



**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR MEETING**  
January 17, 2025, 10:30 am.

The Board of Regents for Eastern Oklahoma State College met for the regularly scheduled meeting at 10:30 am, in the Board of Regents Conference Room, Second Floor of the Bill H. Hill Library Building, 1301 W. Main Street, Wilburton, Oklahoma 74578

**Members of the Board present:**

Leland Walker, Chair  
Latt Jeffrey, Vice-Chair  
Larry Spradley, Secretary  
Brian Lott, Member  
Cara Bland, Member  
Jerry Hamilton, Member

**Members absent:**

Eric Bilderback, Member

**Others present:**

Dr. Janet Wansick, President  
Dr. Kyle Foster, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Dr. Randy Harp, Vice President of Academics & Development  
Stephanie Giacomo, Institutional Advancement Director  
Kellye Semeski, Dean of Distance Learning & Workforce Development  
Brenda Strange, Dean of Business Division  
Andrea Green, Dean of Science and Mathematics Division  
Kristen Turner, Dean of Language, Humanities, and Education Division  
Carter Mattson, Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences Division  
Colby Carpenter, Staff Council Chair  
Candace Raney, Executive Assistant to the President & Assistant to the Board  
Hannah Truitt, Director of Retention & Recruitment  
Lucas Hedgecock, Housing & Project Management Coordinator  
Kati Collins, Foundation Coordinator  
Jacob Sitton, Marketing Director  
Tracie Teague, Marketing Coordinator  
Kendra Whisenhunt, Athletic Director & Softball Coach

- I. Regent Walker called the meeting to order at 10:32 am.
- II. Candace Raney took roll and declared a quorum present.

**Conflict of Interest Certificate:**

All board members present signed their yearly conflict of interest certificate as required.



### III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

President Wansick introduced several guests, acknowledging that while it wasn't possible to mention everyone, there were a few community members and others to recognize:

- Senator Warren Hamilton
- Kim Rose, KEDDO
- Adam Woodruff (who had to leave earlier)
- Jonathan Wynn, Foundation Board Member
- Mike Musgrove, Foundation Board Member
- Shelley Free, Kiamichi Technology Center
- Lauren Mayes, Mayor of Wilburton
- Claudia Jeffrey, Kibois Community Action
- Sohail Punjwani, Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General

President Wansick also noted the presence of several members of the President's Leadership Class (PLC) and Ag Ambassador students, expressing excitement for their participation in the meeting.

### IV. MISCELLANEOUS

#### A. 2024 Regent Impact Award-Senator Warren Hamilton

Regent Walker turned the floor over to Regent Latt Jeffrey. Regent Jeffrey then introduced the inaugural Regent's Impact Award, emphasizing that Senator Warren Hamilton was the perfect recipient due to his unwavering support during a challenging period earlier in the year. Regent Jeffrey highlighted Senator Hamilton's leadership and the invaluable contributions he had made alongside President Wansick. He also expressed that, in his time on the board, the support from Senator Hamilton had been unprecedented, especially in comparison to past experiences with legislators.

On behalf of the Board of Regents and President Wansick, Regent Jeffrey was honored to present Senator Hamilton with the first-ever Regent's Impact Award.

Senator Hamilton graciously accepted the award, humbly stating that any positive impact he had made for Eastern was due to the support, advice, and wisdom provided by the people in the room. He reflected on his family's strong ties to Eastern, mentioning multiple family members who were alumni. He also praised the students present, particularly the PLC and Ag Ambassador students, for representing Eastern and their communities with pride and discipline.

He expressed admiration for the Regents, acknowledging their selfless service, and reiterated that the success he had achieved was a direct result of the collective effort and clear guidance he had received from those around him. Senator Hamilton concluded by thanking everyone and encouraging continued efforts to support Eastern and Southeast Oklahoma.



## B. Athletics Update-Kendra Whisenhunt

Kendra Whisenhunt, Athletic Director, provided an update on the athletic department's progress and activities. She began by sharing the soccer team's results, with the men finishing the season with a 10-6-3 record, ranking third in the conference and as tournament runners-up. The women's team placed sixth in the conference and made it to the tournament, though they were eliminated in a heartbreaking penalty kick loss to LSU-E.

