



CHAPTER 1 – GOVERNANCE
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1. GOVERNANCE

1.1 STATE SYSTEM COORDINATION

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education is the State's legal structure for providing public education at the collegiate level. The Constitution of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Higher Education Code as enacted by the 1965 Legislature and as amended during subsequent sessions provide the legal framework for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to develop and implement policies and procedures necessary to maximize the functioning of this structure.

1.2 HIGHER EDUCATION DEFINED

Higher education, as the term is used in Section I of Article XIII-A, Constitution of Oklahoma, and House Bill No. 810, Chapter 396, Section 102, Session Laws 1965, is defined "...to include all education of any kind beyond or in addition to the twelfth grade or its equivalent as that grade is now generally understood and accepted in the public schools of the State of Oklahoma; provided, however, that this shall not exclude as a constituent institution any institution of higher learning which now offers as a part of its curriculum courses of high school study."

1.3 OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XIII-A, SECTIONS 1-4

1.3.1 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

- A. All institutions of higher education supported wholly or in part by direct legislative appropriations shall be integral parts of a unified system to be known as "The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education." (Oklahoma Constitution, Article XIII-A, Section 1)
- B. There is hereby established the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, consisting of nine (9) members appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate, and who shall be removable only for cause, as provided by law for the removal of officers not subject to impeachment. Upon the taking effect of this Article, the Governor shall appoint the said Regents for terms of office as follows: one for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, one for a term of three years, one for a term of four years, one for a term of five years, one for a term of six years, one for a term of seven years, one for a term of eight years, and one for a term of nine years. Any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the balance of the term only. Except as above designated, the term of office of said Regents shall be nine years or until their successors are appointed and qualified.
- C. The Regents shall constitute a coordinating board of control for all State institutions described in Section 1 hereof, with the following specific powers: (1) it shall prescribe standards of higher education applicable to each institution; (2) it shall determine the functions and courses of study in each of the institutions to conform to the standards prescribed; (3) it shall grant degrees and other forms of academic recognition for completion of the prescribed courses in all of such institutions;

(4) it shall recommend to the State Legislature the budget allocations to each institution, and (5) it shall have the power to recommend to the Legislature proposed fees for all of such institutions, and any such fees shall be effective only within the limits prescribed by the Legislature. (Oklahoma Constitution, Article XIII-A, Section 2)

1.3.2 Institutions of higher education--Appropriations--Allocations.

The appropriations made by the Legislature for all such institutions shall be made in consolidated form without reference to any particular institution and the Board of Regents herein created shall allocate to each institution according to its needs and functions. (Oklahoma Constitution, Article XIII-A, Section 3)

1.3.3 Coordination of private, denominational and other institutions of higher learning.

Private, denominational, and other institutions of higher learning may become coordinated with the State System of Higher Education under regulations set forth by The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. (Oklahoma Constitution, Article XIII-A, Section 4)

1.4 OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XI, SECTION 5

1.4.1 University and college lands--Control of institutions--Diversion of funds.

Section thirteen in every portion of the state, which has been granted to the State, shall be preserved for the use and benefit of the University of Oklahoma and the University Preparatory School, one-third; of the normal schools now established, or hereafter to be established, one-third; and of the Agricultural and Mechanical College and Colored Agricultural and Normal University, one-third. The said lands or the proceeds thereof as above apportioned to be divided between the institutions as the Legislature may prescribe: Provided, that the said lands so reserved, or the proceeds of the sale thereof, or of any indemnity lands granted in lieu of section thirteen shall be safely kept or invested and preserved by the State as a trust, which shall never be diminished, but may be added to, and the income thereof, interest, rentals, or otherwise, only shall be used exclusively for the benefit of said educational institutions. Such educational institutions shall remain under the exclusive control of the State and no part of the proceeds arising from the sale and disposal of any lands granted for educational purposes, or the income or rentals thereof, shall be used for the support of any religious or sectarian school, college, or university, and no portion of the funds arising from the sale of sections thirteen or any indemnity lands selected in lieu thereof, either principal or interest, shall ever be diverted, either temporarily or permanently, from the purpose for which said lands were granted to the State. (Oklahoma Constitution, Article XI, Section 5)

