

**UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA**  
**1727 W. Alabama Avenue, Chickasha, OK 73018**  
**MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING**  
**June 16, 2025**

The Board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma met Monday, June 16, 2025 in the Student Center's Regents Room of the USAO Campus.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Kelly Wilkerson at 1:04 PM.
2. **Open Meeting Law:** President 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, Diane Ming, Cale Walker, JJ Francais and Chris Mosley. Regent Amanda Conley was absent.
4. **The pledge of allegiance** was recited by those in attendance.
5. **Introductions:** Chair Wilkerson introduced Whitney Herzog, acting Assistant Attorney General from the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General and counsel for the Board of Regents of USAO.

President Hale introduced Mr. David Quirk, new Vice President of External Affairs. Mr. Quirk is replacing Vice President JP Audas, who retires June 30, 2025.

**6. Presentations**

- a. Recognition of Regent Chris Mosley, Service from 2012-2025. Mr. Mosley retires from the Board of Regents June 30, 2025.
- b. Recognition of outgoing Board Chair, Kelly Wilkerson: President Hale thanked Regent Wilkerson for the past years service to the Board of Regents as chair.
- c. Recognition of Retirees: Vice President JP Audas will retire on June 30, 2025 with six years of service to USAO; and Director of Operations for USAO Foundation Jennifer Reeves will retire July 31, 2025.
- d. Regents' Teaching Awards for 2025 were presented to the following:
  - i. Dr. Jason Shaw, Professor of Biology – *Faculty Scholarly/Creative Activity Award*
  - ii. Dr. Jeannette M. Loutsch, Professor of Biology – *Faculty Service Award*
  - iii. Dr. Shaylee Chester, Assistant Professor of Education – *Superior Teaching Award*
  - iv. Staff Achievement Award for 2025 was presented to Mr. Jeff Rutherford, Technical Director for Visual and Performing Arts

7. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the minutes of the April 10, 2025, Meeting:** The minutes of the April 10, 2025 meeting were presented with no corrections or additions. Regent Mosley made a motion to accept the minutes. Regent Francais seconded the motion, and the motion carried with unanimous approval.

**8. Communications to the Board On Upcoming Events and Special Programs:**

- President Hale reported that USAO successfully hosted “Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers” State Deaf Education Conference from June 2-5.
- The university is partnering with TimelyCare, a Texas-based healthcare provider to expand access to counseling services for students, staff, and faculty.
- Intellego Media was honored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education as USAO’s partner of the year. Founder and CEO Reagan Elkins is a USAO graduate.
- USAO Senior Class project – Outgoing Student Government Association leaders Harry Cracknell and Luke Cantrell gave a presentation on the Senior Class project: an outdoor half-court basketball court which was completed this Spring.
- Other upcoming events in Chickasha:
  - 7/4/25 Festival of Freedom. 10:00 am – 10:00 pm. Shannon Springs Park
  - 7/26/25 Christmas in July Cool Down Block Party. 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm. Downtown Chickasha.

**9. Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements:** Controller David Smith presented the financial statements to the Board. One correction was noted on page 3: the month end date is wrong. No other action was necessary. See appendix A., pp.7-9

**10. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove FY 2025-2026 Budget:** Vice- President Hathaway presented the next fiscal year budget. The Finance and Audit Committee met prior to the board meeting to review and discuss the budget. On recommendation from the committee, Regent Walker made a motion to accept the budget as presented; Regent Reynolds seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**11. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Guaranteed Tuition Rate for FY 2025-2026:** Vice President Hathaway presented the proposal on the guaranteed tuition rate for FY 25-26. The Finance and Audit Committee met prior to the board meeting to review and discuss the proposal. On recommendation from committee, Regent Walker made a motion to approve the proposal. Regent Francais seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**12. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the Food Plan for FY 2025-26:** Vice President Hathaway presented the proposed food plan for the next fiscal year. After discussion, Regent Francais made a motion to approve the plan and Regent Ming seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**13. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Personnel Actions:** After brief discussion, Regent Reynolds made a motion to accept the personnel actions as presented, with Regent Walker seconding the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**a. Appointments**

