



## Board of Regents--November 2025 Minutes

Eastern Oklahoma State College November 14, 2025, 10:30 AM

Eastern Oklahoma State College, Bill H. Hill Library

1301 West Main Street, Wilburton, OK 74578

### **Attendance**

#### **Present:**

##### **Members:**

Latt Jeffrey, Chair  
Larry Spradley, Secretary  
Eric Bilderback  
Cara Bland  
Brian Lott  
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  
Anne Brooks, Dean of the McAlester Campus/Assistant VP of Academic Affairs  
Cathy Cogburn, Political Science Prof./Dept. Chair/Foundation Executive Director  
Dr. Carter Mattson, Dean of Behavioral & Social Sciences Division,  
History & Political Science Professor  
Paul Wills, Vice Chair of Faculty Council and  
Psychology & Sociology Professor/Department Chair  
Colby Carpenter, Staff Council Chair and TRiO Director  
Jade Edwards, Meat Processing & Food Safety Instructor/Meats Judging Coach

#### **Guests:**

Averie Bain  
Jake Cottage  
Bailyn Hill  
Robert Kincade  
Dylan Neely  
Gracie Ward  
Eli Whitney

#### **Absent:**

Jerry Hamilton, Vice Chair  
Trisha White, Vice President for Administrative Affairs

I. **Call to Order**

Chair Jeffrey called the regular meeting of the Eastern Oklahoma State College Board of Regents to order at 10:30 a.m.

II. **Roll Call/Declaration of Quorum**

Roll call was conducted by Helen Scott and a quorum was declared with Regents Bilderback, Bland, Jeffrey, Lott, Spradley, and Walker present.

III. **Introduction of Guests**

The Eastern Meats Judging Team coach, Jade Edwards was introduced, and she introduced the team members in attendance. Those students were Averie Bain, Dylan Neely, Robert Kincaid, Eli Whitney, Gracie Ward, and Bailyn Hill. Ms. Edwards discussed how the team built on their strong spring performance and continued to excel throughout the fall judging season, competing in three major contests: Beef Empire Days in Garden City, Kansas; the American Royal in Omaha, Nebraska; and the Cargill High Plains contest in Texas. At the Beef Empire Days, they were named the high overall team, with standout individual placements from Averie Bain(1st), Robert Kincaid (2nd), Gracie Ward (5th), and Bailyn Hill as high alternate, highlighted by an exceptional 1047 in beef grading—likely a division record. They followed with a successful trip north, earning second high team at the American Royal, where Gracie Ward narrowly missed first place by one point, and Bailyn Hill, Robert Kincaid, and Averie Bain all placed in the top ten. Their season concluded with a Reserve National Championship at the Cargill High Plains contest, with Averie Bain, Gracie Ward, and Eli Whitney finishing in the top ten. Additionally, only eight students nationwide are named All-Americans in their division, and both Averie Bane (First Team) and Gracie Ward (Second Team) earned this prestigious honor. Coach Edwards expressed deep pride in all six team members, noting that they represented Eastern exceptionally well throughout the year. Recruiting for next year is going very well. Ms. Edward is actively talking with multiple high school students. Overall, numbers in meat judging are trending upward, and she is optimistic about maintaining that momentum.

Jake Cottage, recently named the Region 2 Coach of the Year, shared a brief but heartfelt recap of the soccer team’s postseason. He described the experience as an emotional roller coaster, highlighted by a thrilling 3–2 overtime victory in the

semifinal with a golden goal finish. The team then moved on to the final the next day, where they played well but ultimately fell 1–0 in a closely contested match that could have gone either way. Despite the tough loss, Coach Cottage expressed pride in the players’ performance, attitude, and conduct both on and off the field, noting that it was a strong season overall and expressing his appreciation for the recognition and support.

#### IV. **Action Items**

##### A. **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of prior minutes was considered. Clarifying remarks were made regarding enrollment numbers.

Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to approve the minutes of October 10, 2025, Special Meeting as presented. Second: Second by Regent Larry Spradley.

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

##### B. **Finance Committee**

###### 1. **Payroll & Miscellaneous Claims for October**

The Finance Committee reported a productive and positive meeting, during which members reviewed and discussed payroll and miscellaneous claims totaling approximately \$3.9 million for October. Committee members addressed several individual expenses, all of which were satisfactorily explained and clarified.

Motion: Larry Spradley moved to approve payroll and miscellaneous claims for October 2025 in the amount of \$3,939,403.95 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Second: Second by Regent Walker.

Vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

###### 2. **External Audit--Financial Statements and Compliance**

The Finance Committee received the year-end 2025 audit report from Jim Hinkle, who provided an efficient and thorough overview. The single audit section is not finalized due to the

government shutdown which has delayed the Office of Management and Budget from releasing the 2025 supplement. Preliminary testing revealed no compliance issues or questioned cost. The discussion with Mr. Hinkle was highly productive, including conversation about enhanced financial reporting opportunities. He will be working with Ms. White and Deana Enfield to further develop these reporting tools. Dr. Harp also commented on how expanded reporting could help quantify the value of a student on campus, potentially supporting requests for additional staffing or instructional resources. Overall, the audit review was informative and constructive.

Motion: Larry Spradley moved to accept the external audit as recommended by the Finance Committee. Second: Second by Regent Lott. Vote: Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, Leland Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

### **3. Land Sales**

The board received an explanation regarding Lots 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 34, 35, and 36, which were originally intended for inclusion in the sale of five tracts of land east of town. Upon reviewing the legal descriptions, it was determined that several parcels had not been included in the board's previous action, and this item serves to correct that oversight, so all intended properties are officially authorized for sale.

The lots, located in the Townsite Addition #3 subdivision rather than a traditional section–township–range description, are wooded areas with limited access and have not been utilized by the college. The realtor plans to list the properties for an online auction beginning next week, with bidding scheduled to run through December 18. Maps of the tracts are available in the Finance Committee materials for any board members wishing to review them.

The board was reminded that the sale will be conducted entirely online and that word-of-mouth promotion from board members will help increase visibility. While activity is expected to remain minimal until closer to the auction's December 18 closing date, no sale will be final until the results are returned to the board for approval. Although there is no formal reserve, the appraised values serve as a guide, and the board retains full authority to

accept or reject any bid. The added lots total approximately 100 acres of largely unused wooded, scrub, or floodplain land east of town, much of which has gone untouched by the college for decades. Discussion also acknowledged potential interest from out-of-state buyers, including those seeking hunting property, though the realtor—United Country—will employ its full marketing network to ensure broad exposure. Portions of the land fall within city limits, depending on the tract, and maps can be reviewed upon request.

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

**A. Student Affairs Committee Report**

Dr. Perry reported that Student Affairs currently has 278 occupied housing beds, leaving 56 vacancies, some of which are due to HVAC and major renovation needs. Of the campus apartments, 26 are occupied, while seven remain offline because of significant repairs, with work scheduled to begin soon on two of them. A waiting list exists for apartments, indicating lost revenue potential while units remain unrenovated. Discussion noted that delays are tied to staffing transitions, limited maintenance capacity, and the high cost of needed repairs, compounded by water damage and aging infrastructure. The committee also reviewed the success of Mountaineer Mania, which hosted 286 registered students from 31 schools—including 14 new schools—and saw strong campus participation and positive feedback. Recruitment efforts included visits to 21 schools and 12 college fairs. Dr. Harp updated the group on the recently approved \$1.8 million in deferred maintenance funding expected within 30 days, with priorities including major roof repairs and significant HVAC improvements in housing and the Student Center. Board members discussed the possibility of financing apartment renovations to recoup revenue through increased occupancy, while also emphasizing the need to address HVAC deficiencies campus-wide to support enrollment growth and campus activities. Overall, the committee acknowledged both the progress made and the significant facility needs impacting housing capacity and student experience.

**B. Academic Affairs Committee Report**

John Spradling reported that the committee met to review program assessments for six academic programs. Although some actions had already been taken by the State Regents, additional reports were still required to complete their documentation process. The committee recommended continuing the mass communications and pre-elementary

education programs, noting that pre-elementary education meets required enrollment thresholds but falls slightly below the target number of graduates. In the Agriculture Division, horticulture and forestry programs had previously undergone State Regents action, and the college has requested approval to revitalize and restructure forestry by offering the program in the Idabel area to better align with regional industry needs. The meat processing program has been merged under the Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture, similar to the restructuring of horticulture and forestry under the Associate of Science, to streamline reporting and reduce the number of separate program reviews required each cycle.

Discussion emphasized that consolidating multiple agriculture degrees into two umbrella programs will simplify data collection, improve reporting, and help avoid low-productivity classifications. Faculty will continue conducting annual internal assessments, with full program reviews occurring every five years. All divisions are also implementing improved graduate follow-up processes to collect more accurate employment and transfer data.

