

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Research Park, Oklahoma City

MINUTES OF THE
STATE REGENTS TASK FORCE ON THE
FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Wednesday, October 18, 2017

1. **Announcement of Filing of Meeting Notice and Posting of the Agenda in Accordance with the Open Meeting Act.** The Task Force on the Future of Higher Education met at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, in the Regents Conference Room at the State Regents' offices in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on May 1, 2017. A copy of the agenda had been posted as required by the Open Meeting Act.
2. **Call to Order.** Participating in the meeting were: Dr. Ann Ackerman, Regent Phil Albert, Governor Bill Anoatubby, Regent Calvin Anthony, Chief Bill John Baker, Chief Gary Batton, Regent Bruce Benbrook, President Don Betz, President Randy Beutler, President Sean Burrage, Dr. Brett Campbell (designee for Mike Neal), Mr. John Carey, Regent Rick Davis, President Tim Faltyn, Mr. John Ford, Mr. Robert Gardner, President Leigh Goodson, Mr. Jeff Greenlee, Mr. Nick Hathaway (designee for President David Boren) Mr. Steve Jordan, Ms. Karen Keith, Regent Andy Lester, Mr. Dan Little, President John McArthur, Dr. Thomas K. McKeon, Mr. Fred Morgan, Dr. Terry Mosley, Mr. Dennis Neill, Ms. Cathy O'Connor, Dr. Marion Paden, Regent Gary Parker, Mr. Ken Parker, Mr. Bob Ross, Dr. Jason Sanders, Secretary Natalie Shirley, Dr. Dennis Shockley, President Kayse Shrum, President Jerry Steward, and Ms. Avilla Williams.

State Regents attending were: Regent Jay Helm, Regent Jeff Hickman, Regent Ann Holloway, Regent Andy Lester, Regent John Massey, Regent Jody Parker, Regent Toney Stricklin, Regent Mike Turpen and Regent Ron White.

Association of Governing Boards (AGB) consultants Dr. William Kirwan, Mr. Ken Knueven, and Dr. Sally Mason were present via videoconference.

Chairman White called the meeting to order and presided.

3. **Minutes of Previous Minutes.** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Reports from Subcommittees.**
 - a. College Degree Completion and Workforce Development Initiatives. Chair Tom McKeon gave a brief summary of the work of the College Degree Completion and Workforce Development Initiatives subcommittee. He began by stating that Executive Vice President Nick Hathaway, The University of Oklahoma (OU), gave a brief presentation on how OU is using predictive data analytics in matching scholarships with students, as well as, increasing their summer enrollment by sending students a short list of classes that they might be interested in instead of the entire course list. Additionally, Mr. Stu Harvey, Executive Director of Planning and Research at Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC), gave a presentation on how OCCC is using predictive analytics to address their retention issue.

Additionally, the subcommittee is focusing on how to scale predictive analytics statewide as well as Complete College America pilot projects occurring on some campuses, supporting full funding of the concurrent enrollment program, and creating an emergency

fund for students on campus who may be contemplating withdrawing due to financial reasons.

Chair McKeon finished by stating that at the next subcommittee meeting they will be reviewing recommendations.

- b. Academic Program Innovations and Online Education. Chair Don Betz and Chair Ken Parker gave a brief summary of the work of the Academic Program Innovations and Online Education subcommittee. President Betz began by stating that at the third meeting Dr. Mason gave a presentation on national best practices in degree completion showing that reducing the time and cost to degree are the primary challenges and technology is the major driver of student success efforts. Additionally, Dr. Bucky Dodd and Dr. Jeff King, University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), gave a presentation on UCO's Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR), an alternative approach to credentialing using a three-badge system designed to help students develop the skills needed to immediately contribute to the community upon graduation.

Chair Ken Parker stated that Dr. Kirwan gave two innovations to address workforce needs: 1) creating joint two-and four-year degrees in high demand areas; and 2) creating micro credentials or stackable credentials. He finished by stating that he visited the University of Maryland University College with Dr. Kirwan and met with staff there to see how Oklahoma could benefit from their experience.

- c. System Structure. Chair Dan Little gave a brief summary of the work of the System Structure subcommittee. He began by stating that the subcommittee is still discussing mergers and consolidations of Oklahoma higher education institutions and reorganization of governing boards. Dr. Kirwan gave a review of consolidation initiatives in other states and Vice President for Administration and Finance Joe Weaver, Oklahoma State University, gave a brief presentation on the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents' recent cost saving initiatives. Chair Little stated that Vice President Weaver cautioned that cost savings efficiencies will not save a tremendous amount of money and will not solve the current budget crisis. Additionally, the subcommittee drafted Guiding Principles for Mergers and has two potential recommendations: 1) create administrative service centers; and 2) develop a seed fund for pairs of institutions who would voluntarily merge.

Chair Little finished by stating that there are no specific merger recommendations right now but the subcommittee is discussing all options and is trying to keep students as the priority.

- d. Fiscal Solutions, Efficiencies, Affordability, and Technology. Chair Bruce Benbrook gave a brief summary of the work of the Fiscal Solutions, Efficiencies, Affordability, and Technology subcommittee. He began by stating that Mr. Von Royal, Executive Director of OneNet and Higher Education Chief Information Officer, gave a brief presentation on OneNet and its role in system-wide IT cost savings that was very informative. Additionally, Chancellor Johnson gave a presentation on Oklahoma's "recipe" for college affordability and stated that Oklahoma's cost of living, low tuition, low student debt and abundant financial aid make it affordable. Vice President Joe Weaver also gave the same presentation on the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents' recent cost saving initiatives and Chair Benbrook stated that the subcommittee recommendations are centered around 1) creating regional centers of excellence; and 2) supporting full funding of the concurrent enrollment program.

5. Discussion on Task Force Next Steps. Chancellor Johnson outlined the schedule for the upcoming meetings:

- a. Fiscal Solutions, Efficiencies, Affordability, and Technology will meet November 13, 2017.
- b. System Structure will meet October 27, 2017.
- c. Academic Program Innovations and Online Education will meet November 14, 2017.
- d. College Degree Completion and Workforce Development Initiatives will meet October 31, 2017.
- e. State Regents Task Force on the Future of Higher Education will meet December 6, 2017.

6. Adjournment. With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.