

**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

830 East Main Street in Ada, Oklahoma

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT 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 regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Carl Albert State College in the Hoffman Wilson Center, 1507 S. McKenna, Poteau, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Wednesday, September 12, 2023 and amended on February 26, 2024. A copy of the agenda for the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act
2. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Jack Sherry called the meeting to order and presided. Present for the meeting were State Regents Jack Sherry, Phillip Mitchell “Mitch” Adwon, Ann Holloway, Dennis Casey, Steven W. Taylor, and Michael C. Turpen. Regents Dustin J. Hilliary, Jeffrey W. Hickman and Courtney Warmington were absent.
3. **PRESIDENT’S WELCOME.** President Jay Falkner of Carl Albert State College (CASC) warmly greeted the Regents upon their arrival at the CASC campus and introduced Kylie Hulse, a prominent student leader. Hulse, a sophomore and member of the women’s wrestling team, hails from Idaho, a considerable 20-hour distance from campus, which limits her visits home. She expressed gratitude for the support she's received from faculty, teammates, and classmates in coping with the challenges of being away from home, underscoring her overall positive educational experience. When asked about her future plans by the State Regents, Hulse shared her intention to transfer to the University of Sioux Falls to continue her wrestling career. President Falkner then introduced Greenlee Church, also a sophomore at CASC. Church shared that she chose CASC after a campus tour with her mother, who she acknowledges was spot-on in recommending the college. She expressed deep satisfaction in finding her true identity through her CASC experience, highlighted by her involvement in various extracurricular activities such as the scholar’s team, the Viking Ambassador program, student government, and competitive cheerleading. Church particularly valued her participation in the President’s Leadership Class, which instilled in her a strong sense of teamwork. She shared her goal is to pursue a major in public relations at the University of Oklahoma following her time at CASC.
4. **STATE SYSTEMS INSTITUTIONS. Update on institutional activities at Carl Albert State College.** President Jay Falkner delivered an update on the ongoing institutional activities at CASC, emphasizing their alignment with the overarching goals of Blueprint 2030. He underscored the pivotal role of workforce readiness and critical occupations in CASC's strategic plan, highlighting its efforts with the objectives outlined in Blueprint 2030. CASC has emerged as a frontrunner in workforce development initiatives within the southeastern Oklahoma region, diligently fostering collaborations with local businesses to address workforce demands. Notably, CASC has cultivated strong partnerships with local tribes, exemplified by their joint efforts with the Cherokee Nation in addressing childcare needs. Recognizing the importance of quality childcare in sustaining a contented workforce, CASC has spearheaded initiatives to enhance daycare employees' skills and provide necessary certifications. Consequently, the demand for CASC's child development program has surged, signifying its pivotal role in workforce development efforts. Furthermore, the nursing program at CASC has demonstrated significant progress, evidenced by a notable increase

in students transitioning from LPN to RN roles. Additionally, CASC's cybersecurity endeavors have received a Department of Defense grant, enabling advanced training to various entities in the region. Collaborative efforts with sister institutions, such as University of Oklahoma, Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Eastern Oklahoma State College, have facilitated the provision of micro-credentials, further enhancing workforce readiness. In essence, CASC remains steadfastly committed to the prosperity of the community and the development of its students, who are poised to become invaluable assets to the community.

5. **BLUEPRINT 2030. Update on progress in establishing a shared services center (Strategy #13B).** Mark Tygret, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, discussed shared services efforts. Over the past two years, the State Regents have championed collaboration among institutions, working toward the establishment of a shared services center aimed at assisting institutions with back-office functions. The strategy revolves around diffusing costs to institutions by streamlining and simplifying essential business processes, maximizing individual cost savings, standardizing workflows for enhanced efficiency and scalability, improving program and service quality, boosting operational productivity, and directing resources towards mission-oriented or strategic activities. This approach also involves joint purchasing contracts and the provision of IT software and hardware through OneNet. The FY25 budget needs survey incorporated a request for a comprehensive listing of current shared service or consortium-based activities. The survey elicited 161 entries, with many institutions reporting shared services endorsed by all participating parties. Moreover, institutions with governing boards comprising multiple entities identified shared services within each institutional group, encompassing various financial, purchasing, legal, contracting, and IT services. The next steps entail continuing to develop a matrix of shared services, furthering collaborative opportunities with institutions, adopting best practices, and establishing a timeline with key objectives.
6. **BUDGET REPORT AND REVENUE UPDATE.** Mark Tygret, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, presented the Regents with an update on the budget. Today, OMES released new figures indicating a decline of almost 4-1/2 percent year-over-year in state revenue from gross production in January. Additionally, sales tax collections year-to-date remain relatively unchanged from FY2023. However, the revenue certification for FY2025 appears promising, with recurring revenue showing an increase of approximately \$360 million compared to the previous year's allocation by the legislature. During the discussion, Regent Casey inquired about the impact of the grocery tax cut. Tygret clarified that while the new law includes exemptions for certain categories, it does not apply universally, distinguishing between exempt and non-exempt items at grocery stores. He also noted that local levies would still be applicable.
7. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations, provided the Regents with an update on legislative proceedings. He conveyed that SB 1302, pertaining to Oklahoma's Promise, has successfully passed and is now advancing to the House for further consideration. Additionally, SB 1550, addressing EPSCoR, has also passed and will proceed to the House side for review. Furthermore, two bills addressing deferred maintenance have passed and are poised to benefit all 25 colleges and universities, moving forward in the legislative process. As discussions on the budget with the Senate commence, indications suggest that the higher education budget will likely remain unchanged, with some allocation of one-time funds and additional funding tied to legislative intent. In response to Regent Casey's inquiry regarding the administration of deferred funds, Vice Chancellor Tygret speculated that they might be structured in a bond format, although uncertainties persist due to the expanded need for addressing additional deferred maintenance in other areas of government. When asked by Regent Turpen about the potential

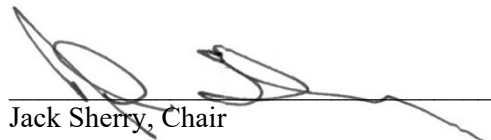
involvement of institutions in the incoming Speaker's district, Jobe explained that several institutions are in proximity, including some branch campuses within his district. He feels that he will be supportive of higher education.

8. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Matt Stangl, General Counsel, indicated that an executive session was not needed at this time.

Possible discussion and vote to enter into executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the board and its attorney(s) concerning: (1) Black Emergency Response Team, et al. v. Drummond, et al., Case No. 5:21-cv-01022-G in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; (2) Wisdom Ministries, Inc. v. Garrett, et al., Case No. 23-5098, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit (appealed from 4:22-cv-00477-CVE-CDL in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma); and (3) EEOC Charge # 564-2023-01525, if the board, with the 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.

9. **"BEST OF HIGHER EDUCATION."** Regents received the update on institutional activities via e-mail.
10. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.** The calendar of events was distributed in written form to the Regents.
11. **ADJOURN.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned and the Regents toured the CASC campus.

ATTEST:

  
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Jack Sherry, Chair

  
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Steven W. Taylor, Secretary