

**UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA
BOARD OF REGENTS, SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
March 4, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma was held on Thursday, March 4, 2021, via Zoom conferencing. Before the meeting was called to order, President John Feaver stated that advance public notice of this meeting was properly filed and displayed in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Tom Cordell called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.
2. **Roll Call** – Members remotely present via video conference: David Ferrell, Diane Ming, Chris Mosley, Cale Walker, and Kelly Wilkerson. David McLaughlin was available by audio only. Members physically present on campus: Tom Cordell.

There were audio and video connecting issues, but at no time was there not enough voting members present with both audio and video.

Also, physically present on campus were President John Feaver and Secretary to the Board of Regents Vanessa McNabb.

Others remotely present via video conference: Vice President Donna Miles, Vice President Mike Coponiti, Vice President Sid Hudson, Vice President JP Audas, Director of Communications and Marketing Amy Goddard, and Director of Alumni Development Misti McClellan.

Introductions: None.

Presentations: President Feaver announced Ms. Diane Ming has been reappointed to the Board.

Approval of the Minutes of the November 11, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting: On a motion from Regent Walker, seconded by Regent Wilkerson, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Communications: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Personnel

a. Appointments

Joshua Roach, effective January 1, 2021, Part-time, Men's Basketball Coach, salary \$16,640.00

Jay Mayes, effective February 1, 2021, Full-time, Student Life and Housing Coordinator, salary \$32,000.00

Bellande Bertrand, effective April 5, 2021, Full-time, Student Life and Housing Coordinator, salary \$36,500.00

b. Changes in Status

James Hopkins, effective January 1, 2021, .25 FTE - IS Database Administrator II, salary \$15,000.00

Katherine Sanders, effective January 1, 2021, .5 FTE Finance Clerk & .5 FTE Development Coordinator, salary \$31,000.00

Chisum Lane, effective January 1, 2021, Assistant to the Athletic Director, salary \$16,640.00

c. Resignations

Casey Ritter, effective December 4, 2020

Karl Tyler, effective December 31, 2020

Joseph Ellis, effective January 8, 2021

d. Approval of Adjunct Faculty for Second Trimester

Susan Adams-Johnson	Music
Freddy Baeza	Art
Kaleb Benda	Music
Ron Blankinship	Music
Luke Burns	Physical Education
Patricia Carr	Mathematics
Davon Carrington	Music
Jamie Caves	Management
Matthew Caves	Business Administration
Alex Coleman	Creative Writing/IDS
Debbie Earley	Speech Language Pathology
Rhenada Finch	Music
Chris Francis	Physical Education
Julie Harris	Student Teacher Supervision
Scott Haselwood	Education
Emily Hector-Godwin	Physical Education (and Theatre Arts)
Adam Heilman	Art
Kari Henricks	Education
Rachel Jackson	American Indian Studies
Darrick Matthews	Physical Education
Rob Miles	Business
Amanda Mullins	Sociology
Andrew (Andy) Myers	Art
Pam Foster	Psychology
Bruce Renfroe	Physical Education

Mary Reynolds	Mathematics
Emily Rixstine	Music
Anna Roach	Music
Mike Ross	Physical Education
Annette Shaw	Physical Education
Brett Smithey	Music
Jonathan Thomason	Physical Education
Francisco Venegas	Music
Jadyn Wallis	Physical Education
Christine Wans	Music
Brian Worthington	Physical Education

On a motion from Regent Ferrell, seconded by Regent Ming, the personnel items were approved unanimously.

2. Monthly Financial Statements – Vice President for Business and Finance Mike Coponiti covered the monthly and quarterly financials with the group.

No action was necessary.

3. Request for Approval of Academic Program Reviews – Programs are reviewed on a five-year cycle. Programs up for review in the 2020 cycle include music, physical education, psychology, biology, English and history. Regent Ferrell reported the Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee met and discussed the six programs up for review. Vice President Miles gave a brief summary of those program reviews.

On a motion from Regent Ferrell, seconded by Regent McLaughlin, the academic program reviews were approved unanimously.

4. Request for Approval of Academic Calendar for 2021-2022 – Approval of the calendar is generally done in the December meeting. It has already been filed with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, however needs Board approval.

On a motion from Regent Ming, seconded by Regent Wilkerson, the academic calendar was approved unanimously.

5. Ratification of Schedule for Regular Meetings for 2021 – Approval of the regular meeting schedule is generally done in the December meeting. The schedule has been reported to the Secretary of State, but with the December meeting being cancelled ratification was needed.

On a motion from Regent Ming, seconded by Regent McLaughlin, Ratification of the Regular Meeting Schedule was approved unanimously.

6. Listing of Faculty Eligible for Tenure &/or Promotion Consideration – This agenda item is for the Board’s information only. No action required at this time.

7. Request for Approval of Resolution Supporting Existing Law Concerning Weapons on Campus – Existing law prohibits carrying weapons on campus with the exception of the President of the university having authority to designate, if necessary certain individuals to carry a weapon on campus. The Board has supported this in past years.

On a motion from Regent Ming, seconded by Regent Ferrell, the Resolution was approved unanimously.

Due to the virtual meeting of the Board, the President asked permission to use digital signatures for signing the Resolution Supporting the Existing Law Concerning Weapons on Campus.

On a motion from Regent Ming, seconded by Regent Ferrell, the use of digital signatures on the Resolution was approved unanimously.

8. Remarks from Representatives to the Board

- a. Alumni –Remarks were submitted by Director of Alumni Development, Misti McClellan
- b. Staff –Remarks were submitted by Staff Association President, Dwight Yokum

The Board appreciates these submissions.

