

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA
1727 W. Alabama Avenue, Chickasha, OK 73018
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR MEETING
April 10, 2025

The Board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma met Thursday, April 10, 2025 in the Student Center's Regents Room at the USAO Campus.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Kelly Wilkerson at 1:00 PM.
- 2. Open Meeting Law:** President Kayla Hale announced the filing of the meeting notice and posting of agenda was done in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.
- 3. Roll Call** was taken. Regents in attendance were Kelly Wilkerson, Suzanne Reynolds, Amanda Conley, Diane Ming, Chris Mosley and JJ Francais; Cale Walker was absent.
- 4. The pledge of allegiance** was recited by those in attendance.
- 5. Introductions:**
 - Chair Wilkerson introduced Sohail Punjwani, Assistant Attorney General from the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General and counsel for the Board of Regents of USAO.
 - President Hale recognized Mr. Russ Florence of Schnake Turnbo Frank, one of the associates responsible for constructing the Strategic Plan 2031.
 - President Hale also recognized Mr. Jeff Rutherford of USAO, incoming President for the Staff Association.
- 6. Presentations:**
 - President Hale introduced Mr. Joshua Smith, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music, and Coordinator of the Music Department, to speak on the upcoming performance of the Vocal Music students at the 30th anniversary of the Alfred P. Murrah Building Bombing coming up in April. Mr. Smith shared several student reflections regarding the upcoming remembrance of the tragedy which were very thoughtful and moving.
- 7. Minutes of the February 13, 2025 Meeting:** The minutes of the February 13, 2025 meeting were presented with no corrections or additions. Regent Ming made a motion to accept the minutes. Regent Francais seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
- 8. Minutes of the March 7, 2025 Special Meeting:** The minutes of the March 7, 2025 special meeting were presented with no corrections or additions. Regent Reynolds made a motion to accept the minutes. Regent Francais seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
- 9. Communications to the Board:** President Hale presented upcoming dates as we approach the end of the semester. Commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.
- 10. Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements:** Controller David Smith presented the financial statements to the Board. See appendix A., pp. 5-8

- 11. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Personnel Actions:** Regent Ming, chair of the Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee, made a motion from committee to accept the items as presented:

- a. Appointments, Changes in Status, Resignations, Retirees
- b. Adjunct Appointments for Summer 2025
- c. Reappointment of Administrative, Professional and General Staff for FY2025-26
- d. Reappointment of Faculty and Deans for FY2025-26

Regent Reynolds seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Appendix B, pp. 9-13

- 12. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Faculty Promotions:** The Academic & Administrative Affairs Committee met earlier in the day to discuss the promotions of faculty as listed:

- a. Dr. Paul Regier to Associate Professor
- b. Dr. Josh Hakala to Associate Professor
- c. Dr. Rachel Jones to full Professor

Regent Ming, chair of the committee, made a motion to approve the promotions. Regent Reynolds seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- 13. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the Revisions to the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Codes:** This item was discussed in the earlier meeting of the Academic and Affairs Committee. Regent Ming made a motion from committee recommending that the Revisions to the Classification of Instruction Program Codes be approved as printed. Regent Conley made the second, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 14. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Curriculum Changes:** Once again, by recommendation of the Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee, Regent Ming made the motion to approve the curriculum changes as presented. Regent Francois seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 15. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the Request to Reactivate Baccalaureate Major in Multidisciplinary Studies:** On recommendation of the Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee, Regent Ming made a motion to accept Request to Reactivate the Baccalaureate Major in Multidisciplinary Studies. Regent Francois seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- 16. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Financial Aid and Athletic Scholarship Policy:** The Policies and Procedures Committee met prior to the meeting today. Regent Conley, on behalf of the committee, made the motion to approve the Financial Aid and Athletic Scholarship Policy as presented. Regent Ming seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous vote. Appendix C, pp. 14-16

- 17. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Employee and Dependent Tuition Waiver Program:** Regent Conley, on recommendation from the Policies and Procedures Committee, made a motion to accept the Employee and Dependent Tuition Waiver Program as presented. Regent Mosley seconded the motion, and the motion passed with unanimous vote. Appendix D, pp. 17-20

18. President's Report: President Hale reported on the following topics:

*Second Draft of Strategic Plan completed

*Oklahoma City Community College partnership update

- Enrollments are open this summer for alternative certification for teachers
- Will launch three programs in Fall 2025: Business, Psychology, and Multidisciplinary Studies (including a pathway for a double major)
- The Bachelor of Professional Studies will launch in Fall of 2026
- USAO employee will embed on the OCCC campus this summer.

Vice President Hathaway report included:

*Campus housing update

- Conversations continue with Fleske Commercial Real Estate Group
- Exploration of potential partnership with 4Stay for off-campus properties

Cathy Perri's report included updates on:

*State of the agenda for higher education

- Fiscal
- Regulatory
- Universal
- Federal

Vice-President McConnell was unable to attend, but the Enrollment Management/Student Affairs Team reported the following items:

*Admissions data and new dashboard

- Kyla Patterson, Assistant Director of Admissions Operations

*Housing update

- Delton Gordon, Director of Housing Operations

*Spring Triad – Junior Day and Droverstock

- Annie Roberts, Director of Student Life

Tony Hutchison gave a report from the Division of Professional Studies:

*Funding Requests

- \$6M federal community project request
- \$1M Oklahoma Workforce Commission 2025 Workforce Demonstration grant

*Community Outreach

- Chickasha Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn
- City of Chickasha
- HSI Sensing
- Hertz Corporation

*Innovative New Courses/Micro-Credentials

- Launching this summer:
 - Name Image and Likeness
 - Passive income
- In development:
 - Sports Officiating
 - Project Management
 - AI Prompting
 - Financial Statements
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- Project Management
 - AI Prompting
 - Financial Statements
- Professional Studies Website
 - Launches in May
- One-stop shop for learners to access online learning opportunities at USAO
 - Online degrees
 - Micro-credentials
 - Online learning platforms (Coursera and ed2go)

19. Reports from Representatives to the Board

- a. Faculty – Dr. Karen Karner, President, Faculty Association
- b. Student – Harry Cracknell, President, Student Association
- c. Alumni – Whitney Palesano, Director of Alumni Relations
- d. Staff – Marissa Moore, President, Staff Association

20. Time and Place of Next Meeting – Thursday, June 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m., USAO, Student Center, Regents Room, 1727 W. Alabama Ave., Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018.

21. Consideration and possible action on new items of business not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of the posting of the agenda.

22. Discussion and vote to adjourn: Having no other business, Regent Ming made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Regent Francois seconded the motion. Voting to adjourn Regent Francois: yes; Regent Ming: yes; Regent Reynolds, yes; Regent Mosley, yes; Regent Wilkerson, yes. Regent Conley exited the meeting after Item 17 and was not present to vote for adjournment; however, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.