



## Board of Regents--December 5, 2025

### Minutes

Eastern Oklahoma State College, 1301 West Main Street, Wilburton, OK  
12/5/2025 10:30 AM CST

#### **Attendance**

##### **Present:**

##### **Members:**

Latt Jeffrey, Chair  
Jerry Hamilton, Vice Chair  
Eric Bilderback  
Cara Bland  
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 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  
Kolby Cato, Instructor of Meat Processing & Food Safety/Soil Judging Team Coach  
Cathy Cogburn, Political Science Prof./Dept. Chair/Foundation Executive Director  
Colby Carpenter, Staff Council Chair and TRiO Director  
Kristen Turner, Dean of Language, Humanities & Education Division  
Andrea Smallwood, Business Administration Professor/Faculty Council Chair  
Jacob Sitton, Director of Marketing & Communications

##### **Guests:**

Mylie Cato  
Allie Trotter  
Jonna Lacey  
Easton Hernandez  
Allie Salyer  
Abby Snap  
Karsyn Perrin  
Caitlynn Rosenow  
Reese Barker  
Shane Green

#### IV. Action Items

##### A. Approval of Minutes

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

 [Approval of Minutes of November 2025 Board of Regents Meeting](#)

Motion: Regent Cara Bland moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2025, meeting as presented. Second: Second by Regent Eric Bilderback.  
Vote: Roll-call vote — Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Latt Jeffrey, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: Jerry Hamilton. Motion passed.

##### B. Finance Committee

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

###### 1. Payroll & Miscellaneous Claims for November 2025

 [Approve Payroll & Miscellaneous Claims for November 2025](#)

Trisha White mentioned the Finance Committee had questions about the costs of the waste service, and that Eastern is currently under a contract with the current vendor. Also, the payroll and claims listed are for November 1 through November 18, due to the timing of the committee meetings.

Motion: Regent Leland Walker moved to approve payroll and miscellaneous claims for November 2025 in the amount of \$1.7 million as recommended by the Finance Committee. Second: Second by Regent Eric Bilderback.

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

###### 2. Academic Service Fees 2026-2027

 [Approve Academic Service Fees for 2026-2027](#)

Trisha White explained that the fees are pass-through fees. In January 2026, the State Regents will review fee requests, and any changes will go into effect in Fall 2026. The only change was to the nursing exam fee, and it will actually decrease the fees by approximately \$75.

This grant will be submitted very soon, and part of the submission is this Resolution by Eastern's Board of Regents.

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

Roll-call vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Jerry Hamilton, Latt Jeffrey, 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's Activities for BOR.pdf](#)

Dr. Harp announced that Eastern had received a transformational gift of \$16 million from the Yield Giving Foundation, supported by MacKenzie Scott. The donation is an unrestricted, one-time gift, and confidentiality was required until the funds were officially received. It was determined that placing the funds into a Foundation account, would allow for greater flexibility in the use of the funds. Eastern worked closely with the Foundation Board to follow the outlined steps for acceptance and announcement. The funds were deposited into a holding account at the Bank of Oklahoma, earning interest at approximately 3.93%. Dr. Harp emphasized the need for prudence and long-term planning. A committee comprising Foundation Board members, Regents, and administrators will be formed to determine how the funds should be invested and utilized. The preliminary recommendation is to allocate 85% to an endowment or reserve fund for perpetual growth, 13% for immediate needs such as deferred maintenance (currently estimated at \$12 million), and 2% for administrative and investment fees. Dr. Harp stressed that spending the entire amount quickly would be unwise. Instead, investing the funds could generate sustainable annual revenue while preserving the principal. For example, earning 6–8% annually while withdrawing 4% could allow the endowment to grow over time, even accounting for inflation. This strategy positions the college to maintain operations and pursue growth despite uncertainties in state funding formulas.

The college received notification this week of a federal planning grant totaling \$375,000, which will be matched with \$125,000 to create a \$500,000 planning effort for Salmon Hall and Miller Hall. The funds will support architectural, engineering, and long-term planning work and will strengthen the college's position as it reapplies for a Brownfield Grant. If awarded, the Brownfield Grant would fund the abatement of the two former residence halls, creating momentum for future fundraising, renovation, and naming opportunities. Regents commended Dr. Harp for prioritizing long-term institutional growth and sustainability in the use of these funds.

comments or concerns regarding the proposal. The Board discussed options for the meeting to ensure it meets the Brownsfield grant requirements.

Motion: Regent Jerry Hamilton moved to change the January 2026 meeting to the Wilburton campus and schedule the February meeting on the Idabel Campus. Second: Second by Regent Eric Bilderback.

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

VII. Adjournment

Motion: Regent Jerry Hamilton moved to adjourn. Second: Second by Regent Leland Walker.

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

**Certificate:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, 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 Regular Meeting duly and lawfully held on December 5, 2025.

  
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Larry Spradley, Secretary

  
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Latt Jeffrey, Chair