

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
Regents' Conference Room
655 Research Parkway

Lance Newbold, Chair, Presiding
July 13, 2023
10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions – Lance Newbold

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Lance welcomed new COSA member Sheppard McConnell, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

2. Approval of June 8, 2023 Minutes – Lance Newbold

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL

3. Legislative Update – Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, OSRHE

Jarrett advised the council the legislative special session will expire July 30, 2023, and that legislators have the ability to extend the session. It is expected the Senate will vote on a few veto overrides, particularly the tribal compact bills, in the next seven days. He gave a brief recap of FY24 approved funding:

- Faculty Salary Increases
- Inspired to Teach
- National Guard Support Program
- Teaching and Nursing Programs

Jarrett said SB93 requiring completion of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to graduate from public high school passed. This requirement will begin with the 2024-25 school year. He said a number of interim studies have been filed but not scheduled or formally approved. Senators Carri Hicks and Ally Seifried filed interim studies on workforce and teacher pipeline. Senator Rob Standridge filed an interim study on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) influence at higher education institutions. This has been scheduled with one institution.

The OSRHE Legislative team is working with the Council of Presidents and State Regents to create the 2024-25 legislative agenda and hope to have it approved by September 2023. He mentioned the Blueprint 2030 Strategic Plan and said a large number of legislative agenda pieces will be related to enacting and promoting this plan.

Dr. Ina Agnew (OSUIT) said a future DEI workshop for COSA may be warranted to talk about what is appropriate for someone who works for a state institution. Jarrett said there is a lot of opaqueness when it comes to understanding DEI terms. He has been compiling a list of national and international commentary and building bridges locally with companies that work in Oklahoma.

Jarrett said the key strategy is to prepare students for a world that is successful. He said he has been working with Senator Adam Pew and Representative Anthony Moore and that both are very communicative and transparent.

Liz McCraw (SEOSU) said State Superintendent Ryan Walters is a Regent for the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board (RUSO). She said he has not attended a meeting yet but wanted COSA to keep this in mind.

Eunice Tarver (TCC) asked Jarrett to speak further on the DEI interim study. He said he is not at liberty to provide the institution name. Jarrett said the DEI spending information sent to State Superintendent Ryan Walters was within the last 8-12 months. He said they may use that same data if another request is presented to the board.

4. FY24 Budget Results Update – Mark Tygret, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, OSRHE

Mark gave a quick overview of the approved FY24 budget.

- Education and General (E&G) budget increased over 102 million dollars.
- Student Assistance increased a little over 28%, which will fund Inspire to Teach and National Guard Education Assistance Program.
- Appropriations to institutions up almost 14% from the prior year.
- Appropriations to the system is almost a 15% increase from the prior year.
- Oklahoma's Promise received nearly 68 million dollars from the Board of Equalization.
- Funding of approximately 49 million dollars for higher education faculty raises.
- STEM allocations of 11.5 million dollars.
- Concurrent enrollment allocation of 2 million dollars with the thought of having resources to offer waivers to more high school juniors.
- Funding has been allocated (4 million dollars) for the support of a student health and wellness services grant program.
- SAS Data Analytics project allocation of 1 million dollars for conversion and platform upgrades.

5. Inspire to Teach Update – Jess Tucker, Coordinator, Teacher Education Scholarships & Incentive Programs, OSRHE

Jess reminded the council of the teacher shortage and gave a brief history of HB3564 by Representative McBride and Senator Pemberton, which created the Inspire to Teach scholarship and incentive program. Jess explained the tier and incentive awards noted below:

Tier Awards:

- Tier One Through Three - \$1,000
- Tier Four - \$2,500
- Total Scholarship Award Compensation - \$5,500
- Students CANNOT receive more than one tier award in an academic year.

Incentive Awards:

- Year One Through Five - \$4,000 Per Year
- Total Incentive Award Compensation - \$20,000
- Teachers MUST teach in an Oklahoma Public School District up to five consecutive years.

