



BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR MEETING

May 17, 2024, 10:30 am.

The Board of Regents for Eastern Oklahoma State College met for the regularly scheduled meeting at 10:30 am, on May 17, 2024, in the Board of Regents Conference Room, Second Floor of the Bill H. Hill Library Building, Wilburton, OK.

Members of the Board present:

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

Members absent:

Eric Bilderback, Member
Brian Lott, Member

Others present:

Dr. Janet Wansick, President
Trisha White, Vice President of Business Affairs
Dr. Kyle Foster, Vice President of Student Affairs
Candace Raney, Executive Assistant to the President & Assistant to the Board
Kristen Turner, Dean of Language, Humanities & Education Division
Gina Bullock, Director of Nursing
Andrea Green, Dean of Math & Science
Melanie Sims, Staff Council Representative
Jacob Sitton, Marketing Director
Tracie Teague, Marketing Coordinator
Emma Beck, Marketing Assistant
Lucas Hedgecock, Student Activities & Housing Coordinator
Teresa Brady, Foundation Director
Dr. Kristina Bastola, Chemistry Professor
Philip Hawthorne, Mathematics Professor/Department Chair
Dr. Julie Collins, Biology Professor
Dr. Mike Nealon, Professor of Physics, Astronomy & Physical Science/Department Chair
Kathy Howe, Mathematics Instructor
Heather Spiegel, Nursing Instructor
Michelle Bambeck, Nursing Instructor
Maye Durant, Nursing Instructor

Guests:

Dr. Randy Harp
Jonathan Wynn, EOSC Foundation
John Redman, EOSC Foundation



Jara James, Choctaw Nation Economic Development
Lance Mathis, Arkoma Surveying

A. Regent Walker called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

B. Candace Raney took the roll and declared a quorum present.

C. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Wansick recognized Dr. Randy Harp, Jonathan Wynn, and John Redman from the EOSC Foundation and Deans and Faculty from the Math & Science Division as well as the Nursing Division. President Wansick advised that Dr. Harp rejoins Eastern family after serving in a variety of roles at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Dr. Harp will serve as the Vice President of Development and Academics, and be the acting Dean of the Agriculture Division officially starting on July 1.

Regent Jeffrey introduced Lance Mathis from Arkoma Surveying. Mr. Mathis represents the Wilburton Planning and Zoning Commission and advised that the city is interested in a piece of the college's property, approximately 28 acres, along OK Highway 2 North of 29 Mine Road and extending past the Choctaw Center. President Wansick invited Mr. Mathis to the next Community Roundtable discussion that is scheduled for June 27.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

1. USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant-Public Hearing

At this time on the agenda, a public hearing was scheduled to discuss proposed upgrades to the Goddard Livestock Show Arena, improvements to student housing, and the acquisition of a vehicle for campus activity travel. The hearing aimed to inform the community and gather feedback. The college intends to apply for financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Services, to fund these projects. Community members had the opportunity to attend and share their thoughts and concerns.

E. BOARD MINUTES

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

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

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

The motion carried.

F. RESOLUTIONS

None

G. POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

None

H. INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS/ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

1. Posthumous Honorary Degree-Jayna Soukhaseum

At our prior board meeting, we discussed awarding a posthumous degree to Jayna Soukhaseum, a student from Bokoshe who passed away over Christmas break. The State Regent's office requires an official vote documented in the board minutes. Jayna was 12 credit hours away from graduating.

Regent Jeffrey moved, and Regent Bland seconded to approve the Posthumous Honorary Degree for Jayna Soukhaseum as presented.

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

The motion carried.

I. BUDGETARY ACTIONS

1. Payroll & Claims -April 2024 in the amount of \$1,983,308.76

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

Regent Jeffrey moved, and Regent Hamilton seconded to approve the April 2024 Payroll & Claims as presented.

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

The motion carried.

J. OTHER BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Internal Audit Report

Following the review of the supplemental information requested by the Board, Regent Spradley moved, and Regent Bland seconded to approve the Internal Audit report submitted by Crawford & Associates, which had been tabled at the April 19, 2024 meeting.

