

STATE REGENTS TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION



System Structure Subcommittee

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The State Regents and Chancellor should encourage governing boards to explore more cooperation on academic programs and administration in order to better streamline initiatives across the system and to ensure best practices are scaled across multiple institutions.
 - a. It should be acknowledged that the recommendation to reduce the number of governing boards will not result in significant savings in and of itself. The potential for combining similar institutions under the same governing board presents the opportunity for more easily streamlining the administration, HR, payroll, finance, and IT functions of these institutions, which is anticipated to result in cost savings and better, more efficient business processes.
2. The Legislature should create and fund a seed fund to provide financial incentives to encourage voluntary mergers of institutions. Institutional mergers should be undertaken with the following objectives: improve student success; maintain access; and maximize cost savings.
3. The State Regents and Chancellor should encourage and facilitate discussions on voluntary mergers or the implementation of partnerships between institutions.
4. The State Regents and Chancellor should encourage and facilitate the development of service centers serving multiple institutions regionally.
5. 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.

6. Encourage collaboration and formation of partnerships between large urban two-year institutions, such as Oklahoma City Community College, Rose State College and OSU-OKC.*

*Tulsa Community College is exempted due to its statutory responsibility to provide the lower division coursework for the Tulsa regional area.