



Board of Regents Special Meeting-October 2025

Minutes

Eastern Oklahoma State College 10/10/2025 10:30 AMCDT at Eastern Oklahoma State College, Bill H. Hill Library, 1301 West Main Street, Wilburton, OK 74578

Attendance

Present:

Members:

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

Staff:

Dr. Randy Harp, President
Lacey Pitman, Chief of Staff
Helen Scott, Exec. Admin. Assist. to the President & Secretary to the Board
Dr. Anna Peery, VP of Student Affairs
John Spradling, VP of Academic Affairs
Anne Brooks, Dean of the McAlester Campus/Assistant VP of Academic Affairs
Cathy Cogburn, Political Science Prof./Dept. Chair/Foundation Executive Director
Andrea Smallwood, Faculty Council Chair/Business Administration Professor
Stephanie Giacomo, Part-time Grant Writer

Absent:

Members: Regent Eric Bilderback

- I. Call to Order
Chair Jeffrey called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
- II. Roll Call/Declaration of Quorum
Mrs. Scott conducted the roll call. A quorum was declared present.

III. Introduction of Guests

Chair Jeffrey welcomed attendees. Dr. Harp introduced Chief of Staff & Legislative Liaison Lacey Pitman and noted additional introductions would occur during regular reports.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

Vote to approve minutes of the September 19, 2025 Board of Regents Minutes

 [September 19, 2025--Board of Regents Meeting Minutes--ONBOARD.pdf](#)

Approval of prior minutes was considered. Clarifying remarks were made regarding enrollment and housing numbers previously discussed; an updated enrollment figure would be provided in the President's Report.

Motion: Regent Leland Walker moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Second by Regent Larry Spradley.

Vote: Roll-call vote — Ayes: Cara Bland, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: Jerry Hamilton. Motion passed.

B. Finance Committee

 [October 2025 Finance Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

1. Payroll & Miscellaneous Claims for September 2025--\$2,748,544.84

Discussion clarified that the action requested was to approve payroll and claims, not merely to accept the report.

Motion: Larry Spradley moved to approve payroll and miscellaneous claims for September 2025 as recommended by the Finance Committee. Second: Second by Regent Hamilton.

Vote: Ayes: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

2. Authorize Signature for Land Closing Documents

The Board considered authorizing President Harp to execute closing documents on Board-approved land transactions, consistent with prior practice under former President Wansick. The authorization applies to documents necessary to complete closings on Board-approved land sales and does not replace the requirement for Board action on each sale.

Parcels presently in process:

- Approximately 1.08 acres in Section 18 T10N-R19E; and
- Approximately 1.67 acres in Section 18 T5N-R19E (BOT4),

with the understanding that the authorization does not extend to future Board-approved land transactions requiring closing documentation.

Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to authorize the College President, Dr. Randy Harp, to sign all documents necessary to close Board-approved land transactions, including deeds, contracts, certificates, and related closing instruments.

Second: Second by Regent Larry Spradley.

Vote: Ayes: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

C. External Affairs Committee

 [October 2025 External Affairs Minutes.pdf](#)

1. Resolution for Lease Agreement with Latimer County Commissioners

The Board discussed partnering with Latimer County on a proposed multi-purpose event center to be constructed on College-owned property. Key points:

- Location: area across U.S. 270 near the former rodeo horse barn (up to 25 acres identified for lease to accommodate facility and parking).
- Term: 20-year lease (as recommended by counsel), with a claw back provision if no meaningful progress on funding/construction occurs within five (5) years; extension is possible if good faith efforts to obtain funding are on-going.
- Ownership & Design: EASTERN retains land ownership; County is responsible for construction; EASTERN to have ultimate design approval to ensure alignment with campus and student use.
- Rationale: enhances student opportunities (events, internships, employment), strengthens tourism and community partnerships, and aligns with Eastern's external engagement strategy. Board discussion noted pros/cons of alternate sites; the lease enables funding applications to proceed while allowing continued dialogue on site details.

Motion: Regent Jerry Hamilton moved to adopt the Board Resolution reaffirming the College's intent to partner with Latimer County on the event center project and memorializing the roles of the parties for

grant/funding submissions.

Second: Second by Regent Larry Spradley.

Vote: Ayes: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

2. Lease with Latimer County Commissioners

Motion: Larry Spradley moved to approve the Lease Agreement with the Board of County Commissioners of Latimer County for the proposed event center site (up to 25 acres) under the terms presented, including a 20-year term and five-year claw back.

Second: Second by Regent Bryan Lott.

Vote: Ayes: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

3. City of Wilburton Shared Use Agreement

- Project phasing: Renovations to the Eastern pool include approximately eight weeks planning, 4–6 weeks permitting, ~5 months renovation; structured over a two-year grant period (targeting ~\$300,000 per year).
- Intended outcomes: resume swim lessons, lifeguard training (regional workforce), emergency management training, and expanded health/PE offerings. The Mayor Loran Mayes aquatics expertise and regional need were noted.

Motion: Regent Leland Walker moved to approve the Shared Use Agreement with the City of Wilburton in support of the campus pool renovation and joint programming contingent upon grant funding.

Second: Second by Regent Jerry Hamilton.

