

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

655 Research Parkway, Oklahoma City

MINUTES

Eight Hundred and Tenth Meeting



October 22, 2020

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**Minutes of the Eight Hundred and Tenth Meeting
of the
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
October 22, 2020**

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILING OF MEETING NOTICE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT.** The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education held a special meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 22, 2020, via Zoom videoconference. This special meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on October 16, 2020. A copy of the agenda for the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.
2. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Ann Holloway called the meeting to order and presided. Present for the meeting via Zoom videoconference were State Regents Jack Sherry, Ron White, Jody Parker, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Jeff Hickman, Michael C. Turpen, and Steven W. Taylor.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** Regent Taylor made a motion, seconded by Regent Turpen to approve the minutes of the State Regents' meeting on September 3, 2020. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.** Chair Holloway began by stating that she could not believe that meetings continue to be virtually and that the State Regents are looking forward to the time when they can officially meet Regents Sherry and Casey in-person. She concluded her remarks by personally thanked the State Regents staff for their continued hard work in putting together the virtual meetings.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR.** Chancellor Glen D. Johnson updated State Regents on the continued meetings with the college and university presidents regarding COVID-19 and their campuses, noting that the top priority continues to be providing a high-quality educational experience while maintaining a safe environment for all on campus. He discussed the current guidelines and recommendations regarding continued use of videoconferencing, adding that the Regents Education Program sessions continue to be held virtually and noting that the Legislative Forum would also be held in a virtual format on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

6. **2019 HIGHER EDUCATION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD.** Chancellor Glen D. Johnson and the State Regents presented Senator Gary Stanislawski (Tulsa) with the 2019 Higher Education Distinguished Service Award for his support during the 2019 legislative session and thanked him for his service. Senator Stanislawski provided remarks about the important role education plays in the development of the state.

7. **SYSTEM INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE.** Mr. John Curry, Mr. Glenn McLaurin, and Mr. Chris Byrne from Huron Consulting Group presented a proposal from Huron Consulting for a pilot project. Regent Parker, Chair of the System Innovations Committee, stated that he believed that the proposal was very well crafted and hoped that the other State Regents would see the value of the proposal. Mr. Curry began by stating that over the past year and a half, Huron had looked at data for all of the colleges and universities in the state, measuring characteristics, mostly financial, to see what has been driving decisions on campuses. He stated that they have been well-acquainted with campus leadership and this will enable them to move forward with the proposal. He stated that time is of the essence and that many institutions are doing very drastic things to keep their budgets in line and that these decisions may not be as well thought through as they should be. Mr. Curry provided background for the proposal and discussed how the proposal

has evolved from the initial conversations.

Mr. Curry discussed the proposed project structure, noting the creation of the System Innovations Committee, a Huron and System Office-based Project Management Office that will support institutional outreach and engagement, and the cohorts. He then discussed the proposed cohort-based approach to engaging with institutional leadership in order to review financial conditions, discuss the vision and goals of the System Innovations Committee, and identify opportunities for innovative collaboration in a collaboration workshop. Mr. Curry stated that after preliminary discussions, System leadership proposed several criteria for selecting institutions to participate in the pilot cohort, including proximity, preexisting relationships, and the diversity of governing boards. He noted that determination of the pilot cohort will ultimately be a decision of the System Innovations Committee. Mr. Curry then explained the proposed schedule of meetings and engagement timeline for the pilot cohort and discussed Huron's next steps regarding engagement and the specific actions they will take.

Mr. Curry discussed areas of potential inquiry that Huron will have with cohort participants covering a range of topics but nothing that common themes related to resource preservation, enrollment, and COVID planning would be likely to surface. He presented possibly inter-institutional collaboration opportunities that could arise out of discussions with cohort participants, noting that Huron has identified four common categories of significant collaboration opportunities: administrative service delivery, academic program offerings, enterprise systems and IT strategy, and spend management. Mr. Curry and Mr. Byrne then discussed the project experience that the Huron representatives have.

Members of the System Innovations Committee then provided comments about the proposal and the benefits they see going forward, noting that they see the proposal as the State Regents' continuation of initiatives from the Task Force. There was then a general discussion regarding the future of international students, certifications and internships.

BREAK. Five-minute break for videoconferencing meeting. Following the break, the meeting was called back to order and the roll was called. Participating in the meeting were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor.

8. **MERCER HAMMOND.** Ms. Beth Johnson, Mr. Tim Westrich, Mr. Anthony Brown, and Mr. Paul Katzfey from Mercer Hammond joined the videoconference.