Jess said the program disbursed 2.7 million dollars in 2022-23, with 2,131 participants enrolled. The program's 2022 fall enrollment included 1,666 participants with 250 graduating and an additional 465 were enrolled in spring 2023 with 83 graduating in May. Jess said the public regional institutions have the largest population enrolled in the program. She shared enrollment data per institution, as well as the top five majors across the state.

Jess mentioned they will be working over the 2023-24 year to reach freshmen and sophomore populations of undecided students and try to cultivate a higher level of recruitment. The program enrollment is expected to increase by 30% in fall 2023. Jess shared their marketing advertisement and gave percentage statistics of viewers. Debbie Myrick (OSRHE) will email the link to the council.

She said the program name was amended in May 2023 from Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program to Inspire to Teach. She said non-resident students, homeschool graduates and GED earners are now included in the enrollment eligibility criteria and they are very excited for these changes to help incentivize the program and be competitive in teacher recruitment.

Lance Newbold (RSC) said their challenge is undecided students not being easily identifiable to participate in this program. Jess said spring 2023 enrollees will not be penalized and are eligible to receive the \$500 fall award. She said she is happy to assist with enrollment on campus and will share their marketing materials.

6. Beyond Therapy Walls: A Holistic Approach to Student Mental Health at Two Small Universities

Dr. Michael McClendon, Dean of Students, University of Tulsa

Dr. Kimberly Blea, Dean of Students, New Mexico Highlands University

Michael announced he will be leaving his position at The University of Tulsa on August 1, 2023. He introduced Matt Ingram, Director of Veterans Affairs, and said President Carson announced Matt as the Interim Dean of Students. Michael asked the council to be an open door of contact for Matt.

Michael introduced Dr. Kimberly Blea and said she was his co-presenter at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) conference recently held in Kansas City. Michael gave a brief presentation of Beyond Therapy Walls. He said The University of Tulsa had to rethink and restructure how they approached counseling and push somewhat against the traditional model. They found a way to bridge the confidentiality that the counseling and psychological services team needed to maintain and preserve what they were trying to do from a service standpoint, maintain the trust of students, but also meet compliance for their licensure and state requirements with mental health records. He said campuses have to shift their thinking about mental health, as it cannot be something that is just in existence at the counseling center. Michael mentioned mental health has to be shifted from a paradigm focus. The entire campus has a participating component to the mental health of everyone. He said they needed to integrate a bit more instead of their counseling center being more siloed and also develop some proactive approaches.

Michael showed a comparison of Dr. Blea's campus at NMHU and TU, as they are doing very similar processes but at different stages. He said they have different funding. NMHU received state grant funding and TU received private funding through the Zarrow Family Foundation.

Michael said TU uses Maxient to manage records, which allows anonymous reporting and information can be logged. They also marketed “CaneCares” flyers around the university allowing a communication pipeline from parents, students, faculty, staff, etc. This allowed information to be gathered and sent to the appropriate team. He gave statistics on reporting numbers in the first four years and said the number of reports increased to 600-800 this year.

Michael said smaller and midsized institutions often struggle to replicate some of the prevention-based models and multifactor type of team-based approaches that larger state institutions often have at their disposal. He mentioned TU has an 11-year pattern where there has not been a completed suicide on campus. He said this system has allowed them to know the persons at risk and have been able to respond before they are at that last stage. No one is a stranger to any of the people on these teams. He said this creates a shortcut to be able to act very quickly.

Alicia McCullar (MACU) said they are starting a counseling center this year. She asked Michael to share how TU handles ethics and confidentiality through their Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). He said they separated these through the case manager, who is not with CAPS. Michael said the case manager does not provide any therapeutic endeavors. A disclosure is signed for every student that the case manager meets with to tell them they are not a therapist and this is not therapy. The case manager discusses things the student is going through the same as if they meet with a success coach or advisor. He said this falls under the umbrella of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and not confidentially. The records are kept separate in the Maxient system and not as a clinical record. Michael said the case manager could sit in clinical team meetings with the clinicians of CAPS and give updates about the students they met with to filter in information. They had enough material from their case management and from being embedded within the CaneCares stream of information that they could advise the dean of students, conduct, student success team, student access team or campus police. The case manager could operate in that realm without ever divulging any confidential material.

