

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THE BOARD REGIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS
FEBRUARY 21, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Regents governing East Central University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Northeastern State University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University and the University of Central Oklahoma was called to order at The University of Central Oklahoma, Nigh University Center, Robert S. Kerr Room 301 at 9:00 a.m., on February 21, 2025.

The following Regents were present for all or parts of the meeting: Jane McDermott, Chair of the Board, presiding; Regents Susan Winchester, Amy Anne Ford, Lake Carpenter, Chuck Perry, Connie Reilly, and Thomas Kupiec. Ryan Walters was absent.

Notice of the time, date and place of this meeting was submitted to the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted on the RUSO website and on the door of the meeting room on or before 9:00 a.m. on February 20, 2025, both as required by 25 O.S., Sections 301-314.

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILING MEETING NOTICE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT

Official action can only be taken on items which appear on the agenda. The RUSO Board of Regents may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, amend, strike, or continue any agenda item. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Regents may refer the matter to the Chief Executive Officer or Legal Counsel. The Regents may also refer items to staff or committees for additional study. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely.

II. CALL TO ORDER AND REGENTS' ROLL CALL

Regent McDermott called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting notice was filed and the agenda posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
Dr. Tatum called roll for the meeting.

A. (Action) Discussion and possible action excusing absent Regents.

There were no regents that requested an absence today.

III. Presentation by Regent Jane McDermott regarding the Chairman's Report.

Regent McDermott welcomed all attendees and expressed gratitude to the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) for hosting the meeting. She acknowledged the contributions of the regents, who voluntarily serve the state and dedicate significant time reviewing documents, attending committee meetings, and engaging in campus events. Special recognition was given to Chris VanDenhende for his dedicated service to RUSO.

- IV. (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding the Consent Docket consisting of previous minutes and academic program modifications.

The consent docket was reviewed, and Regent Kupiec made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ford. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was approved unanimously.

A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 21, 2025

B. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

1. Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Program Modification:

- **Bachelor of Arts in Spanish (038)** – program requirement change, no change in total hours for degree

2. Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Program Deletion:

- **Bachelor of Science in Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities (099)**- delete program. No students enrolled. Delete 10 courses from inventory.

3. Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Program Modification requests for the following programs:

- Master of Education in Education (Natural Science Education option)
- Bachelor of Science in Education in Special Education
- Master of Education in Education (Reading Specialist option)
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy
- Bachelor of Music Education
- Master of Music
- Human Resource Management Certificate

New Program Requests for the following programs:

- Professional Community Counseling LPC
- Professional School Counseling LPC

V. REPORT OF RUSO COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Regent McDermott asked Regent Ford to present the Facilities report.

A. FACILITIES STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Regent Amy Anne Ford

The Facilities Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, January 21st, and Regents Ford and McDermott were in attendance. The committee discussed a few topics:

- A brief discussion of each university's deferred maintenance projects.
- A couple of informational items for the regents:

- ECU has submitted to OSHRE a request to be put on the Master Lease list for Knight Hall and a new dining facility. ECU has not approved anything for these projects; rather, it is informational.
 - SWOSU has also notified the regents that they have requested to be put on the Master Lease list with OSHRE for up to \$5M for construction on an academic building for pharmacy.
 - Regent Ford noted that both of these universities submitted their requests to OSHRE before notifying the RUSO regents. She wants to thank President Newsome with SEOSU for allowing RUSO to know about their submission to OSHRE this fall, which shows strategic foresight and leadership. She noted that she requested a policy requiring notification of submission.
 - A discussion and review of each university's request for facilities approvals.
1. Presentation regarding deferred maintenance across the system.
 2. East Central University

- a. (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding facilities approvals for East Central University.

Property Location: 830-832 E. 14th St., Ada, OK 74820

Property Description: 830-832 E. Main is adjacent to the ECU campus.

The sales appraisal value is \$173,000. Purchase of this property is congruent with ECU's capital master plan.

Amount: \$173,000.00 + closing costs

Source of Funds: 290 E&G

Motion:

The first approval needed was for East Central University to purchase the property at 830-832 E. 14th St., Ada, OK 74820. The sales appraisal value is \$173,000. The purchase of this property is congruent with ECU's capital master plan. The RUSO legal council needs to review contracts and legal documents.

