



Board of Regents--January 16, 2026 Minutes

Eastern Oklahoma State College 1/16/2026 10:30 AM

CStat Eastern Oklahoma State College

Bill H. Hill Library, 1301 West Main Street, Wilburton, OK

Attendance

Members:

Latt Jeffrey, Chair
Jerry Hamilton, Vice Chair
Eric Bilderback
Cara Bland
Brian Lott
Leland Walker

Staff:

Dr. Randy Harp, President
Helen Scott, Exec. Admin. Assist. to the President & Secretary to the Board
Dr. Anna Perry, 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
Kristen Turner, Dean of Language, Humanities & Education Division
Andrea Smallwood, Business Administration Professor/Faculty Council Chair
Mike Zozula, Eastern Police Officer
Stephanie Giacomo, Grant Writer

Guests:

Loran Mayes, Mayor of Wilburton
Oliver Skimbo, Transportation Manager at KiBOIS
Lauren Davis, Chair of the Latimer County Tourism Board
Heather Watson, Latimer County Tourism
Kyle Shiflet, Oklahoma Attorney General's Office

Absent:

Larry Spradley, Secretary

I. Call to Order

Chairman Latt Jeffrey called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call/Declaration of Quorum

Roll call was conducted by Helen Scott, and a quorum was declared with Regents

Minutes generated by [OnBoard](#).

Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, and Leland Walker present.

III. Introduction of Guests

Dr. Randy Harp introduced guests in attendance, including Faculty Council Chair Andrea Smallwood; Stephanie Giacomo (grant writer); Mike Zozula (police officer/emergency management); Oliver Skimbo (regional transportation planner for KATS/KiBOIS area); Wilburton Mayor Lauren Mayes; and Latimer County Tourism leadership (Lauren Davis and Heather Watson). The Board also acknowledged Kyle Shiflett (Attorney General's office), who attended to observe and assist if needed, and he commended Trisha White for her responsiveness and professionalism.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

1. December 5, 2025, Board of Regents Meeting Minutes

 [Board of Regents--December 2025 Minutes.pdf](#)

 [Approval of Minutes for the December 5, 2025, Regular Meeting](#)

Motion: Regent Cara Bland moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2025, meeting as presented. Second: Second by Regent Jerry Hamilton.

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

2. January 6, 2026, Board of Regents Special Meeting Minutes

 [Board of Regents--January 6, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

 [Approval of Minutes of the January 6, 2026, Special Meeting](#)

Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026, Board of Regents Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Second: Second by Regent Cara Bland.

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

B. Finance Committee

 [Finance Meeting Minutes January 2026.pdf](#)

1. Payroll & Miscellaneous Claims for December 2025

 [Payroll & Misc Claims December 2025.pdf](#)

-  [Finance Reports December 2025.pdf](#)
-  [Fall 2025 Enrollment & Expense.pdf](#)
-  [Approve Payroll & Miscellaneous Claims for December 2025](#)

Trisha White reported that the Finance Committee reviewed payroll and claims, discussed land-sale proceeds, and reviewed financial reporting. She explained a new end-of-semester enrollment/expense report requested by the Board. She clarified that the report is organized by department, shows students enrolled in courses (not majors), credit hours, tuition/fee revenue, payroll expense, departmental expense, and total expense. She explained that some expenses are combined under shared budgets (e.g., political science expenses included under history) and confirmed the report will be produced after each fall and spring term. Regents discussed interpretation cautions, noting students appear across multiple departments due to general education requirements. Regent Walker requested that column headings be repeated on each page for readability, and Ms. White agreed.

Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to approve the payroll and miscellaneous claims for December 2025. Second: Second by Regent Eric Bilderback.

Roll-call vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, and Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

2. Land Proceed Request

-  [Land Sale Expense Approvals.pdf](#)
-  [Approve Purchase of Items with the Proceeds of Land Sale](#)

Chairman Jeffrey introduced the agenda item regarding the proposed use of land sale proceeds, noting that the sale of real property is an infrequent and significant action for the institution. He stated that, following the completion of the sale, it was appropriate for the Board to have transparency and shared understanding regarding planning and oversight of the use of the funds. President Harp was recognized to present the administration's proposal.

President Harp explained that the administration developed a framework identifying emergency, immediate, and long-term institutional needs, separate from deferred maintenance planning. He noted that the list presented was intended to illustrate institutional priorities rather than serve as an immediate spending plan, and that total estimated costs exceeded the land sale proceeds. He emphasized that emergency transportation needs were a primary concern and that the administration

was actively exploring cost-effective options, including pre-owned, leased, and donated vehicles.