The basketball teams are currently in season, with the men's team holding an 11-6 record, but a 1-3 standing in conference play after a recent loss to NEO. The women's team is still working to secure their first win, with new coach Nathan Bean facing a tough situation but doing well to fill the roster. Baseball and softball seasons will begin soon, with baseball starting on January 31 and softball on February 4.

In terms of fundraising, Coach Whisenhunt proposed organizing events like a bingo night and a golf scramble to support the athletic department's budgets. She noted the women's basketball program had previously held a golf scramble, and while she's not experienced with golf, she is determined to learn more about how to organize it. She also mentioned the department's involvement in taking over the Mountaineer 5K event during Homecoming, a project that had already been supported by athletes in the past.

Coach Whisenhunt highlighted various community service efforts, including the baseball team setting up and taking down Christmas decorations for the City of Wilburton, and plans for the softball team to help paint rails at Gary Rosebure Park. Other activities included cheerleaders assisting with the Blue Bowl Bash and several teams participating in community programs like Lead the Read, where athletes read to elementary school students, and other events like Trunk-or-Treat, Mountaineer Mania, and College Fair.

A particularly proud moment for the department was the academic success of the athletes. The department had 136 students on the eligibility list, earning 1,985 credit hours with a commendable overall GPA of 3.38. Of the 47 sophomores, 43 are on track to graduate this May, with all sophomores in baseball and softball set to graduate as well.

Regent Jeffrey shared his appreciation for the athletic community's involvement with the local youth teams, mentioning the positive impact the athletes had on the 8U team. He thanked them for their support and emphasized his pride in how the student-athletes have embraced their roles in the community.

Finally, Coach Whisenhunt was acknowledged for her role as the first female Athletic Director at Eastern Oklahoma State College. The board expressed gratitude for her leadership, and Regent Jeffrey noted the improvements made to the softball field, highlighting the collective efforts of several key individuals in making those upgrades possible.

## V. ACTION



A. Board Minutes of the Meeting held December 6, 2024.

Regent Bland moved, and Regent Hamilton seconded to approve the board minutes as presented.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Hamilton, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Spradley, Regent Walker  
No: None Abstentions: Regent Lott  
Absent: Regent Bilderback

The motion carried.

B. Finance Committee Report

The payroll and claims report was presented and discussed during the Finance Committee meeting, with all items reviewed and recommended for approval by the committee. It was also noted that all board members had been provided with the meeting materials for review, but only committee members attended the meeting. Board members with any questions or concerns were encouraged to reach out to one of the committee members prior to the meeting for clarification.

1. Payroll & Claims

Regent Bland moved, and Regent Spradley seconded to approve the payroll and claims as presented.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Hamilton, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Spradley, Regent Walker  
No: None Abstentions: Regent Lott  
Absent: Regent Bilderback

The motion carried.

C. Academic Affairs Committee Report

1. Program Reviews

- a. Music
- b. General Studies
- c. English
- d. History/Political Science
- e. Enterprise Development – Business Administration
- f. Enterprise Development – General Studies

The Academic Affairs Committee report was presented, with Dr. Harp providing an update on the progress. Dr. Harp confirmed that the requested updates were made and shared with Candace earlier that morning. The corrected documents were uploaded and are included in the board members' packets, ensuring the changes recommended by the committee were incorporated. Although the initial reports required significant adjustments, the final versions in the packets reflect the committee's suggestions.



Dr. Harp also reported that five out of six program reviews were finalized by the previous evening and sent to Candace at 9:30 AM that morning, with the final review completed shortly thereafter. Chairman Walker challenged the team to complete the reviews within a week, and the team succeeded in meeting that timeline.

Additionally, Dr. Harp mentioned a new template from the state regents for future program reviews, which will standardize the process moving forward. After discussions with President Wansick, it was determined that future program reviews will be distributed more evenly across the years, with approximately five to six reviews per year over a five-year period. The State Regents have accepted this adjustment.