Regent Ford made the motion to allow ECU to purchase 830-832 E. 14th St, in Ada, OK, for \$173,000 plus closing costs.

Regent Kupiec seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- b. Master Lease

- East Central University has submitted to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education a request to be included on the Real Property Master Lease Program Potential Project Listing to utilize master lease funds for two different potential projects. Such submission was due to OSRHE on or before January 24, 2025, in order to be submitted within the first seven days of the legislative session.

- The first project is for residential hall repairs and renovations in an amount not to exceed \$18,000,000.
 - The second project is for the construction of a new student dining facility in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000.
 - ECU, should it decide to move forward with these projects, will seek approval from the RUSO Board at that time.
- c. Update to Deferred Maintenance
- As ECU works to expend the funds provided by the State of Oklahoma during academic year 2024-2025, below are the projects being worked on as authorized by SB1185 for deferred maintenance:
 - **Roofing Replacements:** \$2,122,771
 - **HVAC Replacements:** \$1,072,524
 - **Total Deferred Maintenance to be reallocated:** \$3,195,295
 - **Amount estimated to be used for Knight Hall and the student dining hall:** \$384,250

Motion:

ECU has also submitted a letter to the RUSO office requesting to use their deferred maintenance money on new projects based on a survey done on Knight Hall and their dining facility. The cost to renovate those facilities totally far exceeds their allotment of deferred maintenance money. So, ECU is going to strategically use some of their deferred maintenance dollars on those facilities so that the buildings do not deteriorate further, but will spend the rest of the money on different projects on campus.

Regent Ford moved to allow ECU to reprioritize the deferred maintenance funds it received under SB1185. Precisely, she moved that ECU be authorized to spend \$2,122,771 on roof replacements, \$1,072,524 on HVAC replacements, and approximately \$384,250 on Knight Hall and Taff Cafeteria to keep those areas functional while ECU identifies a long term strategy for funding the substantial cost of renovating or replacing these facilities. Each of these specific projects must come back to the regents prior to spending any money.

Regent Perry seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. University of Central Oklahoma

- a. (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding facilities approvals for the University of Central Oklahoma

Project # 120-0060 Health and Safety Projects

Project Description: Request approval to award contracts to multiple vendors in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for the purpose of abating asbestos containing ceiling texture of 31,666 square feet of the second and third floors of West Hall dormitory. This is phase 1 of a 2-phase project. Environmental Action, Inc., (abatement) and Enercon (air monitoring) are on state contract.

Requested Funding Approval: \$750,000

Budget Breakdown: \$580,000 abatement/Environmental Action, Inc., \$170,000 air monitoring/Enercon

Vendors: Environmental Action, Inc. & Enercon

Congruent with Facility Master Plan or Strategic Plan: Yes

Fund Source(s): Auxiliary

Project # 120-0013 Streets, Sidewalks, Lights, and Landscaping

Project Description: Request approval to award a contract to Trinity Builds in an amount not to exceed \$325,000 to replace concrete drive at Main and Garland Godfrey. The project area covers 20,000 square feet of roadway that is in major disrepair. Trinity Builds has an on-call construction manager contract. (June 2024 RUSO)

Requested Funding Approval: \$325,000

Budget Breakdown: \$325,000 construction

Vendors: Trinity Builds

Congruent with Facility Master Plan or Strategic Plan: Yes

Fund Source(s): Section 13

Project # 120-0033 Existing Buildings Renovations and Additions

Project Description: Request approval to award contracts to multiple vendors in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the renovation of the Forensic Science Institute (FSI) Rm 119C and Rm 136. The renovation will include the conversion of 660 square feet of open office space into three individual faculty offices and conversion of 290 square feet of former I/T server room to a conference room. Work is needed to accommodate additional faculty requirements as part of FSI's new doctoral program. Timberlake Construction has an on-call construction manager contract. (June 2024 RUSO)

Requested Funding Approval: \$300,000

Budget Breakdown: \$185,000 for construction/Timberlake, \$35,000 for design and engineering/FSB, \$80,000 furniture and equipment

