



**CHAPTER 1 – GOVERNANCE**  
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# 1. GOVERNANCE

## 1.1 STATE SYSTEM COORDINATION

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (“OSRHE”) is the State’s legal structure for providing public education at the college and university level. The Oklahoma Constitution ([OK Const. Art. XIII-A, §§ 1-4](#)) and Oklahoma Higher Education Code ([70 O.S. § 3201 et seq.](#)) provide the legal framework for OSRHE to develop and implement policies and procedures to maximize the functioning of public higher education in Oklahoma.

## 1.2 HIGHER EDUCATION DEFINED

Higher education, as the term is used in [Article XIII-A](#) of the Oklahoma Constitution, and as defined by [70 O.S. § 3102\(d\)](#) and [OAC 610:1-1-2](#), includes “all education of any kind beyond or in addition to the twelfth grade or its equivalent as that grade is now generally understood and accepted in the public schools of the State of Oklahoma; provided, however, that this shall not exclude as a constituent institution any institution of higher learning which now offers as a part of its curriculum courses of high school study.”

## 1.3 OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XIII-A, SECTIONS 1-4

### 1.3.1 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education

“All institutions of higher education supported wholly or in part by direct legislative appropriations shall be integral parts of a unified system to be known as ‘The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.’” ([OK Const. Art. XIII-A, § 1](#)).

### 1.3.2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education--Establishment--Membership--Appointment--Terms--Vacancy--Powers as co-ordinating board of control

“There is hereby established the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, consisting of nine (9) members, whose qualifications may be prescribed by law. The Board shall consist of nine (9) members appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate, and who shall be removable only for cause, as provided by law for the removal of officers not subject to impeachment....Any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the balance of the term only....[T]he term of office of said Regents shall be nine years or until their successors are appointed and qualified.

The Regents shall constitute a coordinating board of control for all State institutions described in Section 1 hereof, with the following specific powers: (1) it shall prescribe standards of higher education applicable to each institution; (2) it shall determine the functions and courses of study in each of the institutions to conform to the standards prescribed; (3) it shall grant degrees and other forms of academic recognition for completion of the prescribed courses in all of such institutions; (4) it shall recommend to the State Legislature the budget allocations to each institution, and (5); it shall have the power to recommend to the Legislature proposed fees for all of such institutions, and any such fees shall be effective only within the limits prescribed by the Legislature.” ([OK Const. Art. XIII-A, § 2](#)).

1.3.3 Institutions of higher education--Appropriations--Allocations

“The appropriations made by the Legislature for all such institutions shall be made in consolidated form without reference to any particular institution and the Board of Regents herein created shall allocate to each institution according to its needs and functions.” ([OK Const. Art. XIII-A, § 3](#)).

1.3.4 Co-ordination of private, denominational and other institutions of higher learning

“Private, denominational, and other institutions of higher learning may become coordinated with the State System of Higher Education under regulations set forth by The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.” ([OK Const. Art. XIII-A, § 4](#)).

**1.4 OKLAHOMA HIGHER EDUCATION CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 3202-3204 AND 3206**

1.4.1 State Regents--Appointment of Members--Eligibility--Removal--Vacancies

A. “The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, referred to in this section as the Board, established by [Section 2, Article XIII-A](#), Oklahoma Constitution, shall consist of nine (9) members appointed by the Governor and with the advice and consent of the Senate....” ([70 O.S. § 3202\(a\)](#)).

B. “Members shall be citizens of the State, not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, and shall not be employees or members of the staff or governing board of any constituent member of the State System; and no official or employee of the State of Oklahoma shall be eligible to serve on such Board. Not more than four (4) members shall be from the same profession or occupation; and not more than three (3) graduates or former students of any one (1) institution in the State System shall be eligible to serve as members during the same period of time. Not more than two (2) members shall be from the same Congressional District at the time said members are appointed....” ([70 O.S. § 3202\(b\)](#)).

C. “Members shall be removable only for cause, as provided by law for the removal of officers not subject to impeachment.” ([70 O.S. § 3202\(d\)](#)).

D. “Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by the Governor, for the unexpired term, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.” ([70 O.S. § 3202\(e\)](#)).

1.4.2 State Regents--Oaths--Travel Expenses--Recommendations for Employment Prohibited

A. “Each member of the State Regents shall take and subscribe to the oaths required of State officials generally.” ([70 O.S. § 3203\(a\)](#)).

B. “Each member of the State Regents shall be allowed necessary travel expenses, as may be approved by the State Regents pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.” ([70 O.S. § 3203\(b\)](#)).

C. “No member or employee of the State Regents shall directly or indirectly recommend to any State System entity, or official or board of regents thereof, the employment of any person by such institution. Any violation of this paragraph by any such member or employee shall constitute a cause

for his removal from office.” ([70 O.S. § 3203\(c\)](#)).