Ms. Johnson began by stating that Mercer had no recommendations for the State Regents, but that they would provide an update on the portfolio and discuss the markets. She highlighted the fiduciary calendar for 2020-2021 and stated that the markets have been difficult this year, noting that the S&P was up 5 percent year-to-date but that the one-year numbers show that the portfolio had only a 3.5 percent return. She stated that the portfolio as a whole had a little bit of a value tilt. Mr. Anthony Brown provided the State Regents with a market update, stating that the markets have rebounded faster than previously estimated, and that the policy responses have been pretty bullish for equities, with 3 plus trillion in fiscal stimulus. He stated that this has given equities a lot of valuation support. He discussed the performance of value versus growth, discussing the breakdown of the Top 5 of the S&P 500 versus the rest of the index, noting that the Top 5 stocks have not really been affected by COVID-19. He stated that the recovery from the COVID recession has been stronger than what many economists thought it would be but that markets are currently 3.5 percent below the start of the year.

Mr. Brown noted that some industries continued to struggle, including small businesses, and discussed that unemployment remains very high. He discussed a change that the Fed made in shifting its policy framework, with the implication that the Fed is going to make. Mr. Brown discussed opportunities that remain in corporate credit and added that equity valuations as a result of interest rates staying low and that they do not anticipate interest rates going higher for a couple of years. Mr. Brown also discussed possible scenarios in the market as a result of the election and added that markets have already priced high risk around the election.

9. **PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT.** Regent Parker made a motion, seconded by White, to accept the preliminary report for the fall 2020 semester. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none. Mr. Tony Hutchison, Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning, Analysis, Workforce and Economic Development discussed the Fall 2020 Preliminary Enrollment Survey and stated that overall the fall enrollment has not declined as steeply as many experts thought in April. He stated that the research institutions have fared the best with a 1.1 percent decline, the regional universities are down 2.9 percent, and the community colleges are down 4.8 percent. He noted that Oklahoma City Community College, who moved to entirely online for Fall 2020, actually had an increase in enrollment, though Tulsa Community College and Rose State College both had declines. He stated that the first-time entering student headcount had seen a large decrease, possibly due to students preferring to stay close to home. Mr. Hutchison stated that concurrent enrollment had grown but that he has concerned about equity. He then discussed the ten-year fall preliminary headcount trend, noting that currently the state is down around 30,000 students with about half of those coming from community college enrollment decline. He stated that this trend in community college and regional university decline is more sensitive to the economy.
10. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Interim Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Ms. Sheri Mauck stated that September collections were trending slightly above the monthly estimates, giving a 1.7 percent increase over the monthly estimate, which represents \$9.5 million. She stated that the total collections were 4.8 percent above the estimate, equating to \$82.3 million, which is a cautiously optimistic sign that we are moving in the right direction in state revenue. Ms. Mauck noted that gross production collections have been received and that the State Regents have received 35 percent of that current appropriation through September, which

represents \$32.9 million, and has increased in the last three months, moving in a positive direction. Regarding the budget update Ms. Mauck stated that the agency is preparing for consideration the budget needs request which will be presented on November 5, 2020. She provided a CARES Act funding expenditure update, stating that institutions have reported that through September 30, 2020, they have spent \$90 million from the allotments that came directly from the U.S. Department of Education, and of that \$90 million, 55 percent or \$49.8 million has been expended for student grants and scholarships.

11. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations Ms. LeeAnna McNally stated that the legislature continues with interim studies and that the State Regents' staff continue to participate, monitor and provide information to legislators on those studies. She noted that several studies are related to workforce development and what can be done in the current environment regarding online education. Ms. McNally stated that they are also planning legislative events for later this fall including the legislative forum and tours and other events with legislators. She stated that they are continuing to schedule the 2021 Distinguished Service Awards. Ms. McNally concluded by stating that the legislative session will arrive soon and there are currently 50 days until the bill filing deadline and that they continue to meet with legislators and provide input from the higher education standpoint.

12. **TASK FORCE REPORTS.**

- a. **Online Education Task Force.** Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Debbie Blanke began by discussing the membership of the Online Consortium of Oklahoma (OCO), noting that there are currently 21 institutions who have renewed. She stated that they launched the OCO website on September 28 and provided a demonstration of the website to the State Regents. Dr. Blanke discussed the proctor pilot project, noting that there are 16 institutions participating in this pilot and they will be

reporting in January and there will be a roundtable discussion in February 2021. She mentioned the STEM academy in the summer and that they were anticipating a second one this fall. Noting that Open Educational Resources was a high priority for the Online Consortium, Dr. Blanke mentioned a summit on Friday, October 30, 2020 to discuss how faculty can develop Open Educational Resources for one of their courses. She stated that through OCO they have purchased an annual subscription for Pressbooks to be able to develop textbooks and materials for up to 30 courses. She added that Quality Matters is another resource that the State Regents have historically supported and that 53 individuals are registered for some workshops. Dr. Blanke concluded by discussing the OCO learning portal through Moodle, a free online learning management system.

