



**BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR MEETING**

February 16, 2024, 10:30 am.

The Board of Regents for Eastern Oklahoma State College met for the regularly scheduled meeting at 10:30 am, February 16, 2024, in the Regent Board Room located on the Second Floor of the Bill H. Hill Library Building of the Wilburton Campus.

**Members of the Board present:**

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

**Members absent:**

None

**Others present:**

Dr. Janet Wansick, President  
Trisha White, Vice President of Business Affairs  
Dr. Cathy Cogburn, Faculty Council Chair  
Candace Raney, Executive Assistant to the President & Assistant to the Board  
Kristen Turner, Dean of Language, Humanities & Education Division  
Stephanie Giacomo, Grant Writer & Fundraiser  
Hannah Truitt, Staff Council Representative  
Jacob Sitton, Marketing Coordinator  
Tracie Teague, Marketing Coordinator  
Lucas Hedgecock, Student Activities & Housing Coordinator  
Teresa Brady, Foundation Director  
Garrick Dobson, Multi-Media Communications Manager

**Guests:**

Jonathan Wynn  
John Redman

- A. Regent Walker called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
- B. Candace Raney took the roll and declared a quorum present.

**C. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

President Wansick recognized Jonathan Wynn & John Redman from the EOSC Foundation.

**D. BOARD MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on January 19, 2024.

Regent Spradley moved, and Regent Lott seconded to approve the January 19, 2024, board minutes as presented.

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

The motion carried.

2. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held on February 1, 2024.

Regent Lott moved, and Regent Jeffrey seconded to approve the February 1, 2024 board minutes as presented.

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

The motion carried.

**E. RESOLUTIONS**

None

**G. POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

None

**H. INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS/ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

None

**H. BUDGETARY ACTIONS**

1. Payroll & Claims -January 2024 in the amount of \$2,072,540.33

Vice President of Business Affairs, Trisha White gave a detailed monthly expenditure report explaining purchases over \$5,000.

Regent Spradley moved, and Regent Bilderback seconded to approve the payroll & claims for January 2024 as presented.

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

The motion carried.

**I. OTHER BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

None

**J. CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS (other than construction and renovation)**

**1. OMES Contract for Land Sales**

Vice President of Business Affairs, Trisha White advised that she received the long-awaited information from the Office of Management and Enterprises Services (OMES). She raised concerns about certain language missing from the agreement and noted that it should have been included as it aligns with their Articles of Incorporation and the state statute under which they were created.

Additionally, she provided language from the Attorney General's office regarding the real property sales, emphasizing the importance of clarifying that funds return to Eastern, not OMES. The board agreed to include this language in the MOU.

The conversation also touched on easements and surface damage issues. It was clarified that all such matters are brought to the board for approval, regardless of whether they involve OMES or not.

Further discussion ensued regarding various fee codes and their relevance to Eastern's transactions. It was noted that some fees, such as those for easements, were unfamiliar and may not apply to their current practices. There was also a query about OMES's assistance with appraisals and surveys, which had been provided in some instances but not universally.

The discussions concluded with a request for clarification on property titles and mineral rights, as well as a discussion about the necessity of appraisals in certain property transactions.

Throughout the conversation, there was an ongoing effort to ensure that all contractual agreements align with legal requirements and that Eastern's interests are protected in any transactions with OMES or other parties.

**Regent Lott moved, and Regent Hamilton seconded to approve the OMES Contract for Land Sales with specified modifications.**

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

**The motion carried.**

**K. NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES**  
None

**L. NEW BUSINESS UNFORESEEN AT THE TIME AGENDA WAS POSTED**  
None

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

**1. Leadership Report-Trisha White, Vice President of Business Affairs**

- Trisha gave a detailed cash flow projection, listing sources and uses of funds/budget analysis for the month ending January 2024.
- Trisha shared the information she had gathered from other colleges and universities regarding how they handle credit card transaction fees. The institutions that responded provided details about whether the college or the student covers the fees, along with the percentage rates and the payment processors they use. Some of the colleges listed include Cameron, Murray, and TCC, among others.

It was noted that the credit card company charges a fee of two and a half percent. This prompted a discussion about the possibility of exploring local lenders who might offer a lower percentage for processing credit card payments. The conversation included considering whether banks like First National, Latimer State, or Farmers could potentially provide a better rate.

Regent Spradley mentioned discussing with Regent Walker the possibility of a bank willing to cover some or all of the fees. However, there was a cautious approach to utilizing The Community State Bank, given Regent Spradley's position as President of the bank, which would require clarification from the attorney. The objective remains to find avenues to alleviate the financial burden of credit card transaction fees, which presently total approximately \$35,000 annually.