Regents discussed whether the list required Board approval given its scope and title. Chairman Jeffrey expressed support for approving the plan to allow the administration flexibility to proceed, noting the projects identified were appropriate uses of the proceeds despite requiring additional funding sources. Regents discussed prioritization of certain projects, including improvements at the Goddard facility, while suggesting that other items could be deferred or supported through fundraising efforts. Regents also discussed whether each item purchased with the funds needed to be approved separately. However, this was not passed.

Motion: Regent Jerry Hamilton moved to approve the Resolution. Second: Second by Regent Eric Bilderback.

Roll-call vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, and Brian Lott. Nays: Leland Walker. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

C. Governance/Legal Committee

 [Governance & Legal Committee Minutes January 2026.pdf](#)

1. Public Notice/Hearing for the EPA Brownfields Grant

A public meeting was held to allow the community to review and comment on Eastern's application for an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant aimed at removing environmental hazards from Miller Hall and Salmon Hall on the Wilburton Campus. The draft application was made available for review at the President's office in the Bill Hill Library. Stephanie Giacomo presented at the meeting and noted that no comments or responses had been received regarding the draft application. The details of the meeting were published in the local Latimer County newspaper. Although no formal recommendations were made, attendees were encouraged to ask questions and voice their concerns.

2. Approval of Policies



 [Approval of Policies Listed on January 16, 2026 Agenda](#)

a. Artificial Intelligence Policy

 [Artificial Intelligence Framework.pdf](#)

b. Ethics Policy

 [Ethics Policy.pdf](#)

- c. Hazing Policy
 [Eastern Hazing Policy.pdf](#)
- d. Maintenance After Hours Response Policy
 [Maintenance After Hours Response Policy.pdf](#)
- e. Emergency Response Policy
 [Emergency Response Policy.pdf](#)



Chairman Jeffrey presented the policies recommended by the Governance and Legal Committee for approval, clarifying that Items A through E would be considered collectively. Discussion focused on the Emergency Response Policy, specifically the designation of the Fieldhouse Office Complex as the incident command or muster point. Administration clarified that this location would serve as a post-incident response center for coordination purposes, not as a shelter during emergencies, and that staff and students would remain in their respective buildings during events such as tornadoes. Additional clarification was provided regarding alternate meeting spaces within the Fieldhouse if needed.

Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to approve the Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, Hazing, Maintenance After-Hours Response, and Emergency Response policies. Second: Second by Regent Cara Bland.

Roll-call vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, and Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

D. External Affairs Committee

 [External Affairs Meeting Minutes January 2026.pdf](#)

- 1. Lease–Trail Lease with Latimer County Tourism
 [2025 OK Tourism 21-Mine Trails \(2\).pdf](#)
 [Approve Trail Lease with Latimer County Tourism](#)

Chairman Jeffrey introduced Section D, noting that several long-term projects initiated over multiple years were now moving forward. He acknowledged the collaborative efforts of Latimer County Tourism and community partners and expressed appreciation for their work. Mayor Mayes presented the proposed trail lease agreement, outlining plans for a multi-use trail connecting Wilburton to the state park. The project is designed to benefit students, tourism, and community health

and wellness, and will be developed in phases over multiple years, contingent upon funding, grants, and in-kind contributions. An updated master plan addendum reflecting current costs and engineering considerations was completed to support grant applications.

Motion: Regent Leland Walker moved to approve the trail lease. Second: Second by Regent Jerry Hamilton.

Roll-call vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, and Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

2. Lease--Visitor Center Lease with Latimer County Tourism

 [2025 Visitor Center Lease \(Latimer Co Tourism\).pdf](#)

 [Approval of Lease--Visitor Center Lease with Latimer County Tourism](#)

Chairman Jeffrey introduced the proposed visitor center lease agreement with Latimer County Tourism. Representatives from Latimer County Tourism and Mayor Mayes presented plans to restore and expand the existing rock building near the Oklahoma Forestry property to create an ADA-accessible visitor center. The project is intended to showcase the region's history, including tribal heritage, mining history, Eastern Oklahoma State College, and the Butterfield Trail, which is anticipated to become a National Park Service historic trail. The visitor center would serve as a central location for information, maps, and access to the community trail system and state park, and would include parking, a pavilion, and potential relocation of a historic miner's tea house for educational purposes.