Dr. Carter Mattson then provided an update from the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division, noting that the division serves as a primary point of student contact and support. Criminal justice enrollment has increased to approximately 48 majors, aided by active recruitment and the development of a new advisory committee of law enforcement professionals. In psychology and child development, degree completion remains steady, and the Social Services Certificate continues to grow, with 23 certificates awarded within the past year and a half. In history and political science, the new Native American Studies program is gaining momentum, with recently approved transferable courses, expanded language offerings, and recruitment efforts extending to tribal nations across the state. Faculty across the division continue professional development and are actively engaged in student recruitment and support. The board expressed appreciation for the division's efforts and commitment to students.

#### **C. President's Report**

Dr. Harp reported that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Choctaw Nation, previously approved by the Board, has now been fully executed. The college is awaiting the Choctaw Nation's marketing rollout and a joint signing ceremony, after which the agreement will be publicly promoted. He also provided an overview of current personnel totals following the loss of grant-funded positions, noting that EOSC now

employs 32 full-time faculty, approximately 30 adjunct faculty, 104 full-time staff, and 18 part-time staff across all campuses.

Dr. Harp commended the success of Mountaineer Mania and confirmed that the board's letter of appreciation had been shared with the physical plant team. He announced several upcoming events, including the Homecoming Hall of Fame Dinner, Regents Education Program, and Agriculture Hall of Fame celebration. He also updated the Board on ongoing discussions regarding a potential trail system partnership with the City of Wilburton.

A major portion of the report included an update on comprehensive property mapping completed by Arkoma Surveying and Mapping. EOSC now has detailed digital and physical maps showing tract numbers, acreage, legal descriptions, and land use (pasture or timber) for all college-owned properties. This system will allow for easier identification of parcels and more efficient future updates. Dr. Harp also outlined plans to add signage and explore alumni sponsorship opportunities for naming pastures and Goddard seating.

He closed by highlighting recent and upcoming Homecoming activities, including the chili cook-off, AFR speech contest, pep rally, parade, tailgate events, and basketball games, noting strong campus engagement throughout the week.

**D. Chairperson and Regents' Report**

Chairman Jeffrey reported that a community welcome event for Dr. Harp will be held on December 4, with invitations already distributed. The informal gathering will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the ballroom with a meet-and-greet, followed by dinner and brief remarks. Regents were encouraged to suggest any additional community members who should be invited. He also noted that the item regarding the proposed trail system was removed from the agenda due to unanswered questions, but further information will be presented at a future meeting once the Trails Committee can provide updates.

Chairman Jeffrey highlighted progress on the Goddard Building remodel and announced ongoing plans for a fundraising campaign to replace seating, with sponsorship opportunities to be introduced during the December 6 Ag Hall of Fame banquet. Several upcoming events were reviewed, including the December 5 board meeting, committee meetings on November 21, and the ongoing online auction for college property. He encouraged Regents to attend athletic events and stay engaged with

campus activities. Additional remarks included updates on a recent newspaper article about the stocker program, plans to present the Regents Impact Award in December, and positive developments in athletics, particularly women's basketball, which started the season with two wins and strong student support. The Chairman closed by inviting any remaining comments from the Regents and reminding everyone that lunch would follow the meeting.

**VI. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

**A. Next Regular Board Meeting**

December 5, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the Bill H. Hill Library Building

**B. Committee Meetings & Scheduled Discussions**

The next committee meetings are on November 21, 2025:

- Finance Committee at 9 a.m. via ZOOM
- Governance and Legal Committee at 10 a.m. via ZOOM

**VII. Adjournment**

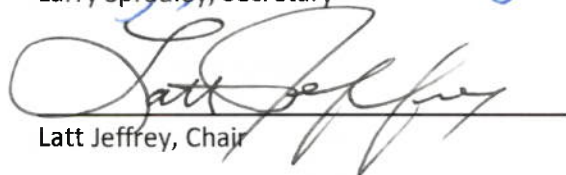
Motion: Regent Brian Lott moved to adjourn the meeting. Second: Second by Regent Larry Spradley.

Vote Ayes: Eric Bilderback, Cara Bland, Latt Jeffrey, Brian Lott, Larry Spradley, 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 Special Meeting duly and lawfully held on November 14, 2025.

  
Larry Spradley, Secretary

  
Latt Jeffrey, Chair