Vendors: Timberlake Construction, FSB Architects & Engineers

Congruent with Facility Master Plan or Strategic Plan: Yes

Fund Source(s): Course Fees

Project # 120-0027 Major Repairs and Deferred Maintenance

Project Description: Request approval to award contracts to multiple vendors in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the renovation

of three Health and Environmental Science building classrooms 104, 106, and 206A. The renovation includes the remodel of 1,361 square feet of classroom space and the conversion of 507 square feet of computer lab space to a student lounge. Timberlake Construction has an on-call construction manager contract. (June 2024 RUSO)

Requested Funding Approval: \$150,000

Budget Breakdown: \$75,000 for construction/Timberlake, \$35,000 for Audio/Visual, \$40,000 furniture and equipment

Vendors: Timberlake Construction

Congruent with Facility Master Plan or Strategic Plan: Yes

Fund Source(s): Course Fees

Motion:

The University of Central Oklahoma has requested approval to award contracts to multiple vendors in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for the purpose of abating asbestos-containing ceiling texture on 31,666 square feet of the second and third floors of West Hall dormitory. This is phase 1 of a two-phase project. Environmental Action, Inc. (abatement) and Enercon (air monitoring) are on state contracts.

Regent Ford made the motion to move approval to award multiple contracts not exceeding \$750,000 for the project at West Hall Dormitory, as delineated in the agenda.

Regent Kupiec seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion:

UCO requests approval to award a contract to Trinity Builds not exceeding \$325,000 to replace the concrete drive at Main and Garland Godfrey. The project area covers 20,000 square feet of roadway in significant disrepair. Trinity Builds has an on-call construction manager contract.

Regent Ford made the motion to move approval to award a contract not exceeding \$325,000 for the project to replace the drive at Main and Garland Godfrey, as delineated in the agenda.

Regent Winchester seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion:

UCO requests approval to award contracts to multiple vendors in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the renovation of the Forensic Science Institute. The renovation will include converting 660 square feet of open office space into three individual faculty offices and 290 square feet of former I/T server room to a conference room. Work is needed to

accommodate additional faculty requirements as part of FSI's new doctoral program. Timberlake Construction has an on-call construction manager contract.

Regent Ford made the motion to move approval to award multiple contracts not exceeding \$300,000 for the projects at the Forensic Science Institute as delineated in the agenda.

Regent Kupiec seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion:

UCO requests approval to award contracts to multiple vendors in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the renovation of three Health and Environmental Science building classrooms. The renovation includes remodeling 1,361 square feet of classroom space and converting 507 square feet of computer lab space to a student lounge. Timberlake Construction has an on-call construction manager contract. (June 2024 RUSO)

Regent Ford made the motion to approve multiple contracts not exceeding \$150,000 for the projects at the Health and Environmental Science Building as delineated in the agenda.

Regent Winchester seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE- Regent Susan Winchester

Regent McDermott requested that Regent Winchester provide an update on the Audit and Finance Committee meeting.

Regent Winchester reported that our committee meeting was held on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025, and Regents Ford and Kupiec all attended the virtual meeting. A few topics were discussed.

- Kevin Freeman discussed an overview of financial data with the committee.
- The committee discussed specific approval requests for universities and each of the universities' academic fee submissions to OSHRE. It is important to note that NWOSU has no increases to its academic service fees.

1. East Central University

- a. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding Board policy 2.3.4, Purchases exceeding \$150,000, East Central University is requesting approval to purchase the following items:

- Request to solicit proposals
 - For professional services/sculptor to create and install life-size bronze statue of Chickasaw Citizen, Daniel (Dan) Hays
 - Fundraised Dollars

Motion:

ECU has requested approval to solicit proposals for creating and installing a statue to honor the man who gifted his land to ECU.

