

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

MINUTES

Eight Hundred and Thirty-Seventh Meeting



April 25, 2024

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**Minutes of the Eight Hundred and Thirty-Seventh Meeting
of the
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education**

April 25, 2024

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 regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. Notice of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State on Wednesday, September 12, 2023, and amended on Tuesday, April 9, 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. Jack Sherry, Ann Holloway, Jeffrey W. Hickman, Dustin J. Hilliary, Steven W. Taylor, Michael C. Turpen and Courtney Warmington. Regents Phillip Mitchell “Mitch” Adwon and Dennis Casey were absent.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** Regent Turpen moved, seconded by Regent Holloway, to approve the minutes of the State Regents’ meetings in March 2024. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Turpen and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.** Chair Sherry expressed his gratitude to Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SEOSU) and President Newsom for their generous hospitality in hosting the meeting on their wonderful campus. He thanked the legislators and staff for organizing Oklahoma’s Promise Day at the State Capitol on April 11, which featured remarks from Secretary of Education Nellie Sanders and several

legislators. He also extended his thanks to Regents Steven Taylor, Dustin Hilliary, and Ann Holloway for attending the event. Additionally, he acknowledged the State Regents' Free Speech Committee for conducting its First Amendment training at the University of Central Oklahoma and expressed his appreciation to State Regent Emeritus Andy Lester, Regent Jeff Hickman, and the staff for their efforts in organizing this event. Finally, he recognized Regent Ann Holloway for her dedicated service on the board.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHANCELLOR.** Chancellor Garrett expressed her gratitude to the staff for their efforts in organizing the Free Speech training conference. She also acknowledged Regent Andy Lester for his op-ed on free speech. Chancellor Garrett recognized the challenges that families, students, and institutions are facing with the rollout of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Typically, available in October, the system was delayed until January this year. Institutions are diligently working to support these students moving forward.
6. **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME.** President Newsom welcomed the State Regents to Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He recognized his team for their efforts in making this visit a success. President Newsom introduced Emma Quintana, a senior from McAlester majoring in biological health science. Emma Quintana shared that through counseling and mentorship, she has expanded her experience and enhanced her leadership abilities. One of her notable achievements was leading the SEOSU band as its drum major. She plans to attend Oklahoma State University's School of Veterinary Medicine.
7. **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE.** President Newsom highlighted SEOSU's growth in enrollment and its diverse student body, noting that this year SEOSU will have the largest graduating class in its history. He discussed SEOSU's campus strategic plan, "Vision 2040," and its alignment with the State Regents' strategic plan, "Blueprint 2030." The campus focus areas include academic excellence, sustainability, and the goal of becoming a student-ready university. Through the SEOSU Foundation and their successful "Day of Giving," \$1.2 million was raised in scholarships this past year. President Newsom also recognized Regent Ann Holloway for her support of SEOSU, her alma mater, and for her years of service on the State Regents.

8. **NEW PROGRAM.**

- a. Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request from the University of Oklahoma to offer the Master of Arts in Econometrics. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Turpen, Warmington and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
- b. East Central University.
 - (1) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request from East Central University to offer the Doctorate of Education in Rural Education. Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, explained that this will be ECU's first professional doctorate program. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Turpen, Warmington, Sherry and Holloway. Voting against the motion were none.
 - (2) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request from East Central University to offer the Educational Specialist in School Psychology. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Taylor, Turpen, Warmington, Sherry, Holloway and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.
- c. Northeastern State University.
 - (1) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Hilliary, to approve the request from Northeastern State University to offer the Master of Science in Management and Technology. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Turpen, Warmington, Sherry, Holloway, Hickman and Hilliary. Voting against the motion were none.
 - (2) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request from Northeastern State University to offer the Master of Science

in Medical Laboratory Science. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Turpen, Warmington, Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

- d. Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request from Rogers State University to offer the Master of Science in Nursing. Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, explained that initially Northeastern State University protested this program, but withdrew their protest after discussion with Rogers State University. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor and Turpen. Voting against the motion were none.
- e. Southwestern Oklahoma State University.
 - (1) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request from Southwestern Oklahoma State University to offer the Master of Health Science in Health Science. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Turpen and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.
 - (2) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request from Southwestern Oklahoma State University to offer the Master of Business Administration in Data Science and Technology. Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, explained that this program, like many others we are seeing, are a direct result of the State Regents interest in expanding AI-related programs. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Turpen, Warmington and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.
 - (3) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request from Southwestern Oklahoma State University to offer the Master of Music in Music Therapy. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Turpen, Warmington, Sherry and Holloway. Voting

against the motion were none.

- (4) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Turpen, to approve the request from Southwestern Oklahoma State University to offer the Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Taylor, Warmington, Sherry, Holloway and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Turpen left the meeting.

f. The University of Central Oklahoma.

- (1) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request from the University of Central Oklahoma to offer the Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Conservation Biology. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Warmington, Sherry, Holloway, Hickman and Hilliary. Voting against the motion were none.

