



MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR MEETING
March 14, 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
Eric Bilderback, Member
Jerry Hamilton, Member

Members absent:

Cara Bland, Member

Others present:

Dr. Janet Wansick, President
Trisha White, Vice President of Business Affairs
Dr. Randy Harp, Vice President of Academics & Development
Anne Brooks, Asst. Vice President of Academic Affairs
Stephanie Giacomo, Institutional Advancement Director
Dr. Cathy Cogburn, Faculty Council Chair
Colby Carpenter, Staff Council Chair
Candace Raney, Executive Assistant to the President & Assistant to the Board
Hannah Truitt, Director of Retention & Recruitment
Jacob Sitton, Marketing Director

- I. Regent Walker called the meeting to order at 10:31 am.
- II. Candace Raney took roll and declared a quorum present.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: None**
- IV. **ACTION**
 - A. **Board Minutes of the Meeting held February 21, 2025.**
Regent Spradley moved, and Regent Bilderback seconded to approve the board minutes as presented.

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.

B. Finance Committee Report

1. Payroll & Claims

Regent Bilderback moved, and Regent Lott seconded to approve the payroll and claims as presented.

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

The motion carried.

2. Blue Building Funds

Regent Hamilton moved, and Regent Jeffrey seconded the motion to approve expanding the use of funds from the sale of the Blue Building in Antlers to include the EOSC Beef Barn, in addition to the Goddard Building and Greenhouse.

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.

V. NEW BUSINESS UNFORESEEN AT THE TIME AGENDA WAS POSTED

None

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

External Relations Committee Update

On March 7, 2025, the External Relations Committee met with President Wansick, Drs. Harp, Foster, Ms. Giacomo, and Regents Jeffrey, Spradley, and Bilderback.

The Alumni group has added two-lifetime members due to increased outreach and is planning two regional reunions, one in McAlester and another in Idabel. The board is also working on organizing alumni due to a new arrangement with the foundation and institutional liaison. Alumni Board treasurer, Ed Stokes, is collaborating with Kati Collins from the foundation on financials.

For the Sapphire Ball, about 75 people have signed up to attend. Sponsorships have been received from one Sapphire sponsor, five Diamond sponsors, three Emerald sponsors, and eight Ruby sponsors. Thirty-five individual tickets have been sold, and the online auction, hosted on an auction site rather than Facebook this year, is progressing well.

The Foundation is hosting an AT&T laptop giveaway for 100 high school students from Latimer County, with plans to present to Red Oak next Wednesday after the Scholastic Competition. The college is hosting multiple events, including the Summit Leadership Conference, Science Fair, and Livestock Shows. Nursing students were recently recognized on the Senate floor. Agriculture and Athletics activities are in full swing with March and April being busy months.

In the community, work is ongoing to secure funding and partnerships for the Health and Wellness Center. Stephanie attended McAlester's State of the City address and is following new retail and housing projects. President Wansick and Stephanie attended a Choctaw Nation event, where their economic development group received an international designation and Chief Batton was honored. Discussions are continuing regarding Congressionally Directed spending through Senator Mullins' office. Recently, they had dinner with the Mayor of McAlester to explore further partnership opportunities and attended the groundbreaking for the McAlester Library, looking to use its fundraising efforts as a model. The team also submitted a Workforce Grant and is working with the EPA on-campus projects.

President's Report-Dr. Janet Wansick

President Wansick shared updates on various projects, including the Health and Wellness Center, for which progress continues with community support. The social media post on the TSET grant received great engagement, with over 33,000 views and substantial sharing. Legislation affecting higher education is also a key concern, including House Bill 2854, which could impact the college's ability to offer certain programs, and House Bill 2197, which would limit meal plans for students in campus housing. While concerns persist, discussions continue to address potential unintended consequences.

President Wansick also discussed challenges related to federal funding, particularly with the Department of Education and the impact of staff layoffs on Pell Grants and other funding programs. Despite uncertainties, some grants, including TRIO, are still expected to receive funding, although reporting deadlines have become more stringent. She highlighted the success of the recent Scholastic Competition, where over 900 students participated, earning praise for the event's organization. The Sapphire Ball preparations are underway, and the event promises to be a significant fundraiser for student scholarships. Additionally, the Department of Education's changes are impacting some funding programs, with ongoing efforts to navigate these challenges.

Regents/Chair Report

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 18th, with the Finance, Governance, Legal & Compliance, and Academic Affairs committees set to meet on April 11th.

Search Committee Update:

Regent Walker provided an update on the president search process, sharing that as of this morning, 27 applications have been received. These applications are being forwarded to the search committee for review. The committee will evaluate the candidates and narrow down the list to the top five for interviews. Regent Walker expressed confidence in the search committee's ability to identify the best candidates.

Regarding the interview process, Regent Walker mentioned the possibility of conducting interviews over two days, with a break for faculty and staff input. This would allow for more thorough consideration and feedback. After the interviews, the top two candidates might be brought back for a second round of discussions, with the goal of making a final decision in May.

In addition, Regent Walker addressed upcoming board meetings, including one on April 18 and another special meeting potentially scheduled for April 29. He also highlighted the need to adjust the timeline for the president's search to allow sufficient time for the interviews and decision-making process. The next steps include finalizing the interview details and ensuring faculty and staff have an opportunity to provide input.

I. ADJOURNMENT

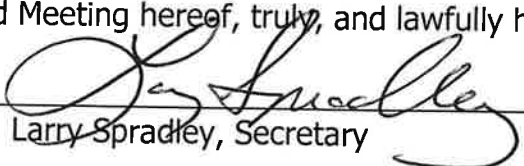
Regent Lott moved, and Regent Bilderback seconded to adjourn at 11:43 am.

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 a Regular Scheduled Meeting hereof, truly, and lawfully held on March 14, 2025.


Larry Spradley, Secretary


Leland Walker, Chair