Regent Winchester made the motion was made to allow ECU to solicit proposals for the professional services of a sculptor to create and install a life-size bronze statue to be funded with private dollars.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- b. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding East Central University's Request:

East Central University recently obtained two proposals for a new student dining services vendor. Both reflect an enhancement to the overall dining experience on campus including capital investments in the current dining hall and the Student University Center. Both of the proposals are for a term of thirteen (13) years. The total amount of capital investments, contributions and commissions were \$14,218,156 (vendor A) and \$14,283,000 (vendor B). The university is requesting approval to begin negotiations and enter into a contract with vendor B on a multi-year agreement to begin on June 1, 2025, if the parties come to an agreement on the terms. Once negotiations are complete, the contract will be reviewed by the RUSO General Counsel's office.

Motion:

Regent Winchester moved to allow ECU to begin negotiations and enter into a multi-year agreement with vendor B that will begin on June 1, 2025, if the parties agree on the terms.

Regent Reilly seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- c. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding academic service fees

Biology Thesis Fee

Per: Credit Hour

Current: \$

Proposed: \$125.00

Revenue +/-: \$2,500

Total Revenue: \$2,500

Education Dissertation Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$
Proposed: \$350
Revenue +/-: \$14,000
Total Revenue: \$14,000

Graduate Application Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$
Proposed: \$20
Revenue +/-: \$8,000
Total Revenue: \$8,000

Motion:

Regent Winchester moved to approve the academic service fees proposed by ECU.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Northeastern State University

- a. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding academic service fees

New:

College of Education Testing/Clinical Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$-
Proposed: \$ 0.50
Revenue +/-: \$ 20,000.00
Total Revenue: \$ 20,000.00

College of Liberal Arts Testing/Clinical Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$-
Proposed: \$ 0.50
Revenue +/-: \$ 22,177.00
Total Revenue: \$ 22,177.00

International Enhancement Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$-
Proposed: \$ 7.50
Revenue +/-: \$ 37,500.00
Total Revenue: \$ 37,500.00

Changes:

Graduate Enhancement Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$ 5.00
Proposed: \$ 6.50
Revenue +/-: \$ 37,958.00

Total Revenue: \$ 164,483.00

College of Liberal Arts Special Instruction Fee

Per: Credit Hour

Current: \$ 7.50

Proposed: \$ 7.50

Revenue +/-: \$-

Total Revenue: \$ 332,655.00

Occupational Therapy Application Fee

Per: Use

Current: \$ 25.00

Proposed: \$ 50.00

Revenue +/-: \$ 1,100.00

Total Revenue: \$ 2,200.00

Academic Enhancement Fee

Per: Credit Hour

Current: \$ 30.00

Proposed: \$ 40.00

Revenue +/-: \$ 1,500,000.00

Total Revenue: \$ 6,000,000.00

Motion:

Regent Winchester moved to approve the academic service fees proposed by NSU.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Southeastern Oklahoma State University

- a. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding academic service fees

Massey School of Business Academic Services Fee

Per: Credit Hour

Current: \$ 20

Proposed: \$ 22

Revenue +/-: \$ 15,000

Total Revenue: \$ 380,000

School of Arts & Sciences Academic Services Fee

Per: Credit Hour

Current: \$ 20

Proposed: \$ 22

Revenue +/-: \$ 35,000

Total Revenue: \$ 780,000

School of Education & Behavioral Sciences Academic Services Fee

Per: Credit Hour

Current: \$ 20

Proposed: \$ 22

Revenue +/-: \$ 18,000

Total Revenue: \$ 360,000

Graduation Fee

Per: Use

Current: \$ 45

Proposed: \$ 50

Revenue +/-: \$ 9,200

Total Revenue: \$ 90,000

Motion:

Regent Winchester moved to approve the academic service fees proposed by SEOSU.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Southwestern Oklahoma State University

- a. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding academic service fees

Changes:

Pharmacy Academic Service Fee

Per: Credit Hour

Current: \$ 6.00

Proposed: \$ 7.00

Revenue +/-: \$ 7,500

Total Revenue: \$ 52,500

International Application Fee

Per: Admission

Current: \$ 25

Proposed: \$ 100

Revenue +/-: \$ 11,250

Total Revenue: \$ 11,250

Academic Service Fee

Per: Credit Hour

Current: \$ 15

Proposed: \$ 30

Revenue +/-: \$ 1,625,000

Total Revenue: \$ 3,250,000

New:

International Student Maintenance Fee

Per: Per Semester

Current: \$ 0

Proposed: \$ 100

Revenue +/-: \$ 30,000

Total Revenue: \$ 30,000

Chemistry/Science Lab Fee

Per: Per Course

Current: \$ 0

Proposed: \$ 40
Revenue +/-: \$ 20,000
Total Revenue: \$ 20,000

Deletions:

Distance Learning Fee

Per: Per Course
Current: \$ 40
Proposed: \$ 0
Revenue +/-: \$ (1,900,000)
Total Revenue: \$ 0

Motion:

Regent Winchester moved to approve the academic service fees proposed by SWOSU.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. University of Central Oklahoma

- a. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding the University of Central Oklahoma's Request to Transfer Funds

University of Central Oklahoma requests a transfer of \$450,000 from (290) E&G Funds to (295) Capital Funds established by OSRHE for capital projects. \$300,000 (Facilities agenda item 1.c. Forensic Science Institute renovation), \$150,000 (Facilities agenda item 1.d. Health and Environmental Science renovation) pending Board approval (February 2025).

Motion:

University of Central Oklahoma requests a transfer of \$450,000 from (290) E&G Funds to (295) Capital Funds established by OSRHE for capital projects. \$300,000 (Facilities agenda item 1.c. Forensic Science Institute renovation), \$150,000 (Facilities agenda item 1.d. Health and Environmental Science renovation)

Regent Winchester made a motion to allow the transfer of \$450,000 from (290) E&G Funds to (295) Capital Funds for \$300,000 (Forensic Science Institute renovation) and \$150,000 (Health and Environmental Science renovation).

Regent Kupiec seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- b. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding Board policy 2.3.4, Purchases exceeding \$150,000, the University of Central Oklahoma is requesting approval to purchase the following items:

- Blackboard, student and technical support services, Year 2 of 3-year agreement.
- Source: Technology Fee.....\$501,492
- Computer Replacements, Microsoft ends support for Windows 10 on November 14, 2025. Windows 11 is not compatible with the hardware in ineligible systems. Approximately 520 computers, monitors and peripherals.
- Source: Section 13.....\$600,000

Motion:

Regent Winchester moved to allow UCO to pay \$501,492 for year two of a three-year contract with Blackboard, their student and technical support services.

Regent Kupiec seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion:

Microsoft will end support for Windows 10 on November 14, 2025. Windows 11 is not compatible with the hardware in ineligible systems. So, UCO must replace approximately 520 computers, monitors, and peripherals.
Regent Winchester moved to allow UCO to spend up to \$600,000 on new computers, monitors, and peripherals.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- c. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding academic service fees

Net Zero Changes:

College of Business – Special Instruction Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$ 18.40
Proposed: \$ 20.50
Revenue +/-: \$ 86,100
Total Revenue: \$ 840,500

College of Business – Classroom/Laboratory Supply and Material Fees

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$ 2.10
Proposed: \$ 0
Revenue +/-: \$ (86,100)
Total Revenue: \$ 0

College of Education & Professional Studies – Special Instruction Fee

Per: Credit Hour

Current: \$ 16.91
Proposed: \$ 17.91
Revenue +/-: \$ 68,669
Total Revenue: \$ 1,229,862

College of Education & Professional Studies – Facility/Equipment Utilization Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$ 17.17
Proposed: \$ 16.17
Revenue +/-: (\$ 68,669)
Total Revenue: \$ 1,110,378

College of Fine Arts and Design – Special Instruction Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$38.97
Proposed: \$ 40.97
Revenue +/-: \$40,000
Total Revenue: \$819,400

College of Fine Arts and Design – Classroom Supplies/Materials Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$9.14
Proposed: \$7.14
Revenue +/-: \$ (40,000)
Total Revenue: \$142,800

Forensic Science Institute – Special Instruction

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$ 19.31
Proposed: \$ 21.86
Revenue +/-: \$ 17,850
Total Revenue: \$ 153,020

Forensic Science Institute – Facility/Equipment Utilization Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$ 20.64
Proposed: \$ 23.00
Revenue +/-: \$ 16,520
Total Revenue: \$ 161,000

Forensic Science Institute – Classroom Supplies Utilization Fee

Per: Credit Hour
Current: \$ 8.91
Proposed: \$ 4.00
Revenue +/-: (\$ 34,370)
Total Revenue: \$ 28,000

New Fees:

International Optional Practical Training (OPT) Application Fee, 1-yr Post Completion

Per: Use
Current: \$ 0.00
Proposed: \$ 100.00
Revenue +/-: \$ 19,700

Total Revenue: \$ 19,700

International Optional Practical Training (OPT) Application Fee, 3-yr STEM Extension

Per: Use

Current: \$ 0.00

Proposed: \$ 200.00

Revenue +/-: \$ 15,200

Total Revenue: \$ 15,200

Motion:

Regent Winchester to approve the academic service fees proposed by UCO.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. Regent Ford noted that UCO fees are not going up except for international fees. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. SYSTEM ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE- Regent Susan Winchester

Regent McDermott asked Regent Winchester to present the System Advancement Committee report.

1. Presentation regarding overview of committee meeting.

Regent Winchester provided updates on legislative activities and the upcoming legislative reception. The committee also discussed pending legislation regarding higher education. There are no motions to be made from this committee meeting.

D. POLICY AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE - Regent Jane McDermott

1. Presentation regarding overview of committee meeting.

Regent McDermott reported on policy updates and ongoing revisions to the RUSO policy manual. Business officers and university leaders were encouraged to provide feedback. The first draft of changes should be reported to the regents by April for comprehensive policy updates.

VI. Presentation by Workforce Commissioner, Kyla Guyette

Regent McDermott introduced the new CEO of the Workforce Commission, Kyla Guyette. Kyla Guyette discussed her background in workforce development across the country and has worked in 18 states. She is excited to bring her expertise to Oklahoma in regards to workforce development. The Workforce Commission is a new commission in Oklahoma that will align all of the workforce groups to work together. She believes that there is enough money in the workforce system, but she is not sure that money has been strategically aligned and that there could be duplication in workforce efforts. She wants to ensure we are focused and strategically aligned in workforce development. She wants the university system to find creative ways to reach out and train non-traditional learners. This is a good time to work on creating new pathways for learners, including adult learners. Also, from the economic development perspective, she wants to coordinate strategies between the workforce and financial economic development. She also acknowledged that the Workforce Demonstration Grant is due today.

VII. Presentation by Chris VanDenhende

Regent McDermott introduced Chris VanDenhende to present to the board. Mr. VanDenhende resigned from the board this month to serve on the State Board of Education. He discussed his family story, why he joined the RUSO board, and why he is excited to move on to the State Board of Education. He graduated from East Central University and played football for them. ECU was an excellent experience for him, and it transformed his life. He loved being a part of the RUSO system because he is passionate about it. He is moving to serve on the State Board of Education because both of his parents were teachers, and he is excited to have the opportunity to serve teachers and the K-12 system across the state.

VIII. Presentation by President Bo Hannaford regarding the President's Council Report and possible discussion with RUSO Regents

Presidents discussed a few items at the President's Council meeting.

- Dr. Tatum participated in the meeting and they discussed the affordability plan. They also discussed review of the policy updates and discussed potential legislative items.

IX. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding the RUSO University Presidents recommendations presented by leadership at each institution.

A. East Central University President's Recommendations

Motion:

Regent McDermott made a motion to approve the president's recommendations.

Regent Reilly seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Personnel

2. Grants and Contracts (\$0)

3. Purchases

a. Informational Items

• **Central Oklahoma Family Medical Center**

- Contracted on-campus Student Health Services Clinic
 - *Source: Fund 730* \$125,00.00

• **Trane US Inc.**

- For HVAC service technician labor onsite daily Monday through Friday for equipment assessments, diagnostics, and consulting for 3 months
 - *Source: Fund 290* \$94,500.00

B. East Central University President's Report

The Boren family has long ties to ECU, and they will be the recipients of the David Boren scholarship. President Godwin discussed that enrollment is up across the board from a year-to-year perspective. Further, President Godwin discussed how OU has high fees, which are found on student bills. He invited the regents to Tiger Tangles next

week. The ECU Forward campaign has received \$500,000 more dollars since the kick-off. The next board meeting will be in April on the ECU campus.

C. Northeastern State University President's Recommendations

Motion:

Regent McDermott made a motion to approve the president's recommendations.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Personnel
2. Grants and Contracts (\$0)
3. Purchases (none at this time)

D. Northeastern State University President's Report

President Hanley discussed several activities coming up on campus, including an awards banquet and a ball, and they are hosting the State Regents soon. President Hanley thanked the work of Chris VanDenhende for all the work he did as chair of the search process for the presidency at NSU. President Hanley believes that Regent VanDenhende put him on a pathway to success at NSU.

E. Northwestern Oklahoma State University President's Recommendations

Motion:

Regent McDermott made a motion to approve the president's recommendations.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Personnel
2. Grants and Contracts (\$46,250)
3. Purchases
 - a. Informational
 - Audio equipment and services for campus activities: Jerad Bradt (Boss Music), Alva, Oklahoma, at a cost not to exceed \$60,000 (Various funds)
 - Replacement of the curtains in Herod Hall auditorium: Integrated Lighting Systems, Tulsa, Oklahoma, at a cost of \$52,680 (Fund 705 Auxiliary)
 - Replacement of the stage lighting in Herod Hall auditorium: Integrated Lighting Systems, Tulsa, Oklahoma, at a cost of \$99,800 (Fund 295, Section 13-Deferred Maintenance one-time funds)

4. Informational Items

F. Northwestern Oklahoma State University President's Report

President Hannaford discussed that they are 19th in the nation in gaming with Call of Duty. They have 28 students in the ESports program. Last month, they had the highest day in research day, and RUSO had five of the top six schools in regard to participation rates in research day. Their enrollment is still up in every area except are down two students in the Doctor of Nursing program.

G. Southeastern Oklahoma State University President's Recommendations

Motion:

Regent McDermott made a motion to approve the president's recommendations.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Personnel
2. Grants and Contracts (\$8,824,579)
3. Purchases (none at this time)

H. Southeastern Oklahoma State University President's Report

President Newsom discussed a couple of Hall of Fame events that happened recently on campus. They just finished a \$1.2M project on a fine arts center. They are moving to work on the science building on campus, so they are shifting students around. This will be a year-long process. There will be an HLC visit in March for their proposed doctoral degree. Enrollment is continuing to climb this semester, and their total headcount is up 3.3%. The undergraduate enrollment is up 8.9%. Lastly, March 6th will be the second annual giving day on campus. To date, they have raised \$1.6M dollars.

I. Southwestern Oklahoma State University President's Recommendations

Motion:

Regent McDermott made a motion to approve the president's recommendations.

Regent Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Personnel
2. Grants and Contracts (\$102,400)
3. Purchases (None at this time)

J. Southwestern Oklahoma State University President's Report

President Lovell recognized Kyla Guyette for being here and thanked her. She bragged about the Pharmacy school's pass rate of 94%, which is higher than the national average of 75.7%. The SWOSU pass rate is the highest in the state of Oklahoma. SWOSU is STEM strong and works hard to offer excellence in STEM education. The Harlem Globetrotters will be on campus March 21st. Recently, working with SWOSU,

and they had 48 high schools on campus for a medical-related program, and 38 high school teams came to campus for an ESports tournament. Dr. Lovell thanked Dr. Tatum for being open to working with SWOSU and being available to them. The university is on track to gain its ABET accreditation for engineering. The foundation of SWOSU has increased the number of employees for fundraising and is adding to that team.

K. University of Central Oklahoma President's Recommendations

Motion:

Regent McDermott made a motion to approve the president's recommendations.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Personnel

2. Grants and Contracts

3. Purchases

a. Informational Items

- ABM Industries, consumables for the Nigh University Center, housing, and dining.

Source: Auxiliary.....\$65,000

- Inceed LLC., contract technical staff.

Source: Technology Fee.....\$81,120

- Apporto Corporation, virtual lab licensing.

Source: E&G.....\$51,000

- OneFire Media Group Inc., marketing consulting services.

Source: Unrestricted Cash.....\$54,720

- Xcalibur, professional consulting services.