Alicia had a follow-up question. She said a complaint she receives from faculty for an early alert is that they do not receive feedback. She asked if any feedback is given when using CaneCares. Michael said it depends on the nature of the report. He said the person receives an automatic message that their report has been received and reported to the appropriate professional. He said he has found that 90 percent of the time this is what the faculty member wants to receive. A case manager will reach out to if their report requires more information. Michael mentioned that TU faculty love this system because they feel they can hand it off and do not have to be a hero.

7. GED College Ready + College Credit Update – Dr. Ina Agnew, Vice President for Student Services, OSUIT

Ina reminded the council of her GED presentation in June and gave an overview of OSUIT’s plan. She said their policy allows American Council on Education (ACE) to be used as part of the prior learning assessment process. She referred to GED’s recommendations showing a student scoring above 175 is college ready and should be allowed to bypass any remedial requirements. Ina said this is not in OSUIT’s policy. She said she met with Dr. Hill at her campus and asked him to look at the ACE recommendations. She also mentioned the Course Transfer Module on the State Regents webpage and said anyone involved in advisement should be using this tool. It shows how courses would be awarded and what class would apply at different institutions. Ina said OSUIT will use this as a resource for recruiting students.

She asked her IT department to create a report of all the students who submitted a GED report or who inquired information from OSUIT beginning with year 2014 to more current. The year 2014 is when this particular version of the GED test received ACE recommendations. GED students will be contacted to see if they are aware that their GED score in a certain subject can give them college credit. Ina mentioned she shared this information with their adult basic education instructor, and the instructor said this is exactly the motivation and the recognition that students need to move forward because now they know they have successfully earned college credit and can take college classes. Ina said Dr. Hill will present this to OSUIT's Academic Council. The information will be shared with advisors, especially those that work with transfer students, admissions staff, and all administrators who work directly with students. She said a flyer will be sent to the GED test sites, adult basic education instructors, and anyone else to promote this information.

8. Oklahoma Student Government Association Update - Jakob Lavicky, 2023-24 OSGA President

Jakob said Fall Congress is tentatively scheduled November 10-12, 2023, at The University of Tulsa. This information will be emailed as soon as all the details are finalized. He reminded the council of the OSGA meeting with OSRHE staff held in June. The OSGA team created a rough draft to change their constitution to officially name OSRHE as the sponsor to grant them additional powers to support OSGA. The draft is being revised by OSRHE's legal department. Jakob thanked OSRHE staff, Lindsay Echols, Robert Placido and Chancellor Allison Garrett, for their efforts in building a stronger relationship with OSGA.

Jakob mentioned the OSGA board has been filled. They will be meeting to get to know each other before school begins in the fall. He said he would like to bring the entire team to a COSA meeting. Jakob reminded the council of the need to email their 2023-24 Student Government Association (SGA) president contact information. He has received 23 contact numbers to date. Jakob said he will call the remaining institutions and ask for this information or have them identify when they will have their election. He said his goal is to rebuild the Council of Student Presidents and would like to meet with them next month to explore new services OSGA can bring to the state of Oklahoma.

Ina Agnew (OSUIT) thanked Jakob for his leadership and keeping COSA informed. She said she is happy to host him at OSUIT to speak to their student body. Jakob said he appreciated her kind words and said this has been a great experience. He mentioned he will be traveling to Okmulgee on August 3, 2023, to visit with their SGA. He shared his contact information president@osga.org and said he is happy to attend campus events. Lance Newbold (RSC) echoed Dr. Agnew's comments. He said he looks forward to routine involved with OSGA and thanked Jakob for making time to attend COSA meetings.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