Vote: Ayes: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

4. Memorandum of Understanding with the Choctaw Nation

- Enable Choctaw Nation employees to enroll in EASTERN online courses with tuition/fees supported by Department of the Interior employee-education benefits (up to \$5,250 per employee per year).
- Deferred billing: EASTERN invoices the Choctaw Nation upon successful completion of courses for employees; non-completion or separation from employment triggers personal responsibility per the MOU.
- Pathways: alignment with Southeastern Oklahoma State University for upper-division progression; target start for spring enrollment with Choctaw HR marketing beginning November 1.

Motion: Regent Leland Walker moved to approve the Memorandum of

Understanding with the Choctaw Nation to provide online coursework for employees under the terms presented.

Second: Second by Regent Jerry Hamilton.

Vote: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

V. Executive Session

A. Vote to Enter Executive Session

(Purpose: The Board entered into Executive Session pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1), to discuss the contract for the President of Eastern Oklahoma State College.)

Motion: Regent Larry Spradley moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter concerning President Harp.

Second: Second by Regent Brian Lott.

Vote: Ayes: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

1. Discuss Details of President's Contract

B. Vote to Exit Executive Session

Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to exit Executive Session.

Second: Second by Regent Jerry Hamilton.

Vote: Ayes: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.



VI. Return to Open Session

A. Statement by Chair

Chair Regent Latt Jeffrey stated that during the Executive Session, only the item listed on the agenda was discussed, and no votes were taken during the Executive Session.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action Arising from Executive Session

The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss the Board's original intent in regard to the vehicle allowance for Dr. Harp and correct an omission in the executed contract.

Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to modify President Harp's contract to increase the monthly vehicle allowance to \$900 (from \$600), retroactive from July 1, 2025.

Second: Second by Regent Jerry Hamilton.

Vote: Ayes: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland

Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

Secretary of the Board, Regent Spradley, took minutes of the Executive Session and sealed them following the session. It is Regent Spradley's responsibility to maintain a file containing said Minutes.

VIII. General Information/Reports Requiring No Action By The Board

A. President's Report--Dr. Randy Harp

 [Presidents Activities 9-19 to 10-9 2025.pdf](#)

- Grants: EASTERN did not receive a GEAR UP grant or the NASNTI grant continuation. Twenty-five NASNTI grants were not renewed across the nation. Nine of those 25 were from Oklahoma institutions. Potential reapplication in 2026 will be monitored.
- Accreditation: Former President Dr. Janet Wansick engaged part-time to coordinate HLC reaffirmation; committee/subcommittee work ongoing.
- Legislative & Tribal Engagement: Ongoing meetings with federal offices; Five Civilized Tribes presentation on Native American Studies; coordination with Southeastern for expanded academic pathways.
- Recruitment & Events: Mountaineer Mania (October 23); Homecoming & Alumni Hall of Fame (November 10–15); music recitals (October 14 & 23 at 7:00 p.m.); Veterans Day programming; "Native November" weekly events.
- Enrollment: Early +5% moderated to -1.7% (September 15) after no-show reporting; enhanced verification to deter "ghost" enrollments.
- Facilities & Operations: Goddard renovations and seating upgrades; lighting upgrades (Sullivan/Choctaw Halls); deferred maintenance prioritization pending State Regents' allocation; transportation fleet assessment; exploration of refuse service efficiencies and PSO engagement; concept fundraising for softball field lights.
- Student Life & Athletics: Strong student engagement (clubs, dances, fairs/visits); soccer advancing to Region II tournament; meats judging win at Beef Empire Days; livestock/soils teams placing; basketball/softball/baseball in fall training.

B. Chairperson and Regent's Report

- Scheduling and committee logistics discussed; request to include deans/department chairs as periodic meeting presenters.
- Farm Committee: winter feeding plan; fencing/cleanup per land-sale bid; continued Goddard improvements.
- Appreciation: Board directed preparation of a letter of appreciation to Physical Plant/Facilities for exemplary campus appearance.

IX. No new items of business, not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of the posting of the Agenda were discussed or considered.

X. Upcoming Meeting Dates

A. Next Regular Board Meeting

November 14, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the Bill H. Hill Library Building —
Wilburton Campus (moved from Idabel due to Homecoming)

B. Committee Meetings & Scheduled Discussions

The next committee meetings are on Friday,
November 7, 2025. Finance--9 am via ZOOM
Academic Affairs--10 am via ZOOM
Student Affairs--11 am via ZOOM

Committee meetings for the December 5, 2025, Board meeting will be held on
November 21, 2025.

A Community Welcome Reception for President Harp is targeted for December 1,
2025 (details forthcoming).

XI. Adjournment

Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to adjourn the meeting. Second: Second by
Regent Larry Spradley.

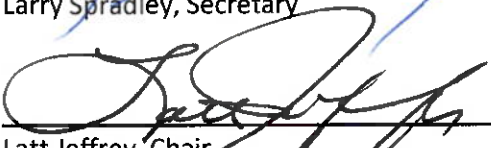
Vote: Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland
Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

Certificate:

I, Larry Spradley, the duly appointed Secretary of the Board of Regents for Eastern
Oklahoma State College, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true and correct
minutes of the Board at a Special Meeting duly and lawfully held on October 10, 2025.



Larry Spradley, Secretary



Latt Jeffrey, Chair