1.5 THE OKLAHOMA HIGHER EDUCATION CODE, ARTICLE II,

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

SECTIONS 3202-3206

- 1.5.1 Appointment of Members--Eligibility--Removal--Vacancies. (Section 3202)
- A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, referred to in this section as the Board, established by Section 2, Article XIII-A, Oklahoma Constitution, shall consist of nine (9) members appointed by the Governor and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Provided, that persons now serving on such Board shall be members of and shall continue to serve on the Board for the term for which they were appointed.
 - B. Members shall be citizens of the State, not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, and shall not be employees or members of the staff or governing board of any constituent member of the State System; and no official or employee of the State of Oklahoma shall be eligible to serve on such Board. Not more than four (4) members shall be from the same profession or occupation; and not more than three (3) graduates or former students of any one (1) institution in the State System shall be eligible to serve as members during the same period of time. Not more than two (2) members shall be from the same Congressional District at the time said members are appointed.
 - C. Appointments shall be to numbered positions on the Board and the terms of members of the Board shall be, as follows:
 - 1. Position No. 1. The term of office of one (1) member shall expire on the 16th day of May, 1966, and each nine (9) years thereafter.
 - 2. Position No. 2. The term of office of one (1) member shall expire on the 16th day of May, 1967, and each nine (9) years thereafter.
 - 3. Position No. 3. The term of office of one (1) member shall expire on the 16th day of May, 1968, and each nine (9) years thereafter.
 - 4. Position No. 4. The term of office of one (1) member shall expire on the 16th day of May, 1969, and each nine (9) years thereafter.
 - 5. Position No. 5. The term of office of one (1) member shall expire on the 16th day of May, 1970, and each nine (9) years thereafter.
 - 6. Position No. 6. The term of office of one (1) member shall expire on the 16th day of May, 1971, and each nine (9) years thereafter.
 - 7. Position No. 7. The term of office of one (1) member shall expire on the 16th day of May, 1972, and each nine (9) years thereafter.
 - 8. Position No. 8. The term of office of one (1) member

shall expire on the 16th day of May, 1973, and each nine (9) years thereafter.

9. Position No. 9. The term of office of one (1) member shall expire on the 16th day of May, 1974, and each nine (9) years thereafter.

D. Members shall be removable only for cause, as provided by law for the removal of officers not subject to impeachment.

E. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by the Governor, for the unexpired term, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. (70 O.S. 1981, Section 3202)

1.5.2 Oaths, Compensation and Travel Expenses of Members--
Recommendations for Employment.

A. Each member of the State Regents shall take and subscribe to the oaths required of State officials generally.

B. Each member of the State Regents shall be allowed necessary travel expenses, as may be approved by the State Regents pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

C. No member or employee of the State Regents shall directly or indirectly recommend to any State System entity, or official or board of regents thereof, the employment of any person by such institution. Any violation of this paragraph by any such member or employee shall constitute a cause for his removal from office. (70 O.S. §3203 (2001))

1.5.3 Body Corporate--Proceedings.

A. The State Regents shall be a body corporate, and shall adopt an official seal; and all contracts, official documents, awards, degrees or other papers or instruments issued by the State Regents and requiring the official signature of the State Regents shall have the impression of such seal.

B. The State Regents shall annually elect from its membership a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and assistant secretary, each of whom shall serve for a term of one (1) fiscal year. The chairman shall be the presiding officer of the State Regents. He shall, on behalf of the State Regents, subscribe the official name thereof, and the Secretary shall affix the official seal, to all contracts, official documents, awards, degrees or other papers or instruments issued by the State Regents and requiring the official signature of the State Regents. In the absence, disqualification or disability of the chairman or secretary to act, the vice-chairman and assistant secretary shall perform the duties of such respective officers. The officers of the State Regents shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the State Regents, which shall also adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to govern its proceedings and the conduct of its business. (70 O.S. §3204 (2001))

- C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education as the coordinating board of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, pursuant to Article XIII-A of the Constitution of Oklahoma, conduct their business in regular monthly meetings and in special meetings as necessary. The procedures for all meetings are in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act (25 O.S. 1981, Section 301) and the April 12, 1982, Oklahoma Attorney General Opinion No. 82 -114 in accordance with constitutional and statutory provisions, the following "Policy and Procedures for the Conduct of State Regents' Meetings" is for the information and guidance of the Regents and their staff, institutional officials, governing board members, legislators and other state officials, the press, and citizens generally who may be interested in and concerned with business transacted by the board.

