

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES

February 28, 2019 – 2:30 p.m.*

President's Conference Room
Administration Building
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
Miami, Oklahoma

Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on February 25, 2019.

The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges convened in a Special Board Meeting (Board Study Session) on Thursday, February 28, 2019, in the President's Conference Room, Administration Building, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami, Oklahoma.

Present: Mr. Calvin J. Anthony, Chairman; Mr. Tucker Link, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Blayne Arthur; Mr. Douglas E. Burns; Mr. Rick Davis; Mr. Joe D. Hall; Dr. Trudy Milner (by phone); and Mrs. Lou Watkins (by phone).

Absent: Mr. Jarold Callahan.

Others present: Mr. Jason Ramsey, Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Shari Brecht, Executive Assistant to the CEO.

At approximately 2:32 p.m., Board Chairman Anthony called the meeting to order. He noted that Regent Callahan was unable to participate in the meeting today, but in a meeting with Regent Callahan yesterday he and Regent Davis and Mr. Ramsey updated him regarding the information to be shared today.

Distributed at the meeting and attached and considered a part of these minutes are the posted agenda (ATTACHMENT A) and an Outline for Discussion (ATTACHMENT B).

**This was strictly an informal Study Session for those Regents who could attend. No Board action was taken.*

AGENDA ITEM (1)**Discussion related to the recommendations of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Task Force on the Future of Higher Education.**

Chairman Anthony noted that the Governance Task Force of the A&M Board of Regents has been very active in its efforts to appropriately consider the recommendations made by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Task Force on the Future of Higher Education (OSRHE Task Force). The Governance Task Force, currently comprised of Joe Hall, Tucker Link, Rick Davis, Calvin Anthony, and Jason Ramsey, has held numerous conference calls and many meetings, including meetings with the presidents of each of the institutions governed by this Board to get their input. Meetings have also been held with representatives of Eastern Oklahoma State College, Redlands Community College, Carl Albert State College, and Western Oklahoma State College, which are some of the institutions whose governing boards were given a directive regarding changing governing boards in one of the recommendations made by the OSRHE Task Force (shown following).

Governing boards with authority for a single institution should be given a period until June 30, 2019, to enter into voluntary mergers/partnerships with the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents, or the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents. After June 30, 2019, the State Regents will recommend that remaining institutions be governed by or merged with the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents, or the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents, with the exception of any two-year community college that is a land-grant institution (Northern Oklahoma College) or receives local ad valorem funding (Oklahoma City Community College, Rose State College, and Tulsa Community College), which would retain their own respective governing boards. Two-year community colleges or governing boards with a single institution should be governed by or merged with the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents, or the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents. Following the merger, regents and trustees currently serving on the governing boards for single institutions will be converted to advisory board positions with gubernatorial appointments.

Chairman Anthony noted that A&M Board staff, and particularly Chief Audit Executive Michelle Finley, have compiled and shared with the Governance Task Force analytical data relevant to educational institutions in the State of Oklahoma that has proven very informative in assessing institutional health in comparison with other Oklahoma institutions.

Chairman Anthony referenced the report of the Governance Task Force previously shared with the Board and asked Regent Hall to comment.

Regent Hall said the Governance Task Force came to a pretty unified consensus regarding feeling responsible to do everything possible to ensure access to higher education in the entire State, including rural Oklahoma, for those who desire that opportunity. The A&M Board has a real,

heartfelt compassion and obligation of mission to provide education to anybody who wants it. Regent Davis agreed and said he and Regent Hall have talked a great deal about access—the No. 1 issue in his mind is for those across the State to have access to higher education. This is also core to the land-grant mission.

Each participant at the Study Session voiced personal opinions and comments, and Regent Davis shared comments made by Regent Callahan when this was discussed with him yesterday.

There was discussion regarding possible strategies that might be pursued going forward, strengths and weaknesses of various Oklahoma higher education institutions, efficiencies to be gained through different mechanisms of delivery and coordination, and funding alternatives. There was also dialogue concerning positives and negatives of bringing additional institutions under the governance of the A&M Board, declining enrollments and related demographics, the challenges of needed changes, Oklahoma's poor national rankings in education, and the desire to make others aware of the informative analytical data compiled.

It was concluded that the thoughts expressed by the A&M Board should be shared with the Chair, Vice Chair, and Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Chairman Anthony requested that Mr. Ramsey arrange this meeting. Also, it was believed imperative to ensure the support of Governor Stitt for proposed changes prior to any requested action for restructuring.

At approximately 5:11 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

ATTACHMENT A

A G E N D A

**STUDY SESSION OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE OKLAHOMA
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES**

February 28, 2019 – 2:30 p.m.*

President's Conference Room
Administration Building
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
Miami, Oklahoma

NOTICE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING WAS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON FEBRUARY 25, 2019.

(No Board action will be taken)

Items to be discussed:

1. Discussion related to the recommendations of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Task Force on the Future of Higher Education.

* This is strictly an informal Study Session for those Regents who can attend. No Board action will be taken.

ATTACHMENT B

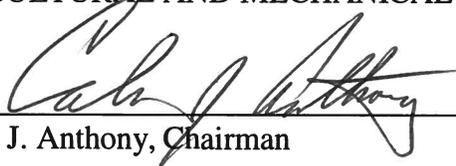
Board Study Session
Outline for Discussion
February 28, 2019

1. Overview of topics to cover during discussion
 - a. Update from Governance Task Force on current status and recommendations
 - b. Discussion of vision for the future of the A&M Board and its institutions

2. Governance Task Force Report
 - a. Share Governance Task Force Report document and review with the group
 - b. Discuss conclusions and recommendations of the task force

3. Vision discussion
 - a. What is the ideal situation for the A&M Board in 10-20 years? What works well and what needs to improve to get there?
 - b. Does the Board see a need for change in the structure of its institutions?
 - c. Is the Board interested in adding more stand-alone institutions or mergers with existing institutions? Does that help reach its goals?
 - d. Where does the Board believe it should focus in order to make the most difference in improving the quality of its institutions? What will it take to get there?

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE OKLAHOMA
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES



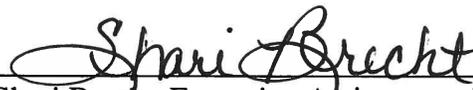
Calvin J. Anthony, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jason Ramsey, Chief Executive Officer

Certified correct minutes subject to the approval of the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges on April 26, 2019.



Shari Brecht, Executive Assistant to the CEO