

**UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

The Board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma met Wednesday, September 9, 2020, via video conference. Before the meeting was called to order, President John Feaver stated that advance public notice of this meeting was properly filed and displayed in compliance with the Open Meeting Act. Chair Tom Cordell called the meeting to order at 1:38pm and asked for roll call, he then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members remotely present via video conference: David McLaughlin, Diane Ming, Chris Mosley, Cale Walker, and Kelly Wilkerson. Members physically present on campus: Tom Cordell. Members absent: David Ferrell. President John Feaver and Vanessa McNabb, Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the USAO Board of Regents were also physically present on campus. Others remotely present via video conference: Vice President Donna Gower, Vice President Mike Coponiti, Vice President Sid Hudson, Vice President Monica Trevino, Director of Communications and Marketing Amy Goddard, Director of Alumni Development Misti McClellan, and Faculty Association Chair Jason Shaw.

Introductions: None.

Presentations:

1. Out-going Chair David Ferrell was recognized by President Feaver and will be receiving an honorary gavel.
2. Newly appointed Regent Kelly Wilkerson was sworn in by President Feaver.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 10, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting: On a motion from Regent Ming, seconded by Regent Walker, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Communications: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Personnel –

a. Appointments

Rebekah Willoughby, effective July 1, 2020, full-time, Alumni & Community Relations Coordinator, salary \$30,000

David Reed, effective August 16, 2020, full-time, Assistant Professor Environmental Science, salary \$50,130

Amber Diaz, effective August 17, 2020, full-time, Instructor Speech-Language Pathology, salary \$42,500

b. Changes in Status

Nicole McMonagle, effective September 1, 2020, Director of Nash Library

Matthew Reynolds, effective September 1, 2020, Assistant Professor of Deaf Education

c. Resignations

Alexis Avery, effective July 24, 2020

K'Reen Wilson, effective July 31, 2020

Sarah Stagg, effective August 8, 2020

Jonathan Thomason, effective August 14, 2020

On a motion from Regent McLaughlin, and seconded by Regent Walker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel actions.

Chairman Cordell asked President Feaver to send congratulations on behalf of the Regents to the new hires and those who had a change in status.

2. Monthly Financial Statements – Vice President for Business and Finance Mike Coponiti covered the monthly and quarterly financials with the group.

No action was necessary.

3. Report on Financial Aid for FY2019-2020 –Dean of Enrollment Management Laura Coponiti went over the Financial Aid Report for FY2019-2020. It was noted 92% of unduplicated students received some type of financial aid during that time.

No action was necessary

Request to Approve Proposed Title IX Policy -Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Monica Trevino along with Vice President Coponiti and Dean of Students Nancy Hughes worked on the policy. The policy ensures compliance with federal and state civil rights laws and regulations. This policy makes it clear as to what falls under Title IX and what does not.

The specifics of roles were a challenge with us being a small institution. The most important piece for all is how hearings will take place. Overall it is a solid document and process with input from ATIXA and the attorney general's office. Annual training is required and will be provided for those involved.

On a motion from Regent McLaughlin, seconded by Regent Mosley, the policy was approved unanimously.

5. President's Report

a. Fall Opening –enrollment for this fall was down about 8% which is half of what was estimated. Approximately 400 students residing on campus, 75% capacity.

The COVID Advisory Group (VP Trevino, VP Coponiti, VP Gower, N. Hughes, and A. Goddard) shared campus preparations for the fall opening.

VP Trevino—Three phases were developed for returning to campus and reopening in the fall. They included housing (move-in & spacing), campus spaces, classes, faculty/staff/student needs for accommodations, processes, policies, etc. Thus far reopening has been successful. The university will provide free voluntary testing on September 14, 2020 to anyone interested. Vice President Trevino also mentioned all international students had to automatically quarantine for one week before being tested, if their result was negative, they were no longer quarantined.

VP Hudson- NAIA wanted all athletes tested before the season, but then changed the requirement to a preference. USAO had already decided to hold a mandatory testing of all athletes. There were 227 athletes and coaches tested with only three positive tests (all students). NAIA is requiring temperatures be taken before and after practice. Following protocols is stressed to athletes by coaches and the athletic director.

Amy Goddard, Director of Communication and Marketing—a weekly reporting of the number of self-reported COVID-19 cases on campus is sent each Tuesday to all faculty, staff, and students. Self-reporting is not mandatory but encouraged to maintain a safe and healthy campus. Those who test positive are asked to report it to the Dean of Students, Nancy Hughes who is working with the Grady County Health Department regarding cases on campus. This week's report had one case on campus. We are also using a free screening app the campus community can download to their phone. The individual answers a few questions with responses being viewed daily for any areas for concern. We currently have approximately 369 of our population using the app, which is about one-third. So far, it has been a useful tool.

VP Coponiti—purchased a large tent placed on the oval for use as an outdoor classroom to assist with distancing. In preparation large quantities of face masks and shields, desk shields, classroom shields for placing between the faculty member and students. USAO branded face masks were given to all faculty, staff, and students. Disposable masks are available for vendors. Hand sanitizer has been placed in each classroom and most administrative offices. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed on walls as you enter major buildings and touchless paper towel dispensers have been installed in restrooms. UV filtration systems will be on every system on campus by the end of September. Foggers are being used and high touch areas are being wiped more frequently.

