



NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE of the PRESIDENT

January 7, 2025

Regional University System of Oklahoma
305 NW 5th Street
PO Box 407
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

I. PERSONNEL

The recommendations of Northeastern State University are as follows:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Dr. Ryan Fenska, Associate Professor of Optometry / Rural Eye Program Director in the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry is moving to Assistant Dean of Clinical Care / Associate Professor of Optometry / Rural Eye Program Director effective September 1, 2024. This position is full-time regular, 12-month replacing Dr. Earlena McKee. His new fiscal year salary is \$148,917.

Dr. James Ferrell, Interim Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs / Tenured Professor of School Administration has been appointed as Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs / Tenured Professor of School Administration effective February 1, 2025. This is full-time regular, 12-month position at a fiscal year salary of \$108,204.

Dr. Timothy Hart, Assistant Professor of Management/ Assistant Dean in the College of Business and Technology is moving to Assistant Professor of Accounting and will no longer serve as Assistant Dean effective January 1, 2025. This position is full-time regular, 9-month tenure track replacing Dr. Amber Whisenhunt at an academic salary rate of \$103,370.

Dr. Earlena McKee, Assistant Dean of Clinical Care / Professor of Optometry / Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center Clinic Chief in the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry is moving to Associate Dean of Clinical Care / Professor of Optometry / Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center Clinic Chief effective August 1, 2024. This position is full-time regular, 12-month replacing Dr. Nathan Lighthizer. Her new fiscal year salary is \$174,030.

Dr. Jeff Miller, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs / Professor of Optometry in the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry's fiscal year salary is being adjusted to reflect standardization of Assistant Deans of Optometry effective September 1, 2024. The correct fiscal year salary is \$153,146.

Dr. Joseph Shetler, Professor of Optometry / Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry Clinic Chief is moving to Assistant Dean of Alumni Relations & Development / Professor of Optometry/ Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry Clinic Chief effective September 1, 2024. This position is full-time regular, 12-month. His new fiscal salary is \$160,108.

B. FACULTY CHANGE OF STATUS

Ms. Sarah Burkhead-Whittle, Instructor of Library Services, in the John Vaughn Library is moving from faculty status to staff status as Coordinator of Continuing Education in the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry effective January 1, 2025. This is a full-time regular, 12-month position with a fiscal year salary rate of \$34,356. Ms. Burkhead-Whittle is replacing Ms. Callie McAtee.

C. FACULTY APPOINTMENTS (TENURE TRACK)

Dr. Hassan Ahmed has been appointed Assistant Professor of Accounting in the College of Business and Technology effective January 1, 2025. This is a full-time regular, 9-month, tenure track position at an academic year salary rate of \$103,370. Dr. Ahmed is replacing Dr. Brian Jackson.

Dr. Ahmed holds the following degrees: Ph.D., Environmental Science, and M.S., Economics, Oklahoma State University; and the following degrees from Oklahoma City University, M.B.A., Information Systems, M.S., Accounting, and B.S., Business Administration.

His professional experience includes: Assistant Professor of Accounting, Langston University – 11 years; Assistant Professor of Accounting, Finance & Economics, Cameron University – one year; and Instructor of Accounting, Langston University – one year.

Dr. Janice Black has been appointed Associate Professor of Management in the College of Business and Technology effective January 1, 2025. This is a full-time regular, 9-month, tenure track position at an academic year salary rate of \$90,530. Dr. Black is replacing Dr. Dilene Crockett.

Dr. Black holds the following degrees: Ph.D., Business Administration, Texas Tech; Ed. Specialist, Curriculum and Instruction, New Mexico State; M.B.A., Business Administration, Sonoma State University and a B.S., Business Administration/Human Resources, California State University Sacramento.

Her professional experience includes: Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship, Western Carolina University – two and ½ years; Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Coastal Carolina University – 2020; Tenured Professor of Management, Coastal Carolina University -six years; and Associate Professor of Management – four years; Tenured Associate Professor of Management -five years and Assistant Professor of Management – seven years at New Mexico State University.

Dr. Vance Lewis has been appointed Associate Professor of Management in the College of Business and Technology effective January 1, 2025. This is a full-time regular, 9-month, tenure track position at an academic year salary rate of \$90,530. Dr. Lewis is replacing Dr. Tushar Shah.

Dr. Lewis holds the following degrees: Ed.D., Higher Education, Oklahoma State University; M.Ed., Higher Education, University of Arkansas; B.B.A., Management, University of Central Arkansas.

His professional experience includes: Visiting Associate Professor of Management, Oklahoma City University – one year; Associate Professor of Management, Southeastern Oklahoma State University – one year; Tenured Associate Professor of Management – one year and Assistant Professor of Management – six years at University of Central Arkansas; Clinical Assistant Professor of Management, University of Texas at Dallas – four years.

II. PURCHASING

INFORMATION ITEMS:

The following purchases are presented as information items in accordance with Board policy, over \$50,000 and under \$150,000. (All funding is E & G unless otherwise noted.)

Vehicle Acquisition.....(Aux) \$50,100

III. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

NSU Drama Theatre for Children Series 2025.....\$2,500.00

The NSU Drama program will produce a theatrical production geared for a child audience ranging from PreK to 8th grade. The production is performed at the NSU Playhouse and open to all elementary, home school and other children’s educational organizations free of charge. The Project Director is Dr. Robyn Pursley.

OK PACT Grant (COPS) Yr 1 of 2\$215,596.00

We propose a partnership between university, local, and tribal law enforcement to create a coordinated community police response to mental health calls. This initiative includes specialized training for officers to handle mental health incidents effectively and compassionately and the integration of a licensed clinician within the NSUOK Police Department. The Project Directors are James Bell and Dr. Sheila Self.

Inspiring Young Minds: Enhancing STEM Interest\$18,650.00

A 17-week program that offers hands-on STEM learning and career exploration for underperforming 5th grade students in a urban public school in Tulsa.
The Project Director is Dr. Jericho Hobson.

OK-INBRE Equipment\$25,000.00

This proposal seeks to acquire a Steris Amsco 250LS Small Steam Sterilizer for the Northeastern State University (NSU) Broken Arrow campus. The Project Director is Dr. Sean Kim.

OK-INBRE\$39,173.00

The proposed project aims to investigate a factor made by uropathogenic Escherichia coli to evaluate its therapeutic potential. This study will help us in moving a step closer towards finding novel therapeutics to treat bladder cancer. The Project Director is Dr. Janaki Iyer.

OK-INBRE\$65,265.00

This research grant seeks to enhance our understanding of the interplay between DNA replication and epigenetic changes in patients with FILS syndrome. The Project Director is Dr. Sapna Das-Bradoo.

Career Navigator-Educational & Vocational Opportunities for Children & Young Adults with Disabilities\$25,000.00

Seeking to hire a part-time Career Navigator position for the Riverhawks Scholar Program. The Project Director is Justin Chase.

Gear Up.....\$70,000.00

The State Regents will make funding available through Oklahoma GEAR UP federal grant program to provide a College Success Coach/GEAR UP Campus Coordinator to assist Local Education Agencies in preparing students for transition to college.
The Project Director is Dr. Sheila Self.

Total Awarded Grants:

\$461,184.00

IV. PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney S. Hanley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rodney S. Hanley, Ph.D.
President