9. President's Report

- a. **Marketing** –Sterling Cryder and Lauren Mincey from Cryder Marketing gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on our statewide marketing campaign which is expected to launch in April. The campaign will consist of rebranding and awareness of the university. The final creative packet will be sent to the Board in the next couple of weeks.
- b. **COVID Report** –We are continuing protocols and procedures at this time. Vaccine distribution will have an effect on returning to some type of normalcy for the fall. Our infection numbers remain at single digits. Vice President Coponiti reported the COVID Advisory Committee is meeting weekly and cleaning of spaces continues. Vice President Miles reported in the spring 57% of our classes were considered in-person and 83% will be in-person in the fall. Academic Council is working on a plan if one of the new strains hits campus. She also reported that many summer classes will continue to be hybrid and online. This is to allow students to work during the summer.
- c. **Recruiting** –Sheppard McConnell, Dean of Admissions and Recruitment gave an overview of admissions and recruiting. A PowerPoint presentation containing all the information shared will be sent to the Board.

- d. **Spring Commencement** –Regent Diane Ming will be the spring 2021 commencement speaker. Ms. Amy Goddard, Director of Communications & Marketing and Chelsea Phillips, Commencement Committee Chair, shared details of the ceremony. The event will be held April 24, 2021, outside on the oval with campus protocols in place (masks, social distancing, etc.). There will be a back up plan in the case of inclement weather.

- e. **Foundation/Fundraising** –Vice President JP Audas shared a few items on fundraising. 1) Development is optimistic about two grant submissions. Sarkeys Foundation has interest in the Neill-Wint Center for Neurodiversity, especially the social coach program that matches neurodiversity students with current students. The Kirkpatrick Foundation is excited about the McLaughlin Outdoor Research Center. This \$75,000 grant would be used for furnishing the space. 2) Drs. Mike and Jeanne Mather have given to the university in many ways and recently gave a significant gift for retention scholarships (sophomore, junior, and senior). Bruce Renfro, women’s golf coach established an endowment for USAO athletes. 3) Annual Giving Day is coming up March 31st. This year’s theme will be “Give Green and Gold”. 4) 100% donor participation from our Board is extremely important in our making application for grants from foundations. Vice President Audas will be contacting each Board member asking for participation in this year’s Annual Giving Day. 5) The Oklahoma Tennis Foundation heard about our renovation project and encouraged us to ask for money. We recently received \$10,000 from them.

Vice President Hudson commented on the Foundation. Last year we had a one-year return of 15.5% and a two-year average of 18.1% endowment. Student scholarship money is always a top priority. The foundation for the Habitat building has been poured. Depending on the weather, crews will begin erecting the structure this week.

- f. **FY22 State and Federal Funding** –As mentioned during agenda item 2, higher education is expected to receive \$40 billion in the next Federal stimulus package. We are anticipating USAO receiving around \$3 million. The FY22 state budget looks to be better than expected and State may not cut the higher education appropriation.

- g. **Other** –The men’s basketball team is the SAC tournament champion and will be heading to the NAIA National Tournament. Live streaming of the last three men’s basketball games was very high. A few fans were allowed to attend several basketball games. Women’s basketball had an excellent season, but came up short in the end. Spring sports are underway. Baseball was preseason ranked number 2, which was before the team lost two pitchers, one to the pro’s the other to injury. The softball team remains undefeated. We will explore the prospect of allowing fans to attend outdoor athletic events. Games will continue to be live streamed for viewing.

10. Time and Place of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. on the USAO Campus/Zoom.

11. Consideration of “any matter not known about which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting of the agenda” – None.

12. Executive Session - – Chairman Cordell asked for a motion to move the meeting into executive session. On a motion from Regent Wilkerson, seconded by Regent Mosley, the Board voted unanimously to move into Executive Session at 3:24pm in order to address the remaining agenda items.

Regents participating remotely via videoconferencing: David Ferrell, David McLaughlin, Diane Ming, Chris Mosley, Cale Walker, and Kelly Wilkerson.

Others participating remotely via videoconferencing only for Item 12a: Vice President Mike Coponiti and Jackie Zamarripa, from the Attorney General’s office.

Participants physically present on campus: Regent Tom Cordell, President John Feaver.

- a. Discussion on Possible Litigation
 - i. Case#: CJ-20-192
 - ii. Case#: CJ-2020-125
- b. Five-Year Review of Tenured Faculty
- c. Reemployment of Administrators for Next Fiscal Year
- d. Reemployment of President for Next Fiscal Year

13. Return to Open Session - Chairman Cordell asked for a motion to move the meeting into open session. On a motion from Regent McLaughlin, seconded by Regent Walker, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session at 3:54pm.

- a. Discussion on Possible Litigation
 - i. Case#: CJ-20-192
 - ii. Case#: CJ-2020-125

There was discussion on this item, no action necessary.

- b. Five-Year Review of Tenured Faculty

On a motion from Regent Wilkerson, seconded by Regent Walker, the Five-Year Review of Tenured Faculty was approved unanimously.

- c. Reemployment of Administrators for Next Fiscal Year

On a motion from Regent Walker, seconded by Regent Mosley, the Reemployment of Administrators was approved unanimously.

d. Reemployment of President for Next Fiscal Year

On a motion from Regent Ferrell, seconded by Regent Ming, Reemployment of the President was approved unanimously.

14. Adjournment – Chairman Cordell declared the Board meeting adjourned at 3:59pm.

Advance public notice of this meeting was properly filed and displayed in compliance with Title 25, O.S. 1981, Section 311.