



September 19, 2025--Board of Regents Meeting

Eastern Oklahoma State College

September 19, 2025 at 10:30 AM CDT

Bill H. Hill Library, Regents Board Room, 1301 West Main Street, Wilburton, OK 74578

Attendance

Present:

Members:

Eric Bilderback
Cara Bland
Latt Jeffrey
Brian Lott
Larry Spradley
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
Trisha White, VP of Business Affairs
Anne Brooks, Dean of the McAlester Campus/Assistant VP of Academic Affairs
Cathy Cogburn, Political Science Prof./Dept. Chair/Foundation Executive Director
Jacob Sitton, Director of Marketing & Communications

Guests:

Connor Copeland, National Livestock Credit Corporation
Greta Spradling
Jordan Austin, Academic Advisor
Katie Collins, Foundation Coordinator
Wendi Collins, Student Engagement Coordinator
Karen Darby, McAlester Campus Advisor
McKenzie Goldsby, Career and Support Services Coordinator for NASNTI Grant
Dr. Andrea Green, Dean, Science & Mathematics Division
Julie Jefferson, Coordinator, Idabel Campus
Ashley Kernkamp, Director of Recruitment
Wilene Messex, Student Support Services
Melanie Sims, Student Disabilities/Academic and Veterans Affairs Academic Advisor

Absent:

Members: Jerry Hamilton

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeffrey at 10:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call/Declaration of Quorum

Mrs. Scott conducted the roll call. A quorum was confirmed with Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, and Walker present.

III. Introduction of Guests

Dr. Harp introduced guests and new/returning staff across Eastern's campuses, including advisors, coordinators, and division leadership. A representative from the National Livestock Credit Corporation was present. A ceremonial photo was taken to highlight the relaunch and success of the Stocker Management degree program partnership.

IV. Action

A. Board Minutes

 [8-15-25 Board of Regents Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Discussion noted that prior-month enrollment and housing updates were approximate at the time of reporting.

Motion: Regent Walker moved to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Regent Spradley.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker; Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Finance Committee

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

1. Payroll & Miscellaneous Claims—August 2025--\$2,237,477.03

Ms. Trisha White presented the report stating the Financial Committee recommended the Board approve the Payroll and Miscellaneous claims for August 2025. No additional discussion/comments were made by the Board members.

Motion: Regent Larry Spradley moved to approve the Payroll and Miscellaneous Claims for August in the amount of \$2,237,477.03; seconded by Regent Brian Lott.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker;
Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

C. External Affairs Committee

[9-12-25 External Affairs Committee Minutes.pdf](#)

1. Regent’s Impact Award—National Livestock

The committee recommended National Livestock Credit Corporation as the 2025 recipient of the Regents’ Impact Award for exceptional partnership supporting the Stocker Management program. Presentation of the award is planned for the November Board meeting.

Motion: Regent Walker moved to name National Livestock Credit Corporation as the 2025 recipient of the Regents’ Impact Award; seconded by Regent Spradley.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker;
Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Land Sale

Regent Jeffrey explained that according to the Attorney General’s office, a non-monetary bid for property could be accepted. The bid from Eric Donoley/Donoley Construction states he will improve specified college properties in exchange for a small, landlocked tract. Services include clearing brush and fence rows along Highway 270 near the Goddard property; restoring the 21 Mine Road pasture by clearing heavy timber to allow new fencing; and addressing overgrowth to return areas to productive use.

Motion: Regent Bilderback moved to approve the sale of the land to Eric Donoley; seconded by Regent Spradley.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker;
Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Governance and Legal Committee

[Sept 2025 Governance & Legal Committee Minutes.pdf](#)

1. Chapter 05—Student Handbook

Regent Walker noted some areas in the Student Handbook he wanted clarified.

Functions: Clarify inclusion of transfer programs consistent with Oklahoma State Regents policy.

Insurance: Clarify that athletes are insured per NJCAA requirements while general student participation in recreational activities remains non-covered.

Financial Policies: Remove the word “all” from “all unpaid accounts,” acknowledging financial-aid exceptions.

Motion: Regent Walker moved the Student Handbook reflect the items mentioned and the Student Handbook be amended to reflect those changes; seconded by Regent Bilderback.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker; Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Regent Spradley moved to approve the Student Handbook with the amendments made; seconded by Regent Walker.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker; Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Chapter 06—Student Employee & Supervisor Handbook

Motion: Regent Bilderback moved to approve the Student Employee & Supervisor Handbook as presented; seconded by Regent Bland.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker; Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Chapter 07—Residence Life Handbook

Motion: Regent Spradley moved to approve the Residential Life Handbook as presented; seconded by Regent Walker.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker; Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Board Meeting Dates

1. 2025 October Meeting—Special Meeting

Board members discussed various reasons to have a meeting in October, including alleviating the long stretch of time without a meeting, and the need to approve documents necessary for grant submission.