9. State Regents' Update – Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, OSRHE

Robert gave an update on the OSRHE academic affairs policy revisions. He thanked those that have given feedback. He said the guiding process of this project was removing barriers to student success. Robert mentioned there were 24 sections reviewed and 10 were approved at the June State Regents meeting. He mentioned a few policy revisions were to state authorization,

functions, academic program approval, contractual agreements and transfer articulation. The Academic Affairs section included an estimated 270 pages and will be approximately 84 pages when finalized. The Regents' admission standards policy was not included in the June approvals. This policy was revised to align with what is in state statute. There will be 12 policies sent for approval by the State Regents at their September meeting. The concurrent enrollment policy has been put on hold. A subcommittee led by Regents Casey, Hickman and Warmington along with research, regional, community college and external stakeholders will reimagine this program. Robert said he is a strong advocate for rural institutions participating in concurrent enrollment. He mentioned the program he implemented in his former role at the University of Maine. He said he is tired of seeing Oklahoma at the bottom of the list in everything.

Ina Agnew (OSUIT) mentioned her registrars are very excited for the policy changes to make them easier to interpret, apply and explain. She also agrees with rural schools participating in concurrent enrollment and looks forward to this potential change. She thanked Robert for his work on these policy revisions. Robert said he "lived in the registrar role" decades ago. He said he added international students affected by war to be counted as in-state students.

Robert mentioned the Chancellor is eager to get started on Blueprint 2030. Kylie Smith (OSRHE) has created online project planning so all information is entered there. There are 80 items in the plan and the first 20 or so have been prioritized for this year. A few items include incentivizing STEM initiatives, develop and promote career pathways, policy revisions which are underway, FAFSA and K-12 requirements, expanding concurrent enrollment and reorganization of the OSRHE Academic Affairs division. Robert informed the council of the two concurrent enrollment positions created and said Brad Griffith has been promoted to Vice Chancellor of Innovation with the Reach Higher program reporting to him. Robert said we are really going to focus on the adult market, creating workforce connections, trying to get these students some college and no-degree students back in the pipeline. Brad will continue to lead the micro-credential efforts, as this is a huge opportunity to get fast credentials and meet market demand.

Robert said he has started using LinkedIn as a tool to be a small voice in the storm against the negative rhetoric for higher education. He said he will make a post daily with two topics, one to highlight faculty research that has an impact on our society and the other on student success. He gave an example of faculty from the University of Maine saving the lobster industry with their research on poison in the nutrition systems. He said his LinkedIn posts will be a couple of paragraphs giving the reader the need of why the topic matters. He said his latest post is on student success related to orientation and what an impact this has on a student. He said he would try to focus on some student affairs research.

Dr. Brandon Hill (ECU) asked about chapter 5 of the Policy and Procedures Manual and if all policies will be reviewed. Robert said the entire policy manual is being reviewed. Robert said he met with Joshua Busby (LU) when he started his employment at OSRHE, and they discussed that there is not a direct connection with the State Regents and Student Affairs and how this can be strengthened. Robert said the policies tend to be all local governance issues. He said he is happy to be an advocate for COSA. Robert gave an example of working on a statewide code of conduct when he was at the University of Maine. He said they centralized Title IX with the primary personnel working at the state level and coordinators at each institution. He said this helped take some burden away from the institutions.

10. Announcements – Lance Newbold

Lance advised the council that the only date available to host the Student Leadership Retreat at Rose State College is November 2, 2023. He asked the council if this date would work with their schedules. Ina Agnew (OSUIT) mentioned several conferences that are held at that time of year and said November is very busy for those responsible to get students to an event. Lance said he will speak with Lindsay Echols (OSRHE) again and suggested securing a date for the 2024 SLR if RSC will be the host.

Lance reminded the council that COSA does not meet in the month of August.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Council

- October 17, 2023 – 2023 Oklahoma Statewide Transfer Student Success Conference, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
- September 22, 2023 – OSRHE 16th Annual Reading Conference, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
- November 6-8, 2023 – NASPA IV West Regional Conference, Oklahoma City
- November 7, 2023 – 2023 Campus Safety & Security Summit, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond