

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
THE BOARD REGIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS
MARCH 25, 2025

A special 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 Noble Foundation Hotel and Conference Center, Ardmore, OK at 5:53 PM on Monday 25, 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 12:00 p.m. on March 24, 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 at 5:53 PM on Monday 25, 2025 and announced that the meeting notice was filed and the agenda was posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Dr. Tatum called role for the meeting.

III. (Action) Discussion and possible action to adopt a unified vision and/or purpose for RUSO and/or the universities it governs

Beginning at 5:53 PM on Monday, March 25th the regents had a working dinner and discussed these topics:

- The Board discussed the purpose and vision of the RUSO system.
- Summary of the RUSO Regent Survey was reviewed.
- Regent Perry noted surprise at the significant structural and operational differences between the universities.

Debra Lyon read the continuation clause to continue the meeting to 8:30 AM the next morning.

Reconvened Session: The meeting reconvened at 8:40 AM on Tuesday, March 26, 2025.

Discussion was had on the purpose of the RUSO Universities:

- **Affordability:** Deliver an accessible and affordable, high-quality academic experience.
- **Accessibility:** Provide broad academic opportunities.
- **Academic Quality:** Maintain high academic standards.
- **Workforce Development:** Align education with local economic needs.
- **Regional Impact:** Support and serve regional communities.

Discussion was had on the purpose of the RUSO System:

- **Operational Efficiency**
- **Accountability**
 - Presidential leadership
 - Financial management (evaluated as part of presidential review)
 - Academic and workforce outcomes
 - Enrollment (retention and graduation rates)
- **Amplified Collective Voice**
- **Approve and Create Policy**

IV. (Action) Discussion and possible action to define and/or adopt specific expectations for the universities RUSO governs and RUSO

A discussion was had regarding possible Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for universities. The desire will be to work with the Presidents Council to develop KPIs moving forward. Potential ideas are as followed:

- Total credit hour production
- FTE enrollment
- Retention and graduation rates
- Degree completions (“How many belly buttons walk across the stage”)
- Job placement outcomes
- Critical career fields and degrees
- Program-level economic reviews
- CFI score
- Discount rate
- Cash on hand
- Endowment value

The regents discussed what the regent meetings would look like for next year and that each meeting may have a specific theme.

- **Strategic Board Meeting Topics:**
 - June: Budget
 - September: Enrollment (past and present)
 - October: Workforce Development
 - November: Academic Progress
 - January/February: Financials and Fees
 - April: TBD
- **Proposed Changes:**
 - Round Robin structure: Two regents meet individually with one university president at each meeting to foster stronger relationships.
 - Potentially shift meetings from Friday to Thursday with a new schedule:

- 10:00–11:30 AM: Round robin meetings and facilities tours
- 11:30 AM: Formal lunch
- 1:00 PM: Open meeting begins
- Executive session with one president to discuss KPIs

- V. (Action) Discussion and possible action to adopt an updated mission statement for RUSO consistent with its vision and expectations

The regents then reviewed the university strategic plans in considering the mission of the system.

NWOSU:

- Focused on academic excellence, enrollment, retention, and instruction.
- Workforce development not explicitly addressed.

SEOSU:

- Priorities include affordability, academic excellence, sustainability, campus facilities, and regional recruitment.

SWOSU:

- Strategic theme: “Forging Frontiers”
- Emphasis on research, community engagement, and workforce development.
- Includes feedback from regents and RUSO.
- Addresses student success, partnerships with CareerTechs.

ECU:

- Goals include workforce readiness, enrollment growth, student engagement, and operational efficiency.

UCO:

- Updated strategic plan was not provided prior to the retreat, so the regents reviewed a previous strategic plan.

- VI. (Action) Vote to enter into executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(1) for the purpose of discussion and possible action on employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of the Chief Executive Officer for RUSO

No executive session was held.

- VII. (Action) Discussion and possible action to implement matters discussed in Executive Session.

Discussion was had in executive session discussing the roles and expectation for the CEO.

CEO Role and Responsibilities

- Lead implementation of board meeting structure changes
- Serve as the functioning CEO of the RUSO system
- Oversee and manage systemwide KPIs
- Represent RUSO externally and at the Capitol
- Foster operational efficiencies
- Maintain strong relations with OSRHE and the Chancellor

- VIII. (Action) Vote to Adjourn the Board Meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM on Tuesday, March 26, 2025.