Motion: Regent Spradley moved to conduct a Special Meeting on October 10, 2025; seconded by Regent Lott;

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker; Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

2. 2025 November Meeting—Move to Wilburton Campus

Dr. Harp stated Homecoming is the same week as the November Board of Regents meeting. The Alumni Hall of Fame dinner is scheduled for the evening of November 14, 2025. While it would be possible to have the meeting in Idabel, Oklahoma, that morning, it would rush a lot of things and interrupt some activities and events happening during homecoming. It was mentioned that it is critical for the Eastern Board of Regents to have a presence at the Idabel campus.

Motion: Regent Bland moved to change the location of the November meeting from the Idabel campus to the Wilburton campus; seconded by Regent Lott;

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker; Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 2026 Eastern Board of Regents Meeting Dates

 [2026 Board of Regents Meeting Dates.pdf](#)

Regents stated they felt a Board of Regents meeting should be held every month, as opposed to the past practice of not having a meeting in July or October every year. It is a long time between meetings for such a large institution.

Motion: Regent Lott moved to add July 16, 2026, and October 9, 2026, to the list of meeting dates presented and to approve the entire twelve dates for the 2026 meeting dates; seconded by Regent Bland.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, Walker; Noes—None; Abstentions—None. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Minutes generated by [OnBoard](#).

 [President's Activities for August 16 to September 18 2025.pdf](#)

Enrollment: Early fall count showed a 5% increase; final census on September 15 indicated a 1.7% decrease due to no-shows and “ghost” enrollments. New verification steps are being implemented to ensure student engagement and protect federal aid compliance.

Recruitment/Outreach: Additional full-time staff added at Idabel to expand coverage in LeFlore, McCurtain, Choctaw, Pushmataha, and adjacent Arkansas and Texas counties. Recruiters visited nine high schools with nine more scheduled by month-end (19 total). President Harp met with multiple district leaders.

Concurrent Enrollment: State Regents approved a significant fee reduction for online concurrent courses. The cost of fees for a concurrent high school student will be approximately \$125 per three-hour course. With state tuition reimbursement and tribal support, eligible students can effectively attend at low or no cost. Implementation begins Spring 2026.

Facilities & Deferred Maintenance: Lighting upgrades in Choctaw and Sullivan Halls; ongoing upgrades at the Eastern Livestock Arena, with future phases for seating, restrooms, and concessions. The State has indicated \$1.8M in deferred maintenance funding over two years; allocation mechanism pending State Regents finance committee action.

Grants: NASNTI grants were halted at the federal level; advocacy is underway with tribal partners and the federal delegation. Separately, the Nursing program was awarded \$438,000 for workforce expansion equipment and program support.

Homecoming/Engagement: Homecoming week is November 10–15, with events including a talent show, chili cook-off, parade (pending city approval), tailgate, and games.

Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges: Award winners for 2025 are Gina Bullock, Outstanding Faculty, Karen Darby, Outstanding Support Staff, and Debra McIntyre, Outstanding Professional Employee.

Legislative & Competitive Landscape: Larger institutions are expanding concurrent offerings statewide, including in Eastern’s region. Leadership is advancing strategies to remain competitive and protect local offerings; discussion noted potential legislative issues regarding optional meal plans.

B. Chairperson and Regent's Report

Chair Jeffrey reported on campus improvements across from the main campus (fence restoration and painting near the Goddard Building). Discussion highlighted the need for softball field lighting to achieve parity with baseball; prior exploratory commitments had identified partial funding. Updates were provided for a potential county sales tax initiative benefiting Eastern, and discussions with the Choctaw Nation and the county on a multipurpose event center. A community event to introduce President Harp and the new leadership to local stakeholders is being planned.

At Chair Jeffrey's request, Dr. Cathy Cogburn provided an update regarding the Development Foundation. Dr. Cogburn reported progress toward an endowed scholarship and an additional nursing scholarship, renewed/added Chamber memberships (Wilburton, McAlester, Idabel), and ongoing grant-writing training. The Foundation will also support planning for a community introduction event for the new leadership at Eastern.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: Regent Lott moved to adjourn; seconded by Regent Bilderback.

Vote: Ayes—Regents Jeffrey, Spradley, Bland, Bilderback, Lott, Walker; Noes—None; Abstentions—None. Motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Lunch was provided following the meeting; no official business was conducted during lunch.

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 September 19, 2025.


Latt Jeffrey, Chair


Larry Spradley, Secretary