Discussion included clarification that initial improvements would address structural needs, including the roof and flooring, to prevent further deterioration prior to renovation. Chairman Jeffrey noted that the property had limited institutional use and expressed support for the project's community and educational benefits.

Motion: Regent Leland Walker moved approve the Visitor Center lease. Second: Second by Regent Jerry Hamilton.

Roll-call vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, and Brian Lott. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

3. City of Wilburton Law Enforcement Agreement

 [City of Wilburton Law Enforcement Agreement 2026.pdf](#)

 [Approval of Law Enforcement Agreements with the Cities of Wilburton & McAlester, and Latimer County](#)


4. City of McAlester Law Enforcement Agreement
 [City of McAlester Law Enforcement Agreement 2026.pdf](#)
5. Latimer County Law Enforcement Agreement
 [Latimer County Law Enforcement Agreement 2026.pdf](#)

Chairman Jeffrey introduced the annual law enforcement agreements with the City of Wilburton, the City of McAlester, and Latimer County. It was clarified that the agreements are presented separately for approval but are substantially identical in language, differing only by jurisdiction. Administration confirmed that these agreements are routine and reviewed annually.

Motion: Regent Eric Bilderback moved to approve the law enforcement agreements with the City of Wilburton, City of McAlester, and Latimer County. Second: Second by Regent Cara Bland.

Roll-call vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, and Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

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

- A. President's Report—Dr. Randy Harp
 [President Harp's Activities for BOR for 12-5-25 thru 1-15-26.pdf](#)

President Harp provided an overview of activities since the previous Board meeting and invited questions from the Board. He reported meetings with local state legislators to discuss institutional priorities ahead of the upcoming legislative session and ongoing coordination with Southeastern Oklahoma State University to strengthen academic partnerships and enrollment opportunities. He noted the December Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony and meetings with the State Regents and Oklahoma State University regarding development of a potential pre-engineering pathway, as well as continued collaboration with OSU and the Oklahoma Mining Commission to support programs on campus. President Harp reported the retirement of the Director of Nursing, Gina Bullock, and noted a recent compliance review involving scholarship language on the College website. The issue was addressed promptly by removing noncompliant language, and a review of all scholarship criteria is underway to ensure alignment with donor intent and federal requirements.

An update was provided on the recent unrestricted gift received through Yield Giving. President Harp explained that the Foundation Board has begun reviewing processes for investing and overseeing the funds, with the intent of long-term

stability and student benefit. He emphasized that no spending decisions have been made and that a committee structure has been recommended to guide future use. Additional information will be provided following the next Foundation Board meeting.

President Harp also reported that all required approvals have been secured to begin offering courses under a Department of Defense tuition assistance agreement, with enrollment expected in upcoming terms. Finally, he addressed ongoing coordination with the Choctaw Nation regarding employee education benefits and committed to following up to ensure Eastern programs are appropriately communicated.

B. Chairperson and Regents' Report

Chair Jeffrey reported limited updates for the Chair's Report. He noted that, as chair of the Farm Committee, a recent sale of calves was completed successfully and that committee operations continue to be beneficial to the institution. He provided an update on the Goddard Building remodel, explaining that interior work is progressing and was briefly paused due to the upcoming stock show. He stated that completion of the seating installation will allow the facility to be fully utilized for additional functions and serve as a recruitment asset.

Chair Jeffrey also reported that drainage projects across campus have been completed, including repairs to the retaining wall near the President's residence and improvements to drainage issues affecting the apartment near the highway. He expressed appreciation for the administration's work with the Foundation regarding the recent gift and acknowledged ongoing collaboration with other college presidents. He thanked community partners, including the Mayor and Foundation members, for their continued involvement, and noted optimism regarding grant-related projects currently underway.

Chair Jeffrey concluded by inviting attendees to join for lunch following the meeting, noting that no official business would be conducted during that time.

VI. Consideration and possible action on 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.

VII. Upcoming Meeting Dates

A. Next Regular Board Meeting—February 20, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at the Idabel Campus

B. Committee Meetings & Scheduled Discussions

VIII. Adjournment

[Approve Adjournment of January 16, 2026 Meeting](#)

Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to adjourn. Second: Second by Regent Eric Bilderback.

Roll-call vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, and 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 Meeting duly and lawfully held on January 16, 2026.


Larry Spradley, Secretary


Latt Jeffrey, Chair