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

- Spring enrollment numbers were promising. As of February 1, 2024, our overall headcount was up 7.63%. This is the third consecutive semester of increased enrollment. Attention was drawn to the recruitment and retention information that was shared, with mention of the incorporation of new data collected through Navigate. This included recruitment data and efforts made via appointments through Navigate, both of which were included in the report for analysis and consideration.

Concerns were raised regarding enrollment trends at different locations, particularly Wilburton and McAlester. While McAlester showed a 24% increase, Wilburton's numbers were down, partly due to graduation and housing turnover. The complexity of concurrent enrollment patterns, especially regarding online courses, was discussed, highlighting the need for more detailed data analysis.

Efforts to increase course offerings at McAlester were recognized and appreciated, but challenges in hiring qualified faculty, especially for specialized subjects like biology, were noted. The need to expand offerings at Idabel and address fluctuating enrollment patterns, particularly about high school scheduling and student interests, was emphasized.

Suggestions were made to analyze enrollment and graduation data by major to better understand student preferences and drive strategic decisions. Recruiting qualified faculty, especially in specialized fields, was identified as a significant challenge, particularly in rural areas like Idabel.

- The institution underwent a civil rights compliance visit, as mandated by the Department of Education for all entities receiving federal funds, encompassing various regulations including Title IX, 504, ADA, and others. The visit, overseen by Alan Nahs, Civil Rights Coordinator, from the Oklahoma CareerTech system, is randomly conducted across public education, CareerTech, and higher education sectors.

Following the visit, a debrief meeting was held, during which it was noted that overall, the institution fared well. While there were minor areas for improvement, the Civil Rights Coordinator commended the institution's staff and its warm, family-friendly environment. The evaluator particularly highlighted the welcoming atmosphere evident in interactions between students and staff, even citing the cafeteria as a hub of positive interaction.

The report from the visit will outline any necessary corrective actions, which the institution will address promptly. The compliance visit, which involves both physical inspection and paperwork review, signifies the institution's commitment to maintaining compliance and fostering a supportive environment for students and staff alike.

- Mountaineer Radio has once again been invited to broadcast the Region 2 basketball tournaments in Muskogee. It is regarded as a premier broadcasting group by most, if not all, colleges, offering radio and Mountaineer TV coverage. Advertising opportunities are also available for interested colleges. The tournaments will feature combined men's and women's basketball events. Additionally, Mountaineer Radio covered soccer this year and plans to cover baseball as well. The team's professionalism and dedication are highlighted as they prepare for the upcoming events in Muskogee, where audiences can tune in to watch games from various institutions.
- We conducted interviews for the Vice President of Student Affairs position, involving a committee of nine representatives from across the institution. Out of 34 applicants, the committee interviewed eight or nine candidates and selected three for second-round interviews. To ensure student input, a diverse group of students participated in the second round of interviews, representing various student groups including international students, nursing students, and athletes. Feedback from both students and other interviewers is being considered in the selection process. Currently, we are finalizing a candidate, conducting background





checks, and completing other necessary procedures. While the target date for onboarding, the new Vice President is March 1st, it may be subject to change. Nevertheless, we anticipate welcoming the new Vice President for Student Affairs soon.

- We are currently developing a partnership document that will be presented to the state regents during their visit to our campus. This document aims to showcase the various partnerships we have established. The document will assess the benefits and quantify the value of these partnerships to our institution.

The project has evolved into a comprehensive review of our partnerships, with efforts to associate dollar amounts with each collaboration. Marketing will refine the document to make it more engaging and readable. Once completed, we will share the document with the board, foundation, alumni, and state offices to raise awareness of our extensive partnership initiatives.

- The institution is planning to establish an advisory committee to oversee farm operations, aiming to transition towards higher-quality stock and improve management transparency. This advisory committee would comprise representatives from the board, the institution, and the farm manager, with the goal of assessing farm operations and strategic direction.

Discussions highlighted the need to diversify expertise within the committee, potentially including alumni and notable community members. The board expressed interest in the committee's student focus and emphasized the importance of student representation. Regents Jeffrey and Hamilton volunteered to serve, and additional members will be appointed, including student representatives and individuals with relevant agricultural expertise.