Source: Grant.....\$58,670

L. University of Central Oklahoma President's Report

UCO is happy to host the RUSO meeting this year. President Lamb introduced his administrative team, which was in the audience. Dr. Simmons gave an update. One of the UCO students has become a Harry S. Truman Scholar and has been accepted into Harvard Law. Two more students have become finalists for the program. UCO has been a partner with the National Conference of Undergraduate Research. UCO is number one in the country for the most participation in this conference. President Lamb will be the only president to attend the conference and will host a dinner for participating students. The new 2025 Carnegie classifications came out last week, and UCO has been accepted into a third research category called research colleges and universities. President Lamb discussed that they are hosting PLC interviews on campus right now. President Lamb is teaching a class this semester. Also, last year UCO had 20

faculty and students run in the Memorial Marathon and this year there will be 46 runners.

- X. Regent's Comments and Announcements
- XI. Discussion and possible action regarding New Business (not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of the agenda).
- XII. (Action) Vote to enter into executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(4) and (8) for the purpose of discussion and possible action on the following issues:

Motion:

Regent Ford moved to enter into executive session.

Regent Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- A. Jackson Shepherd and Mallory Scott v. Regional University System of Oklahoma County ("RUSO") et al., District Court of Oklahoma Case #CJ-2020-2383
- B. Charles E. Sneed and Tabitha Sneed v. Northeastern State University ("NSU"), Acting President Kim Cherry, and NSU Employees, E.C.A.L. [sic et al.], District Court of Cherokee County, Case #CJ-2007-840
- C. Marci D. Walkingstick Dixon v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. the Regional University System of the Oklahoma Board of Regents sic. d/b/a Northeastern State University ("NSU"), Eastern District of Oklahoma Case #CIV-19-391
- D. Tatum Robertson, Eve Brennan, and Marin Rhodes v. University of Central Oklahoma ("UCO") and Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma ("RUSO"), Western District of Oklahoma, Case # CIV-2022-836-HE
- E. Dr. Rachel Tudor v. Marie Galindo et al. and Ezra Young and Brittany Stewart v. Dr. Rachel Tudor, Southeastern Oklahoma State University ("SE"), and Regional University System of Oklahoma ("RUSO"), Western District of Oklahoma Case #CIV-2022-480-C
- F. Noreen Swank v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents d/b/a Northeastern State University ("NSU"), Eastern District of Oklahoma Case #CIV-2024-102-GLJ
- G. Terry Worcester v. East Central University ("ECU"), District Court of Pontotoc County Case #CJ-2019-37
- H. Alan Scott Asher and Nancy Asher v. Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow ("NSU"), and The Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges-Regional University System of Oklahoma ("RUSO"), District Court of Wagoner County Case #CJ-2022-309
- I. Shekhar Rathor v. University of Central Oklahoma ("UCO") EEOC Charge #564-2022-02211
- J. OCR Docket No. 07-23-2169 - Website accessibility complaint against East Central University

- K. US Department of Education Complaint by Margo McKenzie against Northeastern State University for alleged FERPA violations
- L. MidFirst Bank v. James L. Lindsay II, Northwestern Oklahoma State University ("NWOSU") et al., District Court of Oklahoma County Case #CJ-2022-6342
- M. Northwestern Oklahoma State University Internal Revenue Service Audit
- N. Oklahoma Insurance Department Consumer Complaint against VOYA
- O. Discussion of legal opinion provided by John E. Priddy and next steps
- P. Dr. Ian Gerg v. Southeastern Oklahoma State University ("SE")
- Q. Noah Hankinson v. Sydney Youngblood-Blanton (Southeastern Oklahoma State University Golf Coach) Cause #471-09007-2024 District Court of Collin County, Texas
- R. Dorothy Phelps v. Southeastern Oklahoma State University ("SE"), District Court of Bryan County, Case #CS-24-670

XIII. (Action) Vote to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session.

Motion:

Regent McDermott made the motion to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session.

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- A. Discussion and possible action to implement matters discussed in Executive Session.
No items needed to be discussed from Executive Session.

XIV. (Action) Vote to Adjourn the Board Meeting

Motion:

Regent Kupiec moved to adjourn the meeting

Regent Ford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.