

STATE REGENTS TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Final Report
January 31, 2018



Background

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) established the Task Force on the Future of Higher Education in March 2017 to:

- Conduct a systematic review of higher education;
- Examine existing initiatives and best practices; and
- Report findings and recommendations on strategies that best support improving quality, access, affordability, and efficiency in the Oklahoma state system of higher education.

Charter

Develop recommendations that best position Oklahoma's state system of higher education to meet the future challenges of maintaining accessibility and affordability without compromising educational quality.

The work of the Task Force was primarily conducted through four subcommittees:

1. College Degree Completion and Workforce Development Initiatives
2. Academic Program Innovations and Online Education
3. System Structure
4. Fiscal Solutions, Efficiencies, Affordability, and Technology

Focus Areas

While each subcommittee had a specific focus, certain common themes emerged from the work of the subcommittees. These included:

- Increased financial support from the Legislature for the concurrent enrollment program to advance degree completion efforts.
- Consolidation of administrative structures and functions.
- Reemployment of cost savings to support the mission of the institution.
- The power of predictive analytics to increase efficiency and improve student success.
- Dedicated focus on adult student programs, scholarships, and credit for prior learning.
- Scaling delivery of online education.
- Development of micro-credentials to meet workforce needs in real time.

Task Force Membership

- State Regents
- Citizen members -- well-respected Oklahomans who come from a variety of professional and educational backgrounds and represent different geographic regions within the state
- College and university representatives
- Designee for Governor Mary Fallin
 - Secretary of Education and Workforce Development Natalie Shirley
- Designee for Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Charles McCall
 - Representative Jadine Nollan
- Designee for Oklahoma Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Schulz
 - Mr. Jeff Greenlee
- Lead Advisor -- Dr. William Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Maryland, AGB Senior Fellow.



Timeline

March 2017

Announce formation of Task Force

April 2017

Confirm Task Force membership

May 2017

Convene first meeting of the full Task Force
Finalize Subcommittee assignments

June - August 2017

First round of subcommittee meetings

September 2017

Status update to full Task Force
Second round of subcommittee meetings

October 2017

Status update to full Task Force
Third round of subcommittee meetings

November 2017

Fourth round of subcommittee meetings
Finalize subcommittee recommendations

December 2017

Subcommittee recommendations presented to full Task Force for approval
Begin development of final report

January 2018

Final Task Force report presented to Task Force for approval

February 2018

Final Task Force report presented to State Regents for acceptance

Subcommittee Exploration

- Situational Assessment: Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
 - Historical Background of Higher Education in Oklahoma
 - State System Priorities and Challenges
 - The National Landscape
 - The Need for Creativity and Innovation in Higher Education
 - The Higher Education Expectation Gap
 - Growth Segments of the Market
- Current college degree completion initiatives
 - Academic programs to meet current and future workforce needs
 - Best practices in academic program delivery and online education
 - Systematic review of the OSRHE structure
 - Resource allocation, revenue trends and projections, alternative sources of revenue
 - Improving operational efficiencies
 - Technology

The Process

What did the Subcommittees do?

- Dedicated individuals
- Performed a comprehensive assessment and review of:
 - Governance
 - Academic models
 - Fiscal services and operational efficiencies
 - System(s) structure
 - System operations
 - Online education
 - Workforce development
 - Examples of innovation and creativity
 - Information technology
 - Partnerships
- Exhaustive analysis of Best Practices from around the country
 - How might they be adopted by Oklahoma?
- Tremendous amount of support and guidance from the OSRHE System Office

Recommendations – Chancellor Glen D. Johnson

Thank You