

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Research Park, Oklahoma City

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE Wednesday, September 2, 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 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 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 August 28, 2015. 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, Ann Holloway, Ike Glass, Mike Turpen and John Massey. Regent Jay Helm joined the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Regent Stricklin called the meeting to order and presided.
3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Mr. Robert Anthony, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE), advised Regents that there was not a need to go into executive session.
4. **WESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE.** President Phil Birdine gave a brief update on Western Oklahoma State College's (WOSC) work to restore their status with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and reintegrate their condensed online courses. President Birdine started by thanking Chancellor Glen Johnson and the OSRHE Academic Affairs staff for their assistance during this process. He stated that once WOSC received an HLC action letter advising them of sanctions, it began a long process of reviewing their procedures, building new standards and rebuilding trust.

Ms. Lisa Greenlee, Vice President for Academic and Student Support Services, stated that WOSC reviewed their online course interaction, standards for course integrity, state authorization, strengthened their course assessments, and started a required online training program for instructors.

Ms. Greenlee also stated that WOSC tackled their loan default rate, bringing it from 29.8 percent in 2010 to 20 percent in 2012. WOSC also focused on retention, remedial re-design, processes to ensure online course quality by adopting Quality Matters, and updated their online course review process.

President Birdine finished by stating that WOSC has come a long way in the last two years and he is very proud of the institution and staff.

5. **COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA.** Former Tulsa Community College President Tom McKeon gave a brief update on the Complete College America (CCA) Program. Dr. McKeon started by stating that the Math Success Group has been working on reforming math remediation and strengthening math preparation for majors. Additionally, the OSRHE has applied to The Dana Center's Mathematics Pathways to Completion which opens an opportunity for a public-private partnership. Dr. McKeon stated that OSRHE staff will be attending the CCA Annual Convening of the States on October 12-13, 2015.
6. **COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA.** Chancellor Johnson stated that all institutions have been asked to give a brief presentation on their Institutional Degree Completion plans at the upcoming

Committee-of-the-Whole meetings. The institutions presenting at the September meeting were: Connors State College, Rose State College, the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

- a. Connors State College (CSC). President Tim Faltyn gave a brief presentation on CSC's CCA initiatives. President Faltyn began by giving a brief CSC campus profile stating that CSC is 107 years old and 55 percent of students are first generation college students. Additionally, 63 percent need developmental education and CSC is starting to adapt their degree programs to students needs using data analytics.
 - b. Rose State College (RSC). President Jeanie Webb gave a brief presentation on RSC's CCA initiatives. President Webb began by stating that RSC has been working to enhance access, increase the number of graduates, and better prepare students with the Ticket to Rose program, case management, requiring students to take an educational planning course and an early alert system for advisors. President Webb also stated that RSC has some big challenges, such as being an open door institution with mostly first generation students and many single parents.
 - c. University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO). President John Feaver gave a brief presentation on USAO's CCA initiatives. President Feaver began by stating that USAO installed a new portal for online student services, moved to a trimester system and a flat rate tuition model. He also stated that USAO's challenges are lack of funding and recruiting statewide. President Feaver said that 57 percent of USAO students are first generation students, 40 percent are minority and 11 percent are Oklahoma's Promise students.
 - d. Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU). President Janet Cunningham and Dr. Steve Lohmann, Executive Vice President, gave a brief presentation on NWOSU's CCA initiatives. Dr. Lohmann stated that NWOSU's graduation rates have increased and NWOSU is focusing on Math course redesign, corequisite remediation and concurrent enrollment. President Cunningham stated that NWOSU has been focusing on one student at a time, intrusive advising, and ITV courses which work well for NWOSU.
7. **OKLAHOMA COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.** Ms. Mary Heid gave a brief update on the Oklahoma College Assistance Program (OCAP). Ms. Heid started by reviewing the OCAP loan portfolio and stating that OCAP services Oklahoma's remaining \$1.9 billion Federal Family Education Loan Program portfolio. They provide critical student and campus support services such as college access, financial literacy and default prevention. The total OCAP budget is approximately \$18.8 million and OCAP does not receive any state funding. With the reduction of rehabilitation collection costs in 2014 due to the Federal Budget Bill, it resulted in a 50 percent drop in revenues for OCAP. With that reduction, OCAP has reduced their employees to 34 and modified their services to concentrate on outreach efforts, direct services on higher education campuses and student loan management. Ms. Heid stated that OCAP hosts campus and community workshop, freshman orientation, gateway and life skills courses and training for financial aid professionals and administrators.

Ms. Heid finished by stating that Oklahoma has the fifth lowest student debt of all states with 47 percent of 2013 graduates having no student loan debt.

8. **BUDGET.** Ms. Amanda Paliotta, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Information Technology, Telecommunications, and OneNet stated that the July monthly collections needed to fund August's allocations for state agencies was not enough and the legislature dipped into the

general savings to meet that difference. She stated that the OSRHE will be monitoring how much and how often they will use savings to meet their monthly allocations through the fiscal year.

9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.

- a. Higher Education Act Reauthorization. Ms. Holly Hunt, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, distributed an article reviewing the Higher Education Act reauthorization. Ms. Hunt stated that it will focus on four areas: 1) affordability; 2) accountability; 3) accreditation; and 4) sexual assault and campus safety.
- b. Interim Studies. Ms. Hunt distributed a list of the 2015 Senate and House proposed interim studies of interest.
- c. Distinguished Service Award Presentations. Ms. Hunt also distributed a schedule of remaining 2015 Distinguished Service Award presentations.

10. 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 OSRHE staff have met with NextThought to discuss the next steps in creating a quality online education program in Oklahoma. Dr. Sonobe stated that Mr. Rob Reynolds with NextThought will present at the September Online Education Task Force meeting.
- b. **State Regents' Campus Safety and Security Task Force.** Ms. Angela Caddell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications, stated that in July, the OSRHE sponsored a mental health first aid instructor training resulting in a national certification. The training was sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at no cost. Ms. Caddell stated that this training was so successful that this training will be expanded in the future.

Additionally, Ms. Caddell stated that the task force is in the initial planning stages for the 2016 Campus Safety and Security Summit.

- 11. "BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION" REPORT.** Regents received the September 2015 update on institutional activities.

12. CALENDAR OF EVENTS. Chancellor Johnson discussed several upcoming events:

September 22, 2015 – Regents Education Program Annual Conference – 8 a.m. Presbyterian Health Foundation Conference Center in Oklahoma City.

October 13, 2015 – Governor's STEM Conference - 8 a.m. at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

October 21, 2015 – State Regents Fall Retreat/Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting – 10:30 a.m. at the State Regent's Office in Oklahoma City.

October 22, 2015 – State Regents Regular Meeting – 9 a.m. at the State Regent's Office in Oklahoma City.

October 22, 2015 – Online Education Task Force – 10:30 a.m. at the State Regent's Office in Oklahoma City.

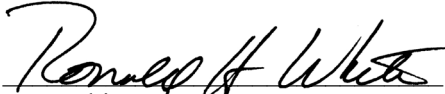
November 5, 2015 – Regents Special Budget Meeting – 10:30 a.m. at the State Regent’s Office in Oklahoma City.

November 12, 2015 – Fall Legislative Forum – 8:30 a.m. – Jim Thorpe Museum in Oklahoma City.

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

ATTEST:


Toney Stricklin, Chairman


Ron White, Secretary