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

The motion carried.

K. CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS (other than construction and renovation)
None

L. NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES
None

M. NEW BUSINESS UNFORESEEN AT THE TIME AGENDA WAS POSTED
None

N. GENERAL INFORMATION/REPORTS REQUIRING NO ACTION BY THE BOARD
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 March 2024.

During the meeting, it was noted that the cash flow reports currently provide projected numbers, which often differ significantly from the actual figures. It was requested that future reports include only the actual month-end numbers for more accurate data. The projected numbers for March and April were particularly off, highlighting the need for real data.

Regent Spradley proposed using the actual cash balance at the end of each month instead of projections, even if it means the data is slightly delayed. This would provide more meaningful and accurate information. There was general agreement that the actual numbers would be more useful and reduce unnecessary work. It was acknowledged that this change would be beneficial, as current projections are not as critical as they might have been in the past when cash flow was a more pressing issue. The shift to actual numbers was supported by the board, making the reporting process more efficient.

President's Report-Dr. Janet Wansick

- President Wansick reported that Dr. Kyle Foster, Vice President of Student Affairs, brought to our attention that Eastern has a license plate available for purchase at tag agencies, though the current design is unattractive. Dr. Foster coordinated with the marketing team to create a new, more appealing design. This new license plate will be available soon, and the additional funds from its sales will benefit Eastern. The new design was appreciated, and the effort was acknowledged.
- President Wansick informed the board about a recent meeting with the Department of Corrections regarding the resumption of classes at Jackie Brannan through the PEP (Prison Education Program). Despite a tight deadline of less than two weeks, the application was successfully submitted yesterday. After approval from the Department of Corrections, additional approvals will be needed from the Higher Learning Commission and the Department of Education.

The Higher Learning Commission will visit all prison education program locations. With the Pell program now extended to incarcerated individuals, the goal was to start classes

this fall, but it will take more time. Over 30 individuals are ready to enroll. Once all approvals are granted, the college will offer degree programs to incarcerated students at Jackie Brannan. The process involves federal agencies, so it may take some time, but progress is being made.

- President Wansick provided an update on reviving the college magazine with the help of the marketing staff and other campus members. The magazine will be rebranded with a new name, for which suggestions will be solicited. The updated magazine will feature more graphic content, highlight programs and successes, and include data. It will be distributed to alumni and various groups, and also published online. The goal is to have the first issue ready by midsummer, establishing an annual cycle for an end-of-year review. Progress updates will be shared as the project develops.
- President Wansick announced the creation of a new Department of Distance Education and Workforce Readiness. Kelly Semeski, who has been heavily involved in micro-credentialing, will lead this department. She will spearhead various workforce initiatives as part of the college's ongoing efforts in this area. The formation of this department is an exciting development for the college's future workforce programs. Through a grant in cooperation with Connors, the college will hire a Career Services Counselor starting October 1st. This new role will focus on career counseling, internships, and related initiatives, enhancing services that were previously unavailable. This development is an exciting step forward in the college's efforts to support workforce readiness.
- President Wansick informed the board to bring walking shoes for a pre-meeting walkthrough of the new dorm. Despite weather challenges, construction is progressing. The contractors requested an extension (eighty-five days) to the original May 19 deadline and were granted an extension to July 26. This demonstrates that we remain within the project's contractual terms and in good standing. The projected completion date is July 26, 2024.
- President Wansick congratulated Regent Jeffrey on his successful reappointment by the Senate Education Committee during their recent trip to Oklahoma City. The committee voted 11 to nothing in favor of his reappointment, impressed by his credentials and contributions. While the appointment still needs to be confirmed by the full Senate floor, no issues are anticipated. President Wansick extended congratulations to Regent Jeffrey and acknowledged this as a positive outcome for Eastern.

Chairperson and Regent's Report-Regent Leland Walker

- Chairman Walker provided an update regarding the Governor's continued interest in merging Eastern and Carl Albert. He expressed his thoughts on potentially approaching Latimer County to consider implementing an ad valorem tax to support the college. Chairman Walker noted that some junior colleges were exempted from merger discussions due to local ad valorem tax support. He emphasized the economic and community benefits of Eastern's presence in Latimer County and suggested that such a

tax could demonstrate local commitment and help retain autonomy. Chairman Walker proposed opening the floor for discussion on the viability of this option and expressed his previous consideration of the matter.