- (2) Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve the request from the University of Central Oklahoma to offer the Bachelor of Business Administration in Supply Chain Management. No institution protested the proposal within the 45-day protest period. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none

9. **ACADEMIC POLICY.** Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve a concurrent enrollment policy exception request from Cameron University to continue allowing 10th-grade students from Lawton Public Schools to enroll at the institution during the 2024-2025 academic year. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.

10. **COURSE EQUIVALENCY PROJECT.** Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to acknowledge receipt of the Course Equivalency Project (CEP) for the 2024-2025 academic year. Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic

Affairs, presented this item and reviewed the process of compiling the CEP matrix and also briefed the Regents on the “Show What You Know” website (<https://showwhatyouknowok.org>). Regent Warmington inquired about the number of issues addressed through the matrix. Dr. Beauchamp responded that the institutions handle these issues effectively, and only a few have reached the State Regents' staff. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none.

11. **STATE AUTHORIATION.**

a. Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Hilliary, to approve requests for re-authorization from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Strayer University, Webster University, and Marian University to operate as degree-granting institutions in Oklahoma. Voting for the motion were Regents Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Warmington and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.

b. Regent Holloway moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve a request for authorization of an out-of-state institution, Baylor University, to operate with a physical presence in Oklahoma. After reviewing the application and required documentation, State Regents' staff determined that this institution meets authorization requirements established in the State Regents Institutional Accreditation and State Authorization policy. Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Warmington, Sherry and Holloway. Voting against the motion were none.

12. **E&G ALLOCATION.** Regent Hilliary moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve allocations of \$673,365.82 to Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU CHS) and \$673,365.82 the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) from revenue collected from the taxes placed on the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products. The current accumulated allocation to each institution, including this allocation, totals to \$111,031,632.09. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Taylor, Warmington, Sherry, Holloway and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.

13. **GRANT ACCEPTANCE.** Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to accept National Science Foundation Campus Cyberinfrastructure Award #2346397 in the amount of \$1,014,757. Under the terms of this two-year grant cycle, Connors State College, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, and Oklahoma Panhandle State University will receive new connections to the OneOklahoma Friction Free Network. OFFN is a 10 and 100 Gbps research network that provides higher education institutions with a dedicated route to internet and research networks that is much faster than traditional internet highways. This alternate pathway allows researchers to transmit data at higher speeds. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Warmington, Sherry, Holloway and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Hilliary abstained.
14. **EPSCoR.** Regent Hilliary moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to approve an allocation of \$250,000 to participating universities for the Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (OK-INBRE) grant award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center was awarded a five-year \$18 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue the OK-INBRE program, bringing the total federal support for this award to \$80 million. Included in the grant are East Central University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Rogers State University, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. Voting for the motion were Regents Warmington, Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary and Taylor. Voting against the motion were none.
15. **CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.** Regent Warmington moved, seconded by Regent Taylor, to approve FY24 purchases for amounts that exceed of \$100,000. Voting for the motion were Regents Sherry, Holloway, Hickman, Taylor and Warmington. Voting against the motion were none. Regent Hilliary abstained.
16. **ITEM DELETED.** This item was deleted.
17. **POLICY.** Item #17, Policy, is the posting of State Regents' policy 5.19, the Amanda Winge Study Abroad Scholarship. This item was for posting only.
18. **CONSENT DOCKET.** Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Holloway, to

approve/ratify the following routine requests which are consistent with State Regents' policies and procedures or previous actions:

- a. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Ratification of institutional requests for annual renewal of participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement.
- b. Operations. Ratification of purchases exceeding \$25,000.
- c. Resolutions.
 - (1) Resolution honoring the life of Regent Ike Glass.
 - (2) Resolution honoring the service of Regent Ann Holloway.

Voting for the motion were Regents Holloway, Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Warmington and Sherry. Voting against the motion were none.

Regent Sherry acknowledged Regent Ann Holloway for her 11 years of service to the board and conferred upon her the title of "State Regent Emeritus." Regent Hickman then read the resolution.

19. **REPORTS.** Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to acknowledge receipt of the Reports.

- a. Programs. Acknowledge receipt of the Current Status Report on program requests.
- b. Annual Reports. Acknowledge receipt of the Current Income and Expenditure Report, FY2023.

Voting for the motion were Regents Hickman, Hilliary, Taylor, Warmington, Sherry and Holloway. Voting against the motion were none.

20. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES.**

- a. Academic Affairs and Student Services Committee. The Academic Affairs and Student Services Committee 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.


21. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Upon advice of Matt Stangl, General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to go into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the board and its attorney(s) concerning: (3) EEOC Charge # 564-2023-01525. Voting for the motion were Regents Hilliary, Taylor, Warmington, Sherry, Holloway and Hickman. Voting against the motion were none.

Following the executive session, Regent Taylor moved, seconded by Regent Hickman, to return to the regular meeting. Voting for the motion were Regents Taylor, Warmington, Sherry, Holloway, Hickman and Hilliary. Voting against the motion were none.

22. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING.** Chair Sherry announced that the next regular meetings are scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. and Friday, May 31, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the State Regents Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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

ATTEST:



Jack Sherry, Chair



Steven Taylor, Secretary