



MINUTES  
BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
September 18, 2020 10:30 A.M.

The Board of Regents for Eastern Oklahoma State College met for the regular scheduled meeting at 10:30 a.m., September 18, 2020, in the Ballroom located on the Second Floor of the E.E. Tourtellotte Student Center of the Wilburton Campus.

Members of the Board present:

Mr. Brian Lott, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Cara Bland, Secretary  
Mr. Bobby Mouser, Member  
Mr. Latt Jeffrey, Member  
Mr. Larry Spradley, Member  
Mrs. Loise Washington, Member

Members absent:

Mrs. Teresa Jackson, Chair

Others present:

Dr. Janet Wansick, President  
Dr. Patricia Ratliff, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Mrs. Trish McBeath, Vice President of Student and External Affairs  
Mrs. Amy Armstrong, Vice President of Administrative Service/HR Director  
Ms. Trisha White, Director of Finance  
Mrs. Anne Brooks, McAlester Campus Dean  
Mrs. Candace Raney, Executive Assistant to the President and to the Board of Regents  
Mrs. Kellye Semeski, Faculty Council Chair  
Mrs. Teresa Brady, Staff Council Chair  
Mrs. Larriann Livingston, Dean of Agriculture Division  
Mr. Michael Reed, Oklahoma Miner Training Institute (OMTI) Director  
Miss Taylor Chambers, Vice-President, Eastern Student Government Association

- A. Regent Lott called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

B. Regent Lott declared a quorum present.

C-1,2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

1. Amy Armstrong introduced Michael Reed as the new Director for the Oklahoma Miner Training Institute.
2. Dr. Wansick introduced Taylor Chambers. Taylor is the current Vice-President for Eastern's Student Government Association.

D-1 **BOARD MINUTES**

1. Regular Scheduled Meeting on August 21, 2020.

Regent Bland moved and Regent Mouser seconded to approve item D,1, minutes as presented.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Mouser, Regent Spradley, Regent Washington. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Regent Jackson. The motion carried.

H-1. **BUDGETARY ACTIONS**

1. Payroll & Claims
  - i. August 2020 in the amount of \$2,232,067.64.

Regent Spradley moved and Regent Jeffrey seconded to approve item H, 1, as presented.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Mouser, Regent Spradley, Regent Washington. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Regent Jackson. The motion carried.

J-1,2,3,4. **CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS**

1. Zinpro-Commercial Validation Proposal
2. In10sity Interactive
3. Symbiotic, LLC
4. Nursing Agreements
  - i. Sanderling Dialysis
  - ii. Haworth Public Schools

Regent Washington moved and Regent Spradley seconded to approve items J, 1, 2, 3, 4- i, ii, as presented.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Mouser, Regent Spradley, Regent Washington. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Regent Jackson. The motion carried.

L-1. **NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF FACILITIES**

1. Shooting Sports Facility

Regent Bland moved and Regent Jeffrey seconded to approve items L, 1 as presented.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Mouser, Regent Spradley, Regent Washington. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Regent Jackson. The motion carried.

Q-1-3. **GENERAL INFORMATION/REPORTS REQUIRING NO ACTION BY THE BOARD**

1. Personnel Report – Dr. Wansick reported that there were no unusual personnel issues to report.

2. McAlester Report

**Anne Brooks**

- Anne announced that they received a new Student ID Machine, that was purchased with CARES Act funds, has been very helpful and a great benefit for the McAlester campus.
- Anne recently participated on a ZOOM meeting with OSRHE regarding Oklahoma's Critical Occupations. Critical Occupations are jobs that are in-demand and make high wages. Many of these occupations have skills that translate to other similar jobs and industries. 100 Critical Occupations list will be out soon. OSRHE will compare proposals for new programming to this list.
- Anne commended the faculty, staff, and students at the McAlester campus for adhering to the mask mandate and social distancing.

3. President's Report

**Trisha White-Director of Finance Report**

- Trisha gave the group a detailed Cash Flow Report.