1.4.3 State Regents--Body Corporate--Official Seal--Officers--Terms--Powers and Duties--Proceedings

- A. “The State Regents shall be a body corporate, and shall adopt an official seal; and all contracts, official documents, awards, degrees or other papers or instruments issued by the State Regents and requiring the official signature of the State Regents shall have the impression of such seal.” ([70 O.S. § 3204\(a\)](#)).
- B. “The State Regents shall annually elect from its membership a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and assistant secretary, each of whom shall serve for a term of one (1) fiscal year. The chairman shall be the presiding officer of the State Regents. He shall, on behalf of the State Regents, subscribe the official name thereof, and the Secretary shall affix the official seal, to all contracts, official documents, awards, degrees or other papers or instruments issued by the State Regents and requiring the official signature of the State Regents. In the absence, disqualification or disability of the chairman or secretary to act, the vice-chairman and assistant secretary shall perform the duties of such respective officers. The officers of the State Regents shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the State Regents, which shall also adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to govern its proceedings and the conduct of its business.” ([70 O.S. § 3204\(b\)](#)).

1.4.4 State Regents--Powers and Duties

“As provided in [Article XIII-A](#) of the Constitution of Oklahoma, the State Regents shall constitute a coordinating board of control for all state educational institutions, with the following specific powers:

- (a) It shall prescribe standards of higher education applicable to each institution.
- (b) It shall determine the functions and courses of study in each of the institutions to conform to the standards prescribed.
- (c) It shall grant degrees and other forms of academic recognition for completion of the prescribed courses in all of such institutions.
- (d) It shall recommend to the State Legislature the budget allocations to each institution.
- (e) It shall have the power to recommend to the Legislature proposed fees for all of such institutions, and any such fees shall be effective only within the limits prescribed by the Legislature, after taking due cognizance of expressed legislative intent.
- (f) It shall allocate funds to each institution according to its needs and functions from appropriations made by the Legislature.
- (g) It may coordinate private, denominational and other institutions of higher learning with the State System under regulations set forth by the State Regents.

Among other powers and duties, the State Regents shall:

(h) Prescribe standards for admission to, retention in, and graduation from state educational institutions.

(i) Accept federal funds and grants and use the same in accordance with federal requirements; and accept and disburse grants, gifts, devises, bequests and other monies and property from foundations, corporations and individuals; and establish, award and disburse scholarships and scholarship funds and rewards for merit from any funds available for such purpose.

(j) Allocate revolving and other non-state-appropriated educational and general funds.

(k) Transfer from one institution to another any property belonging to such institution when no longer needed by it and when needed by another institution to accomplish its functions.

(l) Prepare and publish annually a report to the Governor, the Legislature, and institutions, setting forth the progress, needs, and recommendations of state educational institutions and of the State Regents; conduct studies, surveys and research projects to gather information about the needs of state educational institutions and make such additional reports and recommendations as it deems necessary or as the Governor or the Legislature may direct, and publish such information obtained as may be considered worthy of dissemination.

(m) Any monies which it is authorized to invest shall be invested with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.

(n) Issue, on behalf of institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, other than the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, and with the powers enumerated by this act, its obligations for purposes of such capital projects as the Regents may deem to be proper for the benefit of such institutions. The obligations issued pursuant to the authority of this paragraph shall be part of a comprehensive program for capital maintenance of such institutions and the obligations shall be special and limited obligations of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and shall not constitute general obligations of the State of Oklahoma.

(o) Exercise all powers necessary or convenient to accomplish the purposes and objectives of Article XIII-A of the Constitution of Oklahoma.” ([70 O.S. § 3206](#)).

## 1.5 ADMINISTRATION

### 1.5.1 State Regents’ internal organization; staff

“The State Legislature in 1941 vitalized Article XIII-A of the Constitution, providing for the internal organization of the State Regents. There are a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and assistant secretary, all of whom are elected annually by the membership of the State Regents. The law also provides for office staff and for the furnishing of suitable permanent quarters for the State Regents.” ([OAC 610:1-1-4](#); see also [70 O.S. § 3205](#)).

### 1.5.2 State Regents’ office

“(a) The work of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education is defined by constitutional provision, state statute, or State Regents’ policy delineating coordinating responsibility for the State System of Higher Education, including the areas of institutional functions, programs of study, standards of education, and finances.

(b) The State Regents’ office is the administrative headquarters of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the coordinating board of control of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, and its functions are:

- (1) To execute State Regents’ policies and programs.
- (2) To gather information about the State System for State Regents’ review and consideration relative to policymaking.
- (3) To provide coordinating leadership at the state level in the general operation of the State System.” ([OAC 610:1-1-5](#)).

## **1.6 STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS, CONSTITUENT AGENCIES, AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

1.6.1 “The following institutions are included in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education:

- (1) University of Oklahoma, Norman
- (2) Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
- (3) University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
- (4) East Central University, Ada
- (5) Northeastern State University, Tahlequah
- (6) Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva
- (7) Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant
- (8) Southwestern Oklahoma University, Weatherford
- (9) Cameron University, Lawton
- (10) Langston University, Langston
- (11) Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Goodwell
- (12) University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha
- (13) Carl Albert State College, Poteau
- (14) Connors State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, [Warner]
- (15) Eastern Oklahoma State College, [Wilburton]
- (16) Redlands Community College, El Reno
- (17) Murray State College, Tishomingo
- (18) Northeastern Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Miami
- (19) Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa
- (20) Rose State College, Midwest City

- (21) Rogers State University, Claremore
- (22) Seminole State College, Seminole
- (23) Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma City
- (24) Tulsa Community College, Tulsa
- (25) Western Oklahoma State College, Altus.” ([OAC 610:1-1-3\(a\)](#)); *see also* [70 O.S. § 3201](#)).

1.6.2 “There are [ten] other constituent agencies in the State System which are a part of or directly related to public higher education in the state. These are:

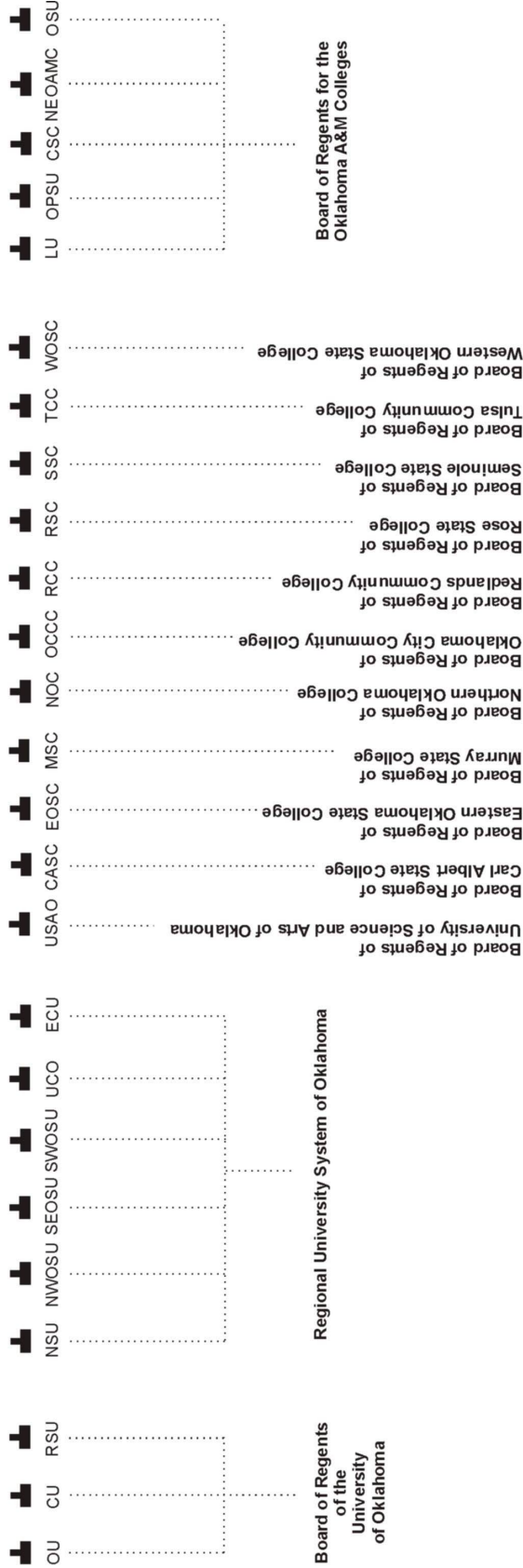
- (1) University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City
- (2) University of Oklahoma Law Center, Norman
- (3) Oklahoma Geological Survey, Norman
- (4) Oklahoma State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater
- (5) Oklahoma State University Agricultural Extension Division, Stillwater
- (6) Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Stillwater
- (7) Oklahoma State University Technical Branch, Okmulgee
- (8) Oklahoma State University Technical Branch, Oklahoma City
- (9) Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Tulsa.” ([OAC 610:1-1-3\(b\)](#)); *see also* [70 O.S. § 3103](#)).
- (10) OU-Tulsa

# THE OKLAHOMA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

### Coordinating Board of Control

1. Determine functions and courses of study.
2. Prescribe standards of education.
3. Grant degrees and other forms of academic recognition.
4. Recommend to State Legislature budget allocation.
5. Allocate funds appropriated by State Legislature.
6. Allocate revolving funds.
7. Determine student fees.
8. General coordination.
9. Provide research, study and planning.
10. Tuition setting authority



### Governing Boards

1. Determine management policy.
2. Employee personnel. Fix salaries and assign duties.
3. Contract for other services.
4. Custody of records.
5. Acquire and hold title to property.
6. Academic administration.
7. Student life.
8. Budget administration.
9. Purchasing.
10. Plan and construct buildings.
11. Auxiliary enterprises.
  - a. Issuance of bonds
  - b. Administration of self-liquidating properties
12. General responsibility for government of the institutions.