



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR
THE OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES
AUGUST 24, 2023**

Notice of this special meeting was filed with the Oklahoma Secretary of State on June 27, 2023. This meeting was strictly an informal retreat/study session for the Regents, Board Staff, OSU President Kayse Shrum, and their spouses/guests. No Board action was taken.

The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges met for a retreat/study session in the Conference Room of Karsten Creek Golf Club, 1800 S. Memorial Drive, Stillwater, Oklahoma. (The Agenda for this meeting is identified as ATTACHMENT A and considered a part of these minutes.)

Board members in attendance: Mr. Joe D. Hall, Chair; Mr. Jimmy Harrel, Vice Chair; Mrs. Blayne Arthur; Mr. Cary Baetz; Mr. Jarold Callahan; Mr. Rick Davis; Dr. Trudy Milner; Mr. Billy G. Taylor; and Mr. Rick Walker.

Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Mr. Jason Ramsey, Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Kayse Shrum, President, Oklahoma State University and OSU System; Ms. Jeanette Mendez, Provost and Senior Vice President, OSU; Dr. Johnny Stephens, President, OSU-Center for Health Sciences/Interim President, OSU-Tulsa; Mr. Chad Weiberg, Director of Athletics; Mr. Kyle Wray, Senior Vice President for Executive Affairs; Mr. Jerome Loughridge, Senior Vice President of Operations; Ms. Jessica Russell, Director of Public Policy; and Ms. Blaire Atkinson, President, OSU Foundation.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

1. Discussion related to Board of Regents priorities for the 2024 academic year, which will include discussion with Oklahoma State University President Kayse Shrum, other OSU administrators, and Board Staff.

Ms. Blaire Atkinson came before the Board to provide an update regarding the Oklahoma State University Foundation (OSUF). Ms. Atkinson said the OSUF is moving forward in its fundraising campaign and has established an executive campaign committee. The OSUF is currently working to finalize the campaign structure, preliminary goals, and strategic initiatives. She referenced page 18 of the materials, noting the public phase of the campaign is still to be determined. The OSUF broke a record for individual gifts in FY 2023, and the Boone Pickens Foundation gift was huge in helping meet and exceed their annual gift goals. She said the OSUF will provide quarterly reports to the Board to keep them apprised of campaign efforts.

(Regent Arthur joined the meeting at approximately 8:30 a.m.)

Mr. Jerome Loughridge came before the Board to provide an update regarding OSU's affiliated entities and their different structures. He said something which the affiliated entities must always keep in mind is the fact that their activities impact the reputation of the University since they bear OSU's name. (A copy of the presentation made by Mr. Loughridge is on file in the Board of Regents' Office as Doc. No. 1-8-24-23 and considered a part of these minutes.)

President Kayse Shrum asked how the OSU administration can better communicate with the Regents going forward to keep them informed of the activities of OSU's Institutes and Authorities. Regent Baetz said he would like to see better reporting processes from the Authorities regarding finances. Regent Davis said Board representation on the boards for these entities should help address the communication issue. It was noted that building projects under the oversight of the OSU Veterinary Medical Authority (OSUVMA) would still have to go to the A&M Board of Regents for final approval.

Regent Baetz said there needs to be processes and tools in place to distribute information to the full Board to keep them informed on all current issues so they can feel more comfortable when important projects are presented to them for approval. Regent Callahan noted the quarterly reports from the OSUF are an example of this.

Regent Baetz mentioned the upcoming Energy Summit OSU is hosting at the Hamm Institute for American Energy at OSU on September 25th. He encouraged his fellow Regents to attend in support of this event.

Provost Jeanette Mendez came before the Board to provide an update and overview of current leadership across the OSU System. (A copy of the presentation made by Provost Mendez is on file in the Board of Regents' Office as Doc. No. 2-8-24-23 and considered a part of these minutes.) Provost Mendez said OSU-Institute of Technology (OSUIT) and OSU-Oklahoma City (OSU-OKC) are both under monitoring status for accreditation. Due to the leadership transition occurring at both campuses, her office will oversee and assist the administration on those campuses through the accreditation process.

She highlighted page three of her presentation and explained PolyTechnic (PolyTech) education aims to demonstrate sustainable educational and economic impact by emphasizing interdisciplinary campus environments, innovative instructional technologies, experiential and applied problem-based learning, and direct industry and community engagement. The PolyTech model of education fits with the mission of the OSU Strategy, and the administration is moving forward with its implementation on the OSUIT, OSU-OKC, and OSU-Tulsa campuses.