Jennifer Cade, effective April 21, 2025; Administrative Assistant for USAO Foundation  
David Quirk, effective May 19, 2025; Vice President of External Affairs and Executive Director of the USAO Foundation

Joshua Taylor, effective June 2, 2025; Security Guard

**b. Changes in Status**

Samuel West, effective May 27, 2025; Carpenter

**c. Resignations**

Treyce Belcher, effective May 9, 2025; Maintenance Office Assistant

Jalen Kelso, effective May 1, 2025; Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach

Dr. Arin You, effective April 30, 2025; Assistant Professor of Psychology

Derek Green, effective April 29, 2025; Security Guard

**d. Retirees**

Rhenada Finch, effective April 30, 2025; Piano Accompanist

**e. Adjunct Appointments for Fall 2025**

Pam Foster	Social Sciences	Andrea Freymiller	Kinesiology
Abigail Caselli	Social Sciences	Brian Worthington	Kinesiology
Molly Perkins	Social Sciences	Dee Dee McCormick	Kinesiology
Lara Jernigan	Social Sciences	Emily Godwin	Kinesiology
Jason Perkins	Social Sciences	James Hampton	Kinesiology
George Burnett	Social Sciences	Jaye Nayreau	Kinesiology
Marissa Moore	Business/Economics	Luke Burns	Kinesiology
Kellee Jernigan	Business/Economics	Nial Crick	Kinesiology
Mark Jernigan	Business/Economics	Robert Blakley	Kinesiology
Sydney Dacus	Business/Economics	Steven Holden	Kinesiology
Kayla Hale	Business/Economics	Dawn Reitan-Brockman	Latin
Katie Messerly	Independent Studies	Jonathon Knapp	Math
Kaitlyn Verser	Independent Studies	Meredith Noland	Math
Jerry Weems	Independent Studies	Sherry Read	Math
Ron Blakenship	Music	Kayla Hale	Management
Audrey Oden	Music	Kellee Jernigan	Management
Guilherme Lopez	Music	Mark Jernigan	Management
Trey Switzer	Music	Sydney Dacus	Management
Andrew Myers	Art	Audrey Oden	Music
Adam Heilman	Art	Guilherme Lopes-Correa	Music
Hank Ehrenfried	Art	Ronald Blankenship	Music
Emily Hector Godwin	Theatre	Trey Switzer	Music
Adam Heilman	Art	Andrew Myers	Photography
Andrew Myers	Art	Thomas Willcock	Physics
Marissa Moore	Business	Brian Steele	Political Science
Ryan Chester	Biology	Jason Perkins	Political Science
Katellyn Verser	Communications	Abigail Caselli	Psychology
Rachael Brown	Communications	Lara Jernigan	Psychology
Daniel Pool	IDS	Molly Perkins	Psychology
Jerry Weems	IDS	Pam Foster	Psychology
Katie Messerly	IDS	Kim Chester	Education
Kelli Monroe	IDS	Marilyn Holt	Education
Landon Hughey	IDS	Mary Jeffries	Education
Nicole McMonagle	IDS	Jo Perryman	Education
Zach Widener	IDS	Jessica Mason	Deaf Education
Tarrah Kinney	IDS	Connor Sullivan	Speech-Language
Kendall Walker	IDS		Pathology
Rachel Jackson	INST		

**Concurrent Instructors:**

Rachael Brown  
Zach Widener  
Beau Steele

**14. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Curriculum Changes:** Vice President Evans presented the numerous curriculum changes, edits and additions. The Academic and Administrative Affairs committee met prior to the board meeting to discuss the curriculum changes. Upon recommendation from the committee, Regent Ming made a motion to accept the changes as presented. Regent Mosley seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**15. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove IT Policies:** The Policies and Procedures Committee met prior to the board meeting to discuss the following proposed IT policies:

- a. USAO Disaster Recovery Plan
- b. USAO IT Incident Response Plan
- c. USAO Written Information Security Program
- d. USAO Disable Email Account Access Upon Employment Termination Policy

Upon recommendation of the committee, Regent Mosley made a motion to accept the four policies as presented. Regent Francois seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Policies will be posted on the USAO website.