Regent Hamilton moved to approve the Academic Affairs Committee report, acknowledging that the updates have been addressed, Regent Spradley seconded to approve.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Hamilton, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Spradley, Regent Walker                      No: None                      Abstentions: None  
Absent: Regent Bilderback

The motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS UNFORESEEN AT THE TIME AGENDA WAS POSTED**

None

**VI. GENERAL INFORMATION/REPORTS REQUIRING NO ACTION BY THE BOARD**

**A. Student Engagement Committee Update-Dr. Kyle Foster**

Dr. Kyle Foster, Vice President of Student Affairs, provided an update on the Student Engagement Committee's recent meeting. The committee had a productive discussion, focusing on enrollment and retention trends. Dr. Foster reported that spring enrollment is currently up compared to the previous year, largely due to a significant increase in sophomore retention from fall to spring. He emphasized that retaining students is a critical part of the institution's enrollment strategy, especially given the anticipated decline in high school graduates and growing competition from other institutions.

The committee also discussed concurrent enrollment, noting that while numbers have remained relatively steady over the past five years, there was a spike during COVID when high schools relied more on colleges for course offerings. Dr. Foster highlighted the challenge of competition in pricing, as concurrent enrollment students must pay fees, and there is increased competition due to more online options. The committee is actively exploring ways to remain competitive and ensure Eastern remains a viable option for concurrent enrollment students.

Dr. Foster also addressed questions regarding concurrent enrollment, explaining that full-time status for concurrent students is determined in coordination with high school counselors based



on the number of hours students take at the high school. Regarding tuition reimbursement, Dr. Foster mentioned that students typically receive state reimbursement for tuition but are still responsible for mandatory fees, where Eastern faces competition, especially from institutions like Carl Albert, which charges lower fees.

Additionally, Dr. Foster shared an update on the use of QR codes for recruitment. QR codes are now included in marketing materials and are used at recruitment events, allowing high school students to easily access information that is then entered into Eastern's recruitment system, Navigate Recruitment Success. This streamlines the process and reduces manual work.

The Board is also interested in the possibility of leveraging local sales tax revenue to assist students with tuition and fees for students from Latimer County, including the fees for concurrent students. Dr. Foster acknowledged the need for a strategic approach to ensure that funding is allocated appropriately for students pursuing degrees versus those taking individual courses.

The discussion concluded with Dr. Foster welcoming any further questions regarding student engagement and retention efforts.

#### **President's Report-Dr. Janet Wansick**

President Wansick provided an update on several key developments. She reported that enrollment numbers are up, with headcount increasing by 4% and credit hours up by 9% for the spring semester.

The marketing team has transitioned from a monthly newsletter to a more comprehensive monthly magazine, which will continue to evolve and expand. The December version has already been sent electronically to Alumni and Foundation Board members, and printed copies are available in town and on the website. President Wansick also discussed a new initiative to expand the college's presence in local markets cost-effectively, including placing Eastern's banner in local newspapers, such as the Latimer County paper, to advertise enrollment and other campus happenings.

President Wansick addressed the growing reach of the new monthly magazine, noting that they are working to expand its distribution and would explore further placement opportunities, such as in local tourism racks, to increase visibility in the community. She commended the marketing team for their hard work, noting that they handle all aspects of the magazine's creation in-house.

Looking ahead, President Wansick highlighted a few upcoming events. The Pioneer Spirit traveling exhibits will be on campus from January 27 to February 7, with more details to follow. Additionally, the next community roundtable event is scheduled for January 30, which will continue fostering collaboration between the college and the local community. President Wansick also mentioned her upcoming trip to the Capitol on February 3 for the Governor's



State of the State Address to kick off the legislative session, where she will be involved in discussions around proposed bills.

**Chairperson's Report**

The Regents were reminded that the next board meeting is scheduled for February 21st. Committee meetings for the Finance Committee and Governance Committee are set for February 14th, with Finance at 9:00 AM and Governance at 10:00 AM. There was discussion regarding whether an Academic Affairs Committee meeting was needed. It was decided that a meeting could be scheduled for the 14th if necessary, and the committee should inform Candace if one is required.

Regent Jeffrey provided an update on the Farm Committee. Dr. Harp has made significant progress, with the addition of three new tractors, a new hay trailer, and upgrades to the feed truck. The overhead bins at the beef barn have been fixed to improve feeding efficiency, which will save the farm money. The farm hands have been doing a great job, including busting ice when needed.

The stocker operation, which was launched this year, is expected to generate significant profit, with all profits going back into the program. The operation is interest-free, and there are plans to tie it in with a stocker class, possibly incorporating a rewards-based program for successful cattle management. The farm has also worked with nutrition consultants to improve operations.