**Dr. Patricia Ratliff-Academic Affairs Report**

- McCurtain County campus has reopened for face-to-face instruction as of August 24 because the community cases of coronavirus have decreased. We continue to meet with our Southeastern counterparts regularly to monitor that situation.

- Enrollment is now open for eight-week courses this fall. Courses being offered during the fall semester include Chemistry; Criminal Procedures and Evidence; Ethics for Criminal Justice; American History to 1877; American History Since 1877; Survey of World Religions; College Algebra; Intro to Mass Communication; Medical Terminology; Nutrition, Orientation; American Federal Government; Intro to Psychology; and Developmental Psychology. All the courses are online with the exception of Chemistry (Wilburton) and one section of Orientation (McAlester). Classes begin on Oct. 5 and will conclude at the end of the fall semester on Dec. 11. We currently have 13 students enrolled as of this morning. While 8-week terms are often offered at the beginning of the semesters, mainly orientation courses, we will now offer more regular courses then as well as in the second half of the semester. Adding increased flexibility by adding 4-week intercession courses as well, including 2 4-week courses during the summer. The community colleges around us already provide this level of flexibility for our students. We probably did this at some point in the past.
- We are currently participating in a Department of Labor grant, forming a consortium with the other community colleges in the state. TCC is taking the lead. This Request for Proposals is called Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants, and is designed to build the capacity of community colleges to collaborate with employers and the public workforce development system to meet labor market demand for a skilled and educated workforce, particularly aimed at unemployed individuals to get into the workforce faster, particularly meeting the needs brought on by the pandemic. For our portion, we are proposing a new certificate that combines health care with computer and business sciences, to be called Health Information Technology Assistant. It will include paid internships, to be covered by a portion of our part of the grant if our group is successful.
- We are proposing to shorten the time needed to complete the Meat Processing certificate. It is currently 35 hours and the Ag Division is looking at decreasing the number of hours required and taking advantage of the new flexibility in semester term lengths.
- We are also creating an embedded certificate within the Ranch Management-Stocker AAS, so students could take just the core classes over a year or maybe less and have a certificate whether or not they wanted to continue to take the required courses to earn the AAS degree.
- We will be advertising soon to refill the Music Instructor position vacated by Dr. Hendrix this summer. We have hired adjunct instructors to keep the band and choir going, and they are planning for the Fall Concert and Candlelighting, appropriately configured for our new normal.

### **Trish McBeath-Student & External Affairs Report**

- COVID-19 Updates-Things seem to be going well at all campuses. We have had some positive cases and performed contact tracing to quarantine exposed students to help mitigate the spread. Last week, we updated our protocols for students and employees based on recent changes from the CDC and recommendations by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The biggest changes in our protocols were the length of time necessary for individuals to either isolate or quarantine based on a positive test result or exposure of a close contact. We also developed a Self-Reporting Form on our website so students, faculty and staff can self-report symptoms, exposure to a positive case or their own positive test results. The form is working great and has improved our communication and protocols. We are also now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of posting our COVID statistics on our website. Every Friday, we update the positive cases currently in isolation, the number of close contacts currently in quarantine and the number of historical positive cases overall for both students and employees at all four teaching sites. I think this proves that we are being transparent with the public about the COVID situation on our campus and helps keep our college community up to date.
- Recruitment-Our recruiters are working hard to schedule visits to as many high schools as they are allowed in right now. We have been planning some new and different avenues to recruit this year due to COVID. We are planning our first Virtual Recruitment Event in mid-October. It will be a live Zoom event in the evening with recruiters, admissions and enrollment advisors and financial aid representatives. We will see how this first virtual event goes and plan additional events accordingly.
- Campus Safety-September is National Suicide Prevention Month and in order to help raise awareness of suicide prevention, we offered an optional training opportunity for all faculty and staff (full-time, part-time and adjunct employees in Wilburton, McAlester, Idabel and Antlers). We partnered with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Choctaw Nation Tomorrow's Hope program to offer an online simulation training opportunity through Kognito that will help teach us to notice signs of distress, use techniques to discuss our concerns, and if necessary, refer students to appropriate resources. The online training simulations let you practice these challenging conversations through role-play with virtual students and a virtual coach who provides feedback on your interaction. You can also go back and change your responses to try another approach and get different reactions from your virtual student. Employees were offered a one-time stipend of \$45 to complete the training. This was provided by the Tomorrow's Hope grant. The deadline is today to participate is today and as of this morning, we have had 98 people complete the training.