- Efforts are underway to embed certifications within various programs to target specific student needs. The discussion centered on expanding degree offerings, particularly focusing on certifications and programs like the forestry certificate, which is deemed suitable for the local area.
- President Wansick provided an update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Carl Albert State College and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, indicating that Carl Albert's next board meeting, scheduled for March 26th, will include a review of the MOU.
- Handouts were shared with the Board for review. (Attached)
  - Enrollment Comparison Spring 2024 as of February 1, 2024
  - February Recruitment, Marketing, & Retention Efforts
  - Credit card transaction fees overview
  - Cash Flow Projection through February 29, 2024



- Top 25 Best Colleges for Native American Studies
- Native American Studies Course Descriptions
  - Stanford University
  - Dartmouth

#### **Chairman's and Regent's Report-Regent Leland Walker**

- Regent Walker praised Ms. Turner and Ms. Livingston for organizing an excellent program for students from Red Oak's agriculture communications class. Additionally, he commended the science department for their involvement in Red Oak's school science fair, where seven faculty members served as judges. Furthermore, he expressed gratitude to the radio station for accommodating 14 students who recorded agriculture spots, highlighting the positive collaboration between the institution and external partners.
- The "Roles & Responsibilities" handout was distributed to board members upon their appointment to the board. Regent Walker discussed the document during the meeting, noting its likely origin from a previous administration and its past approval and modifications by the board. He emphasized the need for updates, particularly regarding meeting locations and rotations between Idabel and Antlers. Regent Walker suggested that President Wansick and her team review and amend the document, with feedback from board members welcomed via email.
- Regent Walker expressed his consideration of the governor's and chancellor's comments regarding the elimination of duplication in educational programs and the enhancement of unique offerings. He highlighted the need for Eastern to establish a Native American Studies degree program, emphasizing its importance in serving Native American students and addressing the state's diverse tribal population.

He shared his research findings on existing Native American Studies programs, including those at Southeastern and East Central universities, while noting the need for improvement in some programs' quality and offerings. Regent Walker presented Dartmouth's Native American Studies course offerings as an example of comprehensive and specialized education in the field.

He discussed Eastern's efforts to develop an Associate of Arts degree and the potential collaboration with East Central University for a two-plus-two agreement program. Regent Walker suggested that Eastern's Native American Studies program could be inclusive and attract students from various tribal backgrounds, potentially securing financial support from tribal governments.

Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of developing specialized programs such as the forestry certificate and the drone program, urging proactive efforts to secure funding and advance Eastern's offerings in these areas. Regent Walker encouraged the board members to consider additional programs that align with Eastern's mission and address emerging educational needs.



- Regent Walker advised that the next board meeting is March 15, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at the Eastern Oklahoma State College, Board of Regents Conference Room, Second Floor of the Bill H. Hill Library, 1301 West Main Street, Wilburton, OK 74578.

3. **Committee Updates**

- Regent Jeffrey provided an update on the Community Roundtable meeting attended by various stakeholders, including President Wansick, Stephanie Giacomo, County Commissioners Jeremy Bull and Roger Kimble, Mayor Loran Mayes, Choctaw Nation Councilwoman Jennifer Woods, Earl Shero from Latimer County Tourism, Amanda Byers from Wilburton Main Street and Jonathan Wynn from Wilburton Chamber of Commerce. The meeting aimed to enhance community connections and advance projects like upgrading the Little League complex, developing an Agri-Plex event center, and establishing a trail system linking the park to the Degnan property. Discussions included potential funding sources, with Mrs. Giacomo offering expertise on the matter. The meeting was deemed productive, with plans to form a team to formalize ideas and move projects forward. The Choctaw Nation expressed interest in supporting these efforts. Another meeting is to be scheduled within the next 60 days to further these initiatives.
- The Executive Committee (Walker, Jeffrey & Spradley) along with President Wansick and Stephanie Giacomo convened with Mike Cathey to discuss strategies for enhancing outreach to alumni and others, particularly focusing on increasing annual and other forms of giving to the college. The meeting was deemed productive, with insights provided by Mrs. Giacomo regarding the parameters of solicitation and giving. There was an expressed desire to develop a more formalized plan for outreach, with Mr. Cathey, Mrs. Teresa Brady, and Mrs. Stephanie Giacomo asked to refine the strategy. Overall, it was considered a beneficial session.

**Q. ADJOURNMENT**

**Regent Lott moved, and Regent Hamilton seconded to adjourn at 12:31 p.m.**

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

**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 the Regularly Scheduled Meeting hereof, truly, and lawfully held on February 16, 2024.

  
Leland Walker, Chair

  
Larry Spradley, Secretary