A recent sale of a bull at the McAlester special sale was a success, with the bull being one of the higher-selling ones. The farm is continuing to make improvements, and the team has been receiving strong support.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Discussion and possible action to convene in Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. 2021, § 307(B)(1), to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, or resignation of the President of Eastern Oklahoma State College.

**1. Executive Session**

Regent Jeffrey made the motion, and Regent Lott seconded to move into executive session at 11:21 am.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Hamilton, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Spradley, Regent Walker  
No: None Abstentions: None  
Absent: Regent Bilderback

The motion carried.

**1. Return from Executive Session**

Regent Bland made the motion, and Regent Hamilton seconded to move out of executive session at 11:37 am.



Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Hamilton, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Spradley, Regent Walker  
No: None Abstentions: None  
Absent: Regent Bilderback

Regent Walker thanked everyone for their participation in the executive session, which was held in accordance with the Open Meeting and Open Records Act. He noted that the only item discussed was the resignation of Dr. Janet Wansick, President of Eastern Oklahoma State College. No votes were taken during the executive session, and he announced that the meeting would now return to the public session.

**VIII. Discussion and possible action arising from Executive Session**

Regent Lott expressed regret and moved to accept the resignation of Dr. Janet Wansick, effective June 30th. The motion was seconded by Regent Spradley.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Hamilton, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Spradley, Regent Walker  
No: None Abstentions: None  
Absent: Regent Bilderback

**IX. Discussion and possible action to create a subcommittee to search for a new Eastern Oklahoma State College President**

Regent Walker led the discussion on the search for a new president of Eastern Oklahoma State College. He shared that, over the past few days, he had drafted a timeline and two different job descriptions and was ready to begin the discussion. He reviewed materials from the 2020 search, including the committees involved and the process used during Dr. Wansick's hiring, which largely occurred through Zoom meetings due to COVID-19.

Regent Walker proposed the establishment of a subcommittee consisting of three regents, a faculty representative, and a staff representative to narrow the candidate pool and decide on interviewees, with final decisions resting with the Board. It was the desire of the group to have the faculty representative be the Faculty Council Chair and the staff to be represented by the Staff Council Chair. He emphasized that while community input would be valuable, the Board would make the final hiring decision.

The majority of the Board was of the opinion the timeline proposed by Regent Walker needed to be accelerated by finalizing the job description in February, reviewing applications in March, and conducting interviews in April. The goal being to provide a transition period before the new president takes office.

President Wansick, Regent Bland, and Regent Jeffrey were assigned the task of refining the job description, while Regent Hamilton and Regent Spradley will rework the timeline. Both items will be discussed at the Governance Committee meeting on February 14 and finalized at the Board meeting on February 21. With the faculty and staff members of the subcommittee



already established, the three specific Board members to serve on the subcommittee will also be finalized at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

A motion was made by Regent Hamilton, seconded by Regent Bland, for the committees (Job Description and Timeline) to finalize their assignments for approval at the February board meeting. The timeline would likely begin on February 22<sup>nd</sup> for posting the job description, with a four-week window for applications. The search committee will be established on February 21<sup>st</sup> to review applications as they come in.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Hamilton, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Spradley, Regent Walker                      No: None                      Abstentions: None  
Absent: Regent Bilderback

The motion carried.

The board had a working lunch during which they participated in a "Lunch and Learn" session including training on using the new board software, OnBoard.

#### I. ADJOURNMENT

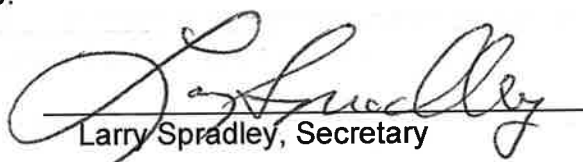
Regent Spradley moved, and Regent Lott seconded to adjourn at 1:13 pm.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Hamilton, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Spradley, Regent Walker                      No: None                      Abstentions: None  
Absent: Regent Bilderback

The motion carried.

#### CERTIFICATE

I, Larry Spradley, the duly appointed Secretary of the Board of Regents for Eastern Oklahoma State College, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing are true and correct copies of the minutes of this Board at a Regular Scheduled Meeting hereof, truly, and lawfully held on January 17, 2025.

  
Larry Spradley, Secretary

  
Leland Walker, Chair