### **Amy Armstrong-Administrative Services Report**

- No report given

### Dr. Janet Wansick-President Update

- Dr. Wansick shared with board members a list of meetings that she attended during the month.
- Dr. Wansick advised that we were awarded a nearly \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTI) program. The grant is for five years beginning Oct. 1, 2020. The Title III grant will focus on increasing student retention, persistence, and graduation rates, as well as student development of 21st-century skills. Eastern's service area lies in the heart of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and our institution is home to many students from other Native American tribes. This NASNTI grant is a wonderful opportunity to improve our existing programs, add culturally responsive teaching strategies, and increase our students' opportunities to succeed. We are honored to receive this significant grant and we greatly appreciate the continued support we receive through our partnerships with local tribal leaders. The grant will allow Eastern to revise 31 courses, infusing active learning and culturally-responsive instructional strategies to help faculty identify and include students' cultural experiences in all aspects of teaching and learning. Eastern will also develop a "Native Americans Who Code" summer program to introduce and attract Native American students to computer science degree programs. The program will consist of four courses that will result in a computer coding certificate upon completion. The final portion of the project will include the creation of a new learning commons and interactive classroom in the Library on the Wilburton campus. The new learning commons will house three private study and tutoring rooms for individual and small group work; two larger collaborative learning spaces that can be reconfigured for use by a large group or multiple small groups; a computer lab; a cultural engagement lab; and a proctored testing center.
- Dr. Wansick advised that enrollment is now open for eight-week courses this fall. Classes begin on Oct. 5 and will conclude at the end of the fall semester on Dec. 11. The courses offer an additional enrollment option for students who were unable to begin classes in August due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eight-week courses available during the fall semester include Chemistry; Criminal Procedures and Evidence; Ethics for Criminal Justice; American History to 1877; American History Since 1877; Survey of World Religions; College Algebra; Intro to Mass Communication; Medical Terminology; Nutrition, Orientation; American Federal Government; Intro to Psychology; and Developmental Psychology. All of the courses are online with the exception of Chemistry (Wilburton) and one section of Orientation (McAlester).
- Dr. Wansick shared that the Oklahoma Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Board recently awarded Eastern Oklahoma State College a \$600,000 grant to fund renovations and purchase new equipment for the college's meat processing facility. The funds will be used to expand freezer space, update cooling rooms and purchase new

equipment. With these updates, the facility will be able to increase production by processing beef from the College's farm, as well as continue to serve outside customers with custom harvest options. The grant will allow faculty to make the updates needed in their teaching methods, as well as provide them the opportunity to expose students to new types of technology. The updates will not only give students access to new equipment and technology, but also allow them to have a better understanding of how to operate a successful business.

- Dr. Wansick advised that Scott Clawson, NE Area Ag Econ Specialist from Oklahoma State University has agreed to provide assistance at no cost to the college for our Stocker Cattle Program. We will continue to look at other opportunities locally to assist with this program.
- Choctaw Nation's Legal team reached out to Dr. Wansick regarding a piece of land that they would be interested in purchasing. Dr. Wansick is working with Mr. Matt Stangl from the Attorney General's office on the project.

R-1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Regent Lott reported that the next Board Meeting will be on Friday, November 20, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in the EE Tourtellotte Student Center Ballroom located on the Wilburton campus.

Regent Washington moved and Regent Jeffrey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Those voting aye: Regent Bland, Regent Jeffrey, Regent Lott, Regent Mouser, Regent Spradley, Regent Washington. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Regent Jackson. The motion carried.

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Cara Bland 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 their Regular Scheduled Meeting hereof, truly and lawfully held on the 18<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2020.

  
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Cara Bland, Secretary

  
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Brian Lott, Vice- Chair