- b. **State Regents Campus Safety and Security Task Force.** Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications Ms. Angela Caddell shared that the CSSTF has identified a viable date for the security summit next fall and that it has been scheduled for November 1, 2021 at the Reed Center in Midwest City and that their mission would now be to continue planning for that. She noted that to continue to meet campus training needs in the interim, they are discussing smaller-scale virtual trainings with partners at Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. She noted that CSSTF is currently working with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to offer a custom offering of their Crisis Intervention Training Certification program for campus safety and security personnel. She stated that they are very excited about this custom training opportunity. She stated that the next meeting is set for Wednesday, November 4, 2020.

BREAK. Five-minute break for videoconferencing meeting. Following the break, the meeting was called back to order and the roll was called. Participating in the meeting were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Turpen, and Taylor. Regent Hickman joined the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

13. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

- a. **This item was addressed after agenda item #8, Mercer Hammond.** Possible discussion and vote to enter into executive session pursuant to Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, Section 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the board and its attorneys concerning Knox v. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, CJ-2020-2383, Oklahoma County District Court if the board, with advice of its attorney, determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the board to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest.
- b. Regent Taylor made a motion, seconded by Regent Parker to enter executive session for confidential communications between the board and its attorneys concerning pending investigations, claims, or actions. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
- c. Following executive session discussion, open session resumes.
- d. Regent Taylor made a motion, seconded by Regent Parker to exit executive session. Voting for the motion via roll all were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

14. **NEW PROGRAMS.**

- a. Regent White made a motion, seconded by Regent Taylor to approve a request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Certificate in Data Science and Analytics. Voting for the motion via a roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
- b. Regent Casey made a motion, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve a request from Oklahoma State University to offer the Graduate Certificate in Aviation/Aerospace

Administration, the Graduate Certificate in Forensic Investigative Sciences, the Graduate Certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling, the Graduate Certificate in Hidden Student Populations in Stillwater and Tulsa, and the Master of Science in Aging Studies. Voting for the motion via a roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

15. **INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAMS.** Regent Hickman made a motion, seconded by Regent Parker, to approve an extension of the revision schedule for The Language Company in Edmond, Oklahoma for one year. Voting for the motion via a roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
16. **ACADEMIC POLICY.** Regent Hickman made a motion, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve a policy exception request from the University of Central Oklahoma to transcript credit for prior learning coursework before students complete 12 credit hours. Voting for the motion via a roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
17. **STUDENT ASSESSMENT PLANS.** Regent Hickman made a motion, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve changes to the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College's Assessment Plan as required by the Student Assessment and Remediation policy. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
18. **RULE REVISIONS.**
 - a. Posting of proposed rule revisions for the Oklahoma's Promise – Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program.
 - b. Posting of proposed rule revisions for the Academic Scholars Program.

- c. Posting of proposed rule revisions for the Regional University Baccalaureate Scholarship Program.
- d. Posting of proposed rule revisions for the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program.
- e. Posting of proposed rule revisions for the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program.

These items were for posting only.

19. **OKLAHOMA’S PROMISE.** Regent Taylor made a motion, seconded by Regent White, to provide to the State Board of Equalization a funding estimate of \$69.4 million for the Oklahoma’s Promise scholarship program for fiscal year 2022 and further recommended that \$65.4 million of the funding estimate be allocated from the General Revenue Fund with the remaining \$4 million funded from the program’s trust fund reserves. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none. Mr. Bryce Fair, Associate Vice Chancellor for Scholarships and Grants, gave a brief background and update on the Oklahoma’s Promise Scholarship Program.
20. **ACADEMIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM.** Regent Hickman made a motion, seconded by Regent Turpen, to authorize Freshman Institutional Nominees for Fall 2021. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none. Mr. Bryce Fair, Associate Vice Chancellor for Scholarships and Grants provided a brief overview of the Academic Scholars Program and stated that ***.
21. **REGIONAL UNIVERSITY BACCALAUREATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.** Regent Hickman made a motion, seconded by Regent Parker, to authorize ten (10) freshmen scholarship slots for each institution participating in the Regional University Baccalaureate Scholarship program for Fall 2021. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