1.6 ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Rule Title Chapter 1 Subchapter 1 (610:1-1)

1.6.1 State Regents' internal organization; staff. (610:1-1-4)

The State Legislature in 1941 vitalized Article XIII-A of the Constitution, providing for the internal organization of the State Regents. There are a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and assistant secretary, all of whom are elected annually by the membership of the State Regents. The law also provides for office staff and for the furnishing of suitable permanent quarters for the State Regents.

1.6.2 State Regents' office (610:1-1-5)

- A. The work of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education is defined by constitutional provision, state statute, or State Regents' policy delineating coordinating responsibility for the State System of Higher Education, including the areas of institutional functions, programs of study, standards of education, and finances.
- B. The State Regents' office is the administrative headquarters of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the coordinating board of control of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, and its functions are:
 - 1. To execute State Regents' policies and programs.
 - 2. To gather information about the State System for State Regents' review and consideration relative to policymaking.
 - 3. To provide coordinating leadership at the state level in the general operation of the State System.

1.7 STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS, CONSTITUENT AGENCIES, AND COMMUNITY JUNIOR COLLEGES.

1.7.1 The following institutions are included in The Oklahoma State System of

Higher Education: (610:1-1-3)

- A. University of Oklahoma, Norman
 - B. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
 - C. University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
 - D. East Central University, Ada
 - E. Northeastern State University, Tahlequah
 - F. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva
 - G. Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant
 - H. Southwestern Oklahoma University, Weatherford
 - I. Cameron University, Lawton
 - J. Langston University, Langston
 - K. Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Goodwell
 - L. University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha
 - M. Carl Albert State College, Poteau
 - N. Connors State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, Wilburton
 - O. Eastern Oklahoma State College, Miami
 - P. Redlands Community College, El Reno
 - Q. Murray State College, Tishomingo
 - R. Northeastern Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Miami
 - S. Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa-
 - T. Rose State College, Midwest City
 - U. Rogers State University, Claremore
 - V. Seminole State College, Seminole
 - W. Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma City-
 - X. Tulsa Community College, Tulsa-
 - Y. Western Oklahoma State College, Altus
- 1.7.2 There are nine other constituent agencies in the State System which are a part of or directly related to public higher education in the state. These are:
- A. University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Oklahoma City
 - B. University of Oklahoma Law Center, Norman
 - C. Oklahoma Geological Survey, Norman
 - D. Oklahoma State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater

- E. Oklahoma State University Agricultural Extension Division, Stillwater
- F. Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Stillwater
- G. Oklahoma State University Technical Branch, Okmulgee
- H. Oklahoma State University Technical Branch, Oklahoma City
- I. Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Tulsa

1.7.3 In 1967, the Oklahoma Legislature enacted Senate Bill No. 2, which provided for the establishment and operation of community junior colleges under the jurisdiction of the coordinating board of the State System, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Municipal junior colleges existing at that time were by provision of this law made parts of the community college system. These included El Reno Junior College (now Redlands Community College), Poteau Junior College (now Carl Albert State College), Sayre Junior College (now a branch campus of Southwestern Oklahoma State University) and Seminole Junior College. After enactment of that law two new community junior colleges were established: Oscar Rose Junior college (now Rose State College) in Midwest City and South Oklahoma City Junior College (now Oklahoma City Community College). This made a total of six community junior colleges, all of which operated as a part of the public system of higher education under the general coordination of the State Regents. In 1973, the Oklahoma legislature made legal provisions for community junior colleges to be converted to full-fledged state two-year colleges and directed the State Regents to have responsibility for administration of the law. See, 70 O.S., § 4423. Subsequently, all six of the above name community junior colleges except Sayre Junior college applied for and were officially converted to state junior colleges pursuant to this act.