- Regent Jeffrey provided an update on the Land Sale Task Force meeting, emphasizing the potential for additional revenue streams through land sales. He proposed making this a central focus of an upcoming community roundtable meeting to gather support and discuss implementation. The goal is to have concrete data and information ready by the end of June to move forward with the plan. He also highlighted the economic impact of the college and suggested analyzing its effects on the community. Regent Spradley shared research results indicating that an ad valorem tax to support the college might not be feasible due to statutory restrictions. However, he expressed a willingness to continue exploring alternative approaches with the help of legal counsel. Despite initial setbacks, the board remains committed to finding ways to support the college's financial sustainability.
- Regent Jeffrey provided an update on the college's efforts to reinvigorate its stocker management degree program. He mentioned working with Dr. Harp to revamp the degree and discussed a partnership with National Livestock, a leading company in the country. Through this partnership, Eastern will receive free financing for its stocker operation, a significant win for the college. Regent Jeffrey highlighted the potential for instant cash flow and the opportunity to utilize resources more effectively. He also mentioned the possibility of additional partnerships in the future, such as with Farms Co-op and Farina. These partnerships could provide further resources and opportunities for collaboration. Additionally, Regent Jeffrey discussed plans for a farm tour and collaboration with NRCS, showing ongoing efforts to enhance the college's agricultural programs.
- Regent Jeffrey asked John Redman to provide updates on two main topics: the ad valorem issue and potential collaborations with other agricultural education institutions. Regarding the ad valorem issue, he mentioned Murray State College's situation and how they obtained approval for a special education district to support their programs. He suggested consulting Dr. Tim Faltyn at Murray State College for insights.

Switching hats to represent the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Foundation, Mr. Redman discussed the importance of exploring partnerships with other institutions like Connors State College and Murray State College to learn from their programs. He highlighted recent livestock sales at Murray State College and the potential for collaboration with USDA NRCS on conservation programs.

Mr. Redman also mentioned discussions with Michael Kersey from the Cattlemen's Association about partnership opportunities, including hosting the Cattlemen's Summit. He expressed concern about OSU's decreased involvement in hosting the event and proposed Eastern as a potential host. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of advancing partnerships with NRCS for conservation initiatives, which could also tie into forestry

efforts. Overall, Mr. Redman provided a comprehensive update on various agricultural initiatives and opportunities for collaboration, signaling potential areas of growth and development for Eastern.

- Regent Hamilton expressed appreciation for the recent visit by Miss Hannah Truitt to Indianola to distribute scholarships. He acknowledged the valuable relationship Miss Truitt has with the school counselor, highlighting the importance of such connections in guiding students' decisions about their educational paths. Regent Hamilton emphasized the impact that these relationships have on ensuring that students choose Eastern and opt for traditional education over online alternatives. Overall, he conveyed gratitude for the efforts made to strengthen ties between Eastern and local schools.
- Regent Jeffrey took a moment to publicly acknowledge Candace Raney and express his gratitude for her responsiveness and efficiency in handling his requests. He humorously noted that he frequently contacts her throughout the day, and despite the timing, she consistently fulfills his requests promptly.
- Regent Walker advised that the next board meeting will be:
Friday, June 7, 2024
10:30 a.m.
Eastern Oklahoma State College-Wilburton Campus.

ADJOURNMENT

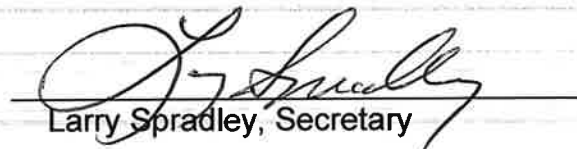
Regent Jeffrey moved, and Regent Hamilton seconded to adjourn at 12:11 p.m.

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

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 May 17, 2024.



Larry Spradley, Secretary



Leland Walker, Chair