VP Gower—delivery of courses this fall- 67% in-person, 18% hybrid, and 15% online. Classrooms were modified for distancing and any class with an enrollment of 40 or more was moved to online delivery. Eighty-five percent of our students are meeting either all or almost all in person. Students are

attending classes and logging on to Zoom. Overall classes have been going well.

Jason Shaw, Faculty Association President reported “a lot” of faculty are happy to be back on campus and working with students. There are a number of faculty teaching online due to specific situations, those in the classroom are following procedures to stay safe.

Nancy Hughes, Dean of Students—talked about support for students. Mental health issues always increase in fall, but more of an increase has been seen this fall. Services are in place to assist with student needs. Student Services is making sure events and intramurals are happening on campus and students remain engaged outside of the classroom.

The campus is still closed to the public.

We do have a Contingency Plan for closing if numbers reach unacceptable levels.

- b. Admissions Report, Summer and Fall** –Sheppard McConnell, Dean of Admissions and Recruitment. The team worked hard during the summer reaching out to all that applied, etc. unfortunately fall 2020 goals were not met, generally because of financial reasons or a concern of leaving their current transfer institution. Also lost out-of-state and international students. The new enrollment program was moved completely online, two days a week and was successful.

Admissions is now using a new program called Slate which is a cloud based complete solution for student management used for recruiting by reaching out automatically to prospective students. Admitting begins the end of September.

Developing multiple communication plans, through email, signing up for tours, inquiries, after application, etc. Communications & Marketing created great materials for distribution. Fall travel will be different, fairs will be done virtually or one-on-one limited to a 50-mile radius; pushing for virtual tours or one-on-one campus tours. The numbers are looking good thus far.

Mr. McConnell thanked Regent McLaughlin and Regent Ming for donations received to assist in recruiting. The Hector Scholarship was also helpful in recruiting.

Cathy Perri, Director of Neill-Wint Center for Neurodiversity—reported 100% retention and five new students came in as freshman. There are now 14 students on campus in the program. The Student Success Center provides tutoring; thirteen new social coaches are being trained for peer’s program. Ms. Perri thanked faculty for going out of their way to support these students.

- c. NAIA, Athletics** –It was decided if 50% or fewer teams participate, championships would be cancelled or postponed until spring, the latter is currently the case. Institutions and conferences were allowed to make their own decisions regarding fall sports. The Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) will have a shortened season ending just before Thanksgiving. Volleyball, both men’s and women’s soccer, and golf will have shortened seasons, cross country will not compete. The games being played in the fall will not count toward spring competition. Testing protocols for institutions varies. For the most part, travel has been restricted. NAIA did allow for student athletes who lost eligibility to return for this year, if they qualified as students; most returned to play. The basketball season has yet to be determined.
- d. Federal Stimulus** –VP Coponiti reported half of the CARES money went to student grants (required by Department of Education) to offset the cost of going to online in the spring. The other half went to operational needs, supplies, equipment, technology, etc. The entire amount received has been either spent or accounted for.

The President mentioned there are several stimulus plans in the works at the national level.

- e. Foundation and Development** –VP Hudson reported the Foundation ended up the year at 6.5% which is above the three-year average goal of 6% set by the Board. Oil and gas revenues were off, but are starting to come back. Foundation is still in good shape.

Summarized the eight projects under construction- Te Ata stage being finished; baseball complex is 96% complete; softball complex hampered by weather and extra work needing done, but the building has been ordered; the Habitat project has also been slowed by weather and the building has been ordered. The downtown space ArtWrecker will be used as gallery and teaching space; Gary hall historic kitchen needs carpeting and will then be complete; the commuter lounge in the library is being remodeled; tennis courts are also being renovated; renovation plans for both Willard Hall and historic fieldhouse are complete.

JP Audas, Director of Development reported year end numbers have been compiled 2018-19 \$1.2 to nearly \$1.7 in 2019-20 representing a 31% increase in revenue received private support. The number of gifts was about the same, but the size of gifts was up going from \$800 to just under \$1200. Noted best gifts came before COVID-19.

Recently received a gift from a 1956 grad Margaret Honegger. Her mother was a 1922 OCW grad and a member of the Echo Society. Members of this society leave the university a gift in their estate. Ms. Honegger made a \$100,000 contribution to the university. \$50,000 has already been received and another \$50,000 will be given next year. A music practice room will be refurbished and upgraded in honor of her mother. The remainder will go towards an alumni

scholarship, alumni mentoring programs and small renovations to the alumni office.

Lastly, Mr. Audas gave an update on the 20 for 20 campaign celebrating Dr. Feaver's twentieth anniversary as President of this institution. During the month of July supporters were asked to give \$20 in recognition of the years served. The campaign raised just over \$142,000.

f. **Other** –Nothing further was reported

6. Remarks from Representatives to the Board

- a. Faculty –Remarks were submitted by Faculty Association President, Dr. Jason Shaw.
- b. Student –Remarks were submitted by Student Government Association President, Korbyn Peebles.
- c. Alumni –Remarks were submitted by Director of Alumni Development, Misti McClellan
- d. Staff –Remarks were submitted by Staff Association President, Dwight Yokum

7. Time and Place of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. on the USAO Campus.

8. Consideration of “any matter not known about which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting of the agenda” – None.

9. Adjournment – On a motion from Regent Ming, seconded by Regent McLaughlin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Chairman Cordell declared the Board meeting adjourned at 3:30p.m.

Advance public notice of this meeting was properly filed and displayed in compliance with Title 25, O.S. 1981, Section 311.