

# OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Research Park, Oklahoma City

## MINUTES OF THE STATE REGENTS TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Wednesday, September 6, 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, May 25, 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, Governor Bill Anoatubby, Regent Calvin Anthony, Chief Gary Batton, Regent Bruce Benbrook, President Don Betz, President Randy Beutler, President Sean Burrage, Mr. Michael Cawley, Regent Sam Combs, Mr. Leonard Court, Regent Rick Davis, Ms. Lee Denney, Regent Jeff Dunn, President Cheryl Evans, President Tim Faltyn, Mr. John Ford, Mr. Robert Gardner, President Leigh Goodson, President Burns Hargis, Mr. Steve Jordan, Ms. Karen Keith, Mr. Dan Little, President John McArthur, Dr. Thomas K. McKeon, Mr. Fred Morgan, Dr. Terry Mosley, Mr. Mike Neal, Mr. Dennis Neill, Mr. Tyler Norvell, Ms. Cathy O'Connor, Regent Gary Parker, Mr. Ken Parker, Mr. Bob Ross, Ms. Claudia San Pedro, Dr. Jason Sanders, Secretary Natalie Shirley, Dr. Dennis Shockley, President Kayse Shrum, President Jerry Steward, and Justice Steven Taylor.

State Regents attending were: Regent Jay Helm, Regent Jeff Hickman, Regent Ann Holloway, Regent Andy Lester, Regent John Massey, 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 thanking the subcommittee members for their thoughtful discussion and stated that the subcommittee is discussing ways to scale best practices, what resources do institutions need and how to partner with business and workforce. The subcommittee met in June and received an overview of the Complete College America goals, current initiatives, how to give incentives for institutions to reach their goals, and a demonstration of the OKEIS data dashboard.

At their second meeting in August the focus was on workforce and college completion efforts. Chair McKeon stated that Dr. Mason, Dr. Kirwan and Secretary of Education and Workforce Development Natalie Shirley gave presentations relating to data analytics, online education, the adult and working student population and skill sets. He finished by

stating that at the next subcommittee meeting they will be reviewing the first draft of 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 reviewing the charge of the subcommittee and stated that at the first meeting they received an overview of the academic program approval process, academic and degree completion plans, the use of data analytics, institutional collaborations and joint degree programs and concurrent enrollment. At the second meeting, they discussed the work of the State Regents Online Education Task Force, including the creation of the Council for Online Learning Excellence that has 60 active members from 28 institutions with guiding principles focused on collaboration, mission empowerment, and teaching and learning. They also discussed the Council for Online Learning Excellence's role in hosting the first Learning Innovations Summit.

Chair Ken Parker stated that the consultants gave presentations covering online education and national models that are having much success including: Arizona State University (ASU) and their partnership with Starbucks; the University of Maryland University College (UMUC), whose sole focus is online students and working adults; and the University of Wisconsin (UW) System, which launched UW-Flex, an entirely online and self-paced program for working adults. He also stated that Dr. Kirwan gave three sample ideas for Oklahoma to think about: 1) provide a seed fund on a competitive basis for institutions to scale their own online program or create a program similar to ASU; 2) create a free standing online university modeled after UMUC; and 3) charge the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to create a competency based degree program modeled after UW-Flex.

Chair Ken Parker finished by giving a brief presentation on disruptive change and the rapid deep changes in higher education with new models and delivery options enhanced by technology.

- 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 received ample background information and had begun thinking about recommendations. The subcommittee is discussing mergers and consolidations of Oklahoma higher education institutions but is also concerned about what is best for the students of Oklahoma. He finished by stating that the next step for the subcommittee is to review a similar task force report from 1987 and see what recommendations it had.

Dr. Kirwan stated that it would be wise to also think about mergers between two- and four-year institutions as that would make a seamless pathway for students to a four-year degree.

- 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 thanking the subcommittee for their participation and support and stated that at the first meeting they reviewed the agency financial structure, the recent budget cuts, and the performance funding formula. At the second meeting they reviewed the tuition process, consolidation, efficiencies and cost savings opportunities in the state system, and a proposed governing board realignment plan by Regent Calvin Anthony. Chair Benbrook finished by stating that at the next

meeting they will have a presentation about OneNet and will be discussing recommendations.

5. **Discussion on Task Force Next Steps.** Chancellor Glen D. Johnson outlined the schedule for the upcoming meetings:
  - a. Fiscal Solutions, Efficiencies, Affordability, and Technology will meet October 11, 2017.
  - b. System Structure will meet September 21, 2017.
  - c. Academic Program Innovations and Online Education will meet September 28, 2017.
  - d. College Degree Completion and Workforce Development Initiatives will meet September 8, 2017.
  - e. State Regents Task Force on the Future of Higher Education will meet October 18, 2017.
6. **Adjournment.** With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.