahoma State College and Cameron University.

- a. Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SE). President Sean Burrage gave a brief presentation on SE's Complete College America (CCA) initiatives. President Burrage began by stating that SE has been focused on readiness by growing their concurrent enrollment at area high schools and transforming remediation by providing options to students who need remedial courses. SE has also been focused on building bridges to certificates and degrees with mandatory advising for every student and early alert reports informing advisors of current academic progress. President Burrage also stated that SE has been working with the Choctaw Nation to allow their employees to earn a bachelor's degree in Communications in alternative delivery formats. SE's 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> semester retention in 2013 was 64.8 percent, which has continually been improving since 2010. President Burrage finished by stating that SE has been collaborating with rural school districts in McCurtain County to strengthen math and science education by providing workshops, mentoring and online STEM modules.
- b. East Central University (ECU). President John Hargrave gave a brief presentation on ECU's CCA initiatives. President Hargrave began by stating that the biggest challenge for meeting their CCA goals is funding. However, ECU is focusing on becoming more attractive to the metro areas and focusing on the student experience. ECU recently built the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center, the Harland C. Stonecipher School of Business and the Dr. Raniyah Ramadan Center for Undergraduate Research and Learning. President Hargrave stated that these new additions will hopefully make ECU more attractive to students in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metro areas. ECU is also focusing on predictive analytics, a partnership with the Chickasaw nation and retention of students and faculty.
- c. Murray State College (MSC). President Joy McDaniel gave a brief presentation on MSC's CCA initiatives. President McDaniel began by stating that MSC has been focusing on enhanced faculty and advisor training, quality customer service, the first year experience and developing a student success program and a mentor program. These programs are funded by a grant and course goals are to keep students enrolled and engaged while educating them on a variety of subjects including financial literacy, time management strategies, coping skills and the advantages of a college education.

- d. Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC). President Stephen Smith and Dr. Janet Wansick, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave a brief presentation on EOSC's CCA initiatives. Dr. Wansick began by stating that EOSC is focused on readiness by hosting workshops for K-12 STEM teachers, providing tutoring to struggling students and providing opportunities for students to explore career options. Additionally, EOSC is focusing on transforming remediation and strengthening pathways to college degrees and certificates with reverse transfer and course transfer initiatives.

President Smith also gave a brief update on the situation involving EOSC and the USDE. President Smith stated that EOSC has been placed on heightened cash monitoring status-2 (HCM-2) due to an investigation from the USDE. This status removes institutions from the Advance Payment Method and requires institutions to disburse financial aid payments from their own funds and then submit a reimbursement request to the USDE. President Stephen Smith has strong objections to their report and has stated that EOSC is using their reserves to disperse financial aid payments to students. President Smith believes that EOSC is managing the process well and will hopefully go off HCM-2 soon.

- e. Cameron University (CU). President John McArthur gave a brief update on CU's CCA initiatives. President McArthur began by stating that last year CU issued over 1,000 certificates and degrees, the highest in university history. Additionally, CU has been working with students who did not know they had earned enough credits to graduate and that has added to the growth of certificates and degrees. CU is also focused on student retention. In 2013, CU opened the Office of Teaching and Learning, a dedicated office for first year students and in 2014 CU was accepted to the HLC Academy for Student Persistence and Completion. President McArthur finished by saying that 38.4 percent of first time bachelor's degree seeking students at CU are enrolled in developmental classes and CU is working on remediation reform.

**12. REGIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OKLAHOMA.** Regent Susan Winchester gave a brief update on the work of the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO). Regent Winchester stated that RUSO is made up of six different institutions all working collaboratively. RUSO institutions enroll over 40,000 graduates per year, 38 percent graduate with a bachelor's degree and 91 percent stay in Oklahoma. Regent Winchester stated that the average cost of tuition at a RUSO institution is \$11,000, half of the national average, and 43 percent of RUSO students graduate debt-free.

**13. HIGHER EDUCATION COMPLETION CONFERENCE.** Dr. Debra Stuart, Vice Chancellor for Educational Partnerships, gave a brief report on the 2015 Higher Education Completion Conference on April 2, 2015 at Oklahoma City Community College. Dr. Stuart stated there were around 200 participants representing every Oklahoma institution. The keynote speakers were outstanding and an evaluation will be sent out to all participants to gain feedback regarding the conference.

**14. "BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION" REPORT.** Regents received the April 2015 update on institutional activities.

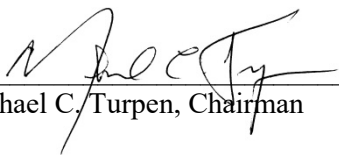
**15. CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** Chancellor Johnson discussed several upcoming events this spring:

- a. April 8, 2015 – State Regents' Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting— 10:30 a.m. at the State Regent's Office in Oklahoma City.

- b. April 9, 2015 – Tuition Hearing – 9:00 a.m. at the State Regent’s Office in Oklahoma City.
- c. April 9, 2015 – State Regents Regular Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at the State Regent’s Office in Oklahoma City.
- d. April 9, 2015 – Online Education Task Force – 11:30 a.m. at the State Regent’s Office in Oklahoma City.
- e. May 28, 2015 – State Regents’ Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting— 10:30 a.m. at the State Regent’s Office in Oklahoma City.
- f. May 29, 2015 – State Regents Regular Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at the State Regent’s Office in Oklahoma City.
- g. May 29, 2015 – Online Education Task Force – 11:30 a.m. at the State Regent’s Office in Oklahoma City.

**16. 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