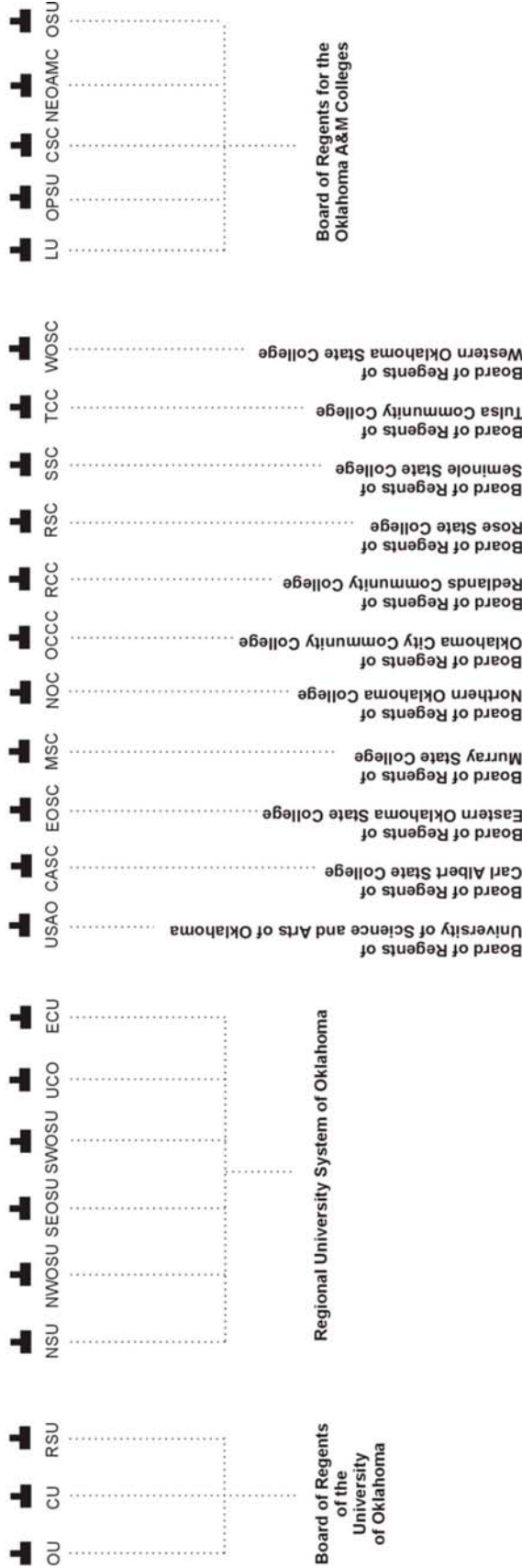
1.7.4 The following shall be deemed an agency and an integral part of the University of Oklahoma: the Health Sciences Center, the Law Center, and the Oklahoma Geological Survey and each of the following shall be deemed an agency and an integral part of Oklahoma State University; the College of veterinary Medicine, the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Agricultural Experimental Station, the Agricultural Extension Division, OSU-Oklahoma City, and the Technical Branch located at Okmulgee. (70 O.S. Supp. 1982, Section 3203)

The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Coordinating Board of Control

1. Determine functions and courses of study.
2. Prescribe standards of education.
3. Grant degrees and other forms of academic recognition.
4. Recommend to State Legislature budget allocation.
5. Allocate funds appropriated by State Legislature.
6. Allocate revolving funds.
7. Determine student fees.
8. General coordination.
9. Provide research, study and planning.



Governing Boards

1. Determine management policy.
2. Employee personnel. Fix salaries and assign duties.
3. Contract for other services.
4. Custody of records.
5. Acquire and hold title to property.
6. Academic administration.
7. Student life.
8. Budget administration.
9. Purchasing.
10. Plan and construct buildings.
11. Auxiliary enterprises.
 - a. Issuance of bonds
 - b. Administration of self-liquidating properties
12. General responsibility for government of the institutions.