**16. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Election of Regents' Officers for 2025-2026:** In accordance with the Regents' Bylaws and policies, the proposed officers for FY 25-26 will be:

Chair:	Regent Diane Ming
Vice-Chair:	Regent JJ Francois
Secretary:	Regent Amanda Conley

Regent Mosley made a motion to accept the slate as presented; Regent Walker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**17. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Appointment of Regents' Committees for 2025-2026:** New committees for the FY 25-26 were presented for approval. Regent Mosley made a motion to accept the committee alignments as presented. Regent Reynolds seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**18. President's Report: President Hale provided updates to the board to include:**

- Legislative Session outcomes
- Change to the academic structure
- Our academic alliance with Oklahoma City Community College
- Enrollment management status report for Fall 2026
- Progress report on our Division of Professional Studies
- Office of External Affairs report

#### Legislative Session Outcomes

- Higher education budgets remained flat
- Additional \$3.4 million in deferred maintenance funding
- Additional \$125,000 dedicated to STEM initiatives

#### Academic Reorganization

- Merger of the School of Visual and Performing Arts and the School of IDS and Humanities

#### School of Arts & Humanities

- Associate Dean to be named
- Dedicated Administrative Assistant to be hired

#### Elevation of the IDS program to the Office of Academic Affairs

- Tenured faculty to receive term appointments to assist the Vice President for Academic Affairs in curriculum developments/changes

### **Enrollment Management & Student Affairs:**

#### Strong Fall Outlook

- 843 Possible Returners
  - 522 Enrolled (62%)
- 245-255 Projected FTFT class
- 100-105 Projected transfers
- 670 active housing applications

### **Professional Studies Update:**

Established just over one year ago, highlights include:

- Engagement with more than 30 businesses and organizations to discuss workforce development opportunities.
- In collaboration with campus and community partners, Career Readiness Specialist Sydney Dacus has secured 14 summer internships, with three more opportunities currently under review for approval.
- Collaborations with Drs. Evans and Steele to launch a fully online Multidisciplinary Studies degree, along with all remaining business degree concentrations in Fall 2025.

Currently offering 9 micro-credentials, with 5 additional credentials targeted to launch this summer including:

- Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
- Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)
- Passive Income
- Sports Officiating
- Event Planning

In partnership with NASNTI, we are implementing Canvas Catalog, a customizable online course catalog and registration platform to market, sell and manage non-credit courses, professional development programs and community engagement opportunities.

### **External Relations Update:**

Year-to-date cash in the door compared to last year

- FY25 to Date: \$2,736,764 (compared to \$2.3M total in FY24)

- 1908 Society (Monthly Giving): 53 Members
- Annual Giving: \$355,756

Outstanding Proposals

- Neill Wint Center & Endowed Scholarship Donor - \$2 million
- School of Social Sciences & Business Donor - \$250,000

Projections for FY26:

- Fundraising Goal: \$3,000,000
- 1908 Society (Monthly Giving): 75 Members
- Giving Day: \$150,000

**19. Reports from Representatives to the Board:** Respective reports were submitted in advance from the Faculty Association, Alumni Association and Staff Association for updates to those areas.

**20. Time and Place of Next Meeting – Thursday, September 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m., USAO, Student Center, Regents Room, 1727 W. Alabama Ave., Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018.**

**21. Discussion and vote to adjourn.** Having no other business, Regent Mosley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Regent Reynolds seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote and was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.