22. **STATE AUTHORIZATION.** Regent Hickman made a motion, seconded by Regent Turpen, to authorize an in-state private institution to operate in Oklahoma. The institution requesting authorization was Central Oklahoma College. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
23. **MASTER LEASE.** This item was taken after Item #12b, Task Force Reports. Regent Turpen made a motion, seconded by Regent Parker, to approve the listing of equipment projects for submission to the Council of Bond Oversight for 2020B Equipment Master Lease Series. The projects from two institutions total \$4,960,000. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
24. **REVENUE BONDS.**
- a. Regent Turpen made a motion, seconded by Regent White, to approve for transmittal to Attorney General the Statement of Essential Facts for the University of Oklahoma – General Revenue Refunding Bonds Tax-Exempt Series 2020B in an amount of approximately \$53,000,000 and Federally Taxable Series 2020C in an amount of \$154,000,000. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
- b. Regent Turpen made a motion, seconded by Regent White, to approve for transmittal to Attorney General Statement of Essential Facts for the University of Oklahoma – Health Sciences Center General Revenue Refunding Bonds Tax-Exempt Series 2020A an amount not to exceed \$11,500,000 and Federally Taxable Series 2020B an amount not to exceed \$70,000,000. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

25. **ENDOWMENT.** Regent Turpen made a motion, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve a distribution of 4.5 percent of the rolling average of June 30th market values totaling to the amount of \$28.2 million for fiscal year 2020, and \$4.1 million for prior years' carryover – totaling approximately \$32.3 million – for institutional expenditure from eligible Endowment Trust Fund accounts and approve the corresponding account reports for the year-ended June 30, 2020. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

26. **CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.**

- a. Regent Turpen made a motion, seconded by Regent Parker, to approved FY2021 purchases for amounts that are in excess of \$100,000. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
- b. Regent Turpen made a motion, seconded by Regent Taylor, to accept the agreement with the Oklahoma Board of Career and Technology Education for FY2021. Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

27. **DELETED ITEM.** This item was deleted.

28. **POLICY.**

- a. Posting of the System Innovations Committee policy change. This item was for posting only.
- b. Regent White made a motion, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve revisions to State Regents' Policy 2.2.5 Organization of Agenda. Voting for the motion via roll call were

Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

29. **CONSENT DOCKET.** Regent White made a motion, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the following consent docket items:

- a. Programs. Program Modifications. Approval of institutional requests.
- b. Suspensions. Approval of institutional requests.
- c. Reconciliation. Approval of institutional requests.
- d. Academic Nomenclature. Ratification of institutional request.
- e. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Ratification of institutional requests to continue participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement.
- f. Operations. Ratification of purchases over \$25,000.
- g. Non-Academic Degrees. Ratification of a request from Cameron University to award a posthumous degree.
- h. Electronic Delivery of Degree Program. University of Oklahoma. Approval to offer the Master of Business Administration in Business Administration via electronic delivery.

Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman, Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

30. **REPORTS.** Regent Turpen made a motion, seconded by Regent White, to accept the following reports:

- a. Programs. Current Status Report on Program Requests. (Supplement)
- b. Annual Reports.
 - (1) Teacher Education Annual Report on Systemwide Review. (Supplement)
 - (2) Teacher Education Program Admission Study.

Voting for the motion via roll call were Regents Sherry, White, Parker, Holloway, Casey, Hickman,

Turpen, and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

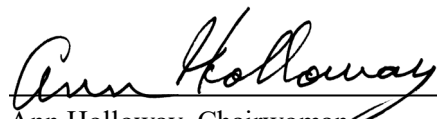
31. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES.**

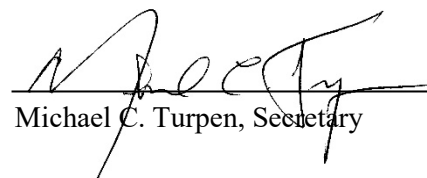
- a. Academic Affairs and Social Justice and Student Services Committees. The Academic Affairs and Social Justice and Student Services Committees had no additional items for Regents' action.
- b. Budget and Audit Committee. The Budget and Audit Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.
- c. Strategic Planning and Personnel and Technology Committee. The Strategic Planning and Personnel and Technology Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.
- d. Investment Committee. The Investment Committee had no additional items for Regents' action.

32. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING.** Chair Holloway announced that the next regular meetings are scheduled to be held Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City.

33. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no additional items to address, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:


Ann Holloway, Chairwoman


Michael C. Turpen, Secretary