Mr. Loughridge presented information regarding the proposed Mental Health Hospital project, which, if approved, will be a collaboration between OSU and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health (ODMH). (A copy of the presentation made by Mr. Loughridge regarding the OSU-OKC Mental Health Hospital is on file in the Board of Regents' Office as Doc. No. 3-8-24-23 and considered a part of these minutes.) He said the project is a 320-bed mental health hospital facility, which would be located on land leased from OSU-OKC on the south end of the OSU-OKC campus. He then gave an in-depth review of the project timeline, rationale, future collaboration

opportunities, the location's property value, and other considerations to be made regarding this potential project.

Regent Callahan said he would feel more comfortable if the lease for this project had a term shorter than 99 years. The Regents and the OSU administration discussed various options, and it was decided the Regents would feel more comfortable considering this project for approval with a lease not exceeding 50 years, as well as a donor commitment in addition to the \$10 million that has already been raised for the project.

Ms. Jessica Russell provided a legislative update for the Board, highlighting key accomplishments from the 2023 legislative session. One major accomplishment was the passage of House Bill (HB) 2863, which established the OSUVMA and secured \$79 million in long-term funding for OSU's College of Veterinary Medicine (OSUCVM). OSUCVM will receive over \$14 million in appropriations annually; \$11 million is for clinical operations with the remaining \$3 million to be used for the newly created legacy finance fund.

Ms. Russell said there were many bills passed which improve OSU and the A&M System: Senate Bill (SB) 704 added a voting member to the OSU Medical Authority (OSUMA); HB 2686 supports doctors participating in telehealth programs, with which OSU-CHS is actively engaged; SB 93 requires high school students to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to graduate from a public high school, which has been shown to increase enrollment for higher education in other states; SB 322 allows exemptions to the previously enacted library restrictions for the purposes of education and research.

She said this was a great funding year for higher education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) received a total appropriation of \$1,003,794,375 through HB 1004X. Of those funds, \$12.5 million will be used to establish the National Guard Educational Assistance Fund; \$48,908,216 for faculty pay raises; \$20 million to expand engineering programs; \$5 million for application-based health care; \$12.5 million to develop critical workforce development initiatives; \$12.5 million for ensuring student success and institutional excellence; and \$200,000 to establish a food pantry.

Ms. Russell said they are already working on goals for the next legislative session. President Stephens added that they are also working to finalize a job description for a federal affairs position to take the lead on federal legislative issues.

Mr. Weiberg joined the meeting and provided the Board with an update on OSU Athletics. He said ticket sales are great. The Big 12 Conference (Big 12) has stabilized and made great progress over the past two years. The Boone Pickens Stadium project will be a great improvement.

Regent Baetz, Chair of the Audit, Risk Management and Compliance Review Committee, provided an update on the Langston University (LU) audit. He said progress has been made towards institutional stability, including the recent hire of a Vice President of Fiscal and Administrative Affairs for LU. It is hoped this position will help the University make progress towards fixing its financial affairs.

The Board discussed the potential for additional engagement with external auditors to assist LU. It was noted that external auditors may be more comfortable assisting LU going forward now that the University will have its own chief financial officer to coordinate these efforts.

2. **Executive Session, if approved by the required number of Regents present, for the purposes of: (1) considering evaluation/assessment and other information relevant to the employment of institutional presidents, executive leadership team, vice presidents, and deans under the governance of the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1); and (2) conferring on matters pertaining to Oklahoma State University's opportunities for economic development where public disclosure of the matter discussed would interfere with the development of products or services pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(C)(11).**

The Board did not act to convene in Executive Session.

3. **New business unforeseen at the time agenda was posted.**

None.

4. **Meeting adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:10 p.m.

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE OKLAHOMA
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES



Joe D. Hall
Chair

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 September 8, 2023.



Kyla Eldridge
Executive Assistant to the CEO/Office Manager



AGENDA
OSU/A&M Board of Regents
Annual Retreat/Study Session

August 23-24, 2023*
Karsten Creek
1800 S. Memorial Dr.
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

6:30 p.m. – Reception

7:00 p.m. – Dinner

Main Dining Hall

Thursday, August 24, 2023

7:30 a.m. – Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – Study Session

Conference Room

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ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT STUDY SESSION:

1. Discussion related to Board of Regents priorities for the 2024 academic year, which will include discussion with Oklahoma State University President Kayse Shrum, other OSU administrators, and Board Staff.
2. Executive Session, if approved by the required number of Regents present, for the purposes of: (1) considering evaluation/assessment and other information relevant to the employment of institutional presidents, executive leadership team, vice presidents, and deans under the governance of the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1); and (2) conferring on matters pertaining to Oklahoma State University's opportunities for economic development where public disclosure of the matter discussed would interfere with the development of products or services pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(C)(11).
3. New business unforeseen at time agenda was posted.
4. Meeting adjournment.