

**UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
December 8, 2021**

The Board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma met Wednesday, December 8, 2021, in the Student Center Ballroom on the Science & Arts campus. 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 Law. Chair McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and asked for roll call. Members present- David McLaughlin, Chris Mosley, Kelly Wilkerson, Diane Ming, David Ferrell, and Tom Cordell. Members absent- Cale Walker. Also present were: President John Feaver, Vice President Donna Miles, Vice President Mick Coponiti, Vice President Sid Hudson, Director of Communications and Marketing Amy Goddard, Faculty Association President Dr. Rachel Jones, and Vanessa McNabb, Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Science & Arts Board of Regents.

Introductions: None

Presentations: None

Approval of the Minutes of the November 10, 2021, meeting: On a motion by Regent Mosley, seconded by Regent Ming, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Communications: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Personnel –

a. Appointments

No new appointments to report

b. Changes in Status

Rebecca Snider, effective December 6, 2021, Administrative Assistant to the Director of NASNTI

Lisa Hanks, effective December 31, 2021, Associate Director of Financial Aid

Robyn Rogers, effective January 1, 2022, Director of Financial Aid

c. Resignations

Jim Hopkins, Database Administrator, effective October 31, 2021

Pam Burks, Enrollment and Records Specialist, effective December 3, 2021

d. Recommended Adjunct Faculty for the Spring 2022 Trimester

Susan Adams-Johnson Voice

Freddy Baeza Art

Kaleb Benda Music

Jerry Bennett	Art
Ron Blankinship	Music
Luke Burns	Physical Education
Patricia Carr	Mathematics
Davon Carrington	Music
Jamie Caves	Management
Matthew Caves	Business Administration
Justin Croshure	Music
Chad Eggar	Art
Rhenada Finch	Music
Pamela Foster	Psychology
Chris Francis	Physical Education
Tyle Hankins	Physical Education
Emily Hector-Godwin	Physical Education/Theatre Arts
Adam Heilman	Art
Rachel Jackson	American Indian Studies
Darrick Matthews	Physical Education
Robert Miles	Business
Andy Myers	Art
Kelli Monroe	IDS
Amanda Mullins	Sociology
Brent Noel	Theatre
Aminah Orozco	Physical Education
Bruce Renfroe	Physical Education
Mary Reynolds	Mathematics
Anna Roach	Music
Kasey Sams	Theatre Arts
Annette Shaw	Physical Education
David (Bret) Smithey	Music
Jonathan Thomason	Physical Education
Francisco Venegas	Music
Jadyn Wallis	Physical Education
Brian Worthington	Physical Education
Reginna R. Zhidov	Art

On a motion by Regent Wilkerson, seconded by Regent Cordell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel actions.

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

No action was necessary.

3. Request for Acceptance of FY2020-2021 External Audit Report – The Finance and Audit Committee met prior to the board meeting. Dan Bledsoe of Finley & Cook PLLC touched on key points of the audit with the full board. Auditors found no weaknesses, deficiencies, or fraud issues. Overall a clean audit. Finance and Audit Committee chair

Regent Wilkerson recommended acceptance of the audit as presented, Regent Mosley seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the external audit report.

4. Request for Approval of Science & Arts Involvement in Chickasha Downtown

Park – The original agreements were modified before presenting to the Board. Questions and concerns were shared. There were concerns regarding receiving the property through quit claim deed rather than a warranty deed. The leg lamp would be on university property and would not have control of whether it stays after a few years or not. There was concern of the leg lamp being up year-round rather than only during the holiday season. Public relations impact was also a concern.

Mr. Pat Brooks of the Chickasha Community Foundation (CCF) shared additional information on the arts plaza. CCF has been in contact with a copyright attorney firm which says there is a case law that states public universities are exempt from copyright challenges. The leg lamp being on university property may be a good defense. Mr. Brooks shared some background information on who has rights to the leg lamp. Nolan James, an Oklahoma University art faculty has claims on the original leg lamp concept. There is a video documenting his story. CCF is prepared to cover liability costs. The CCF steering committee will move forward regardless of the board's decision to accept the property. CCF will be applying for a grant from the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for funding of the park, asking for 80% of the total estimated cost of \$10 million. The Arts Plaza will be done in Phase I which includes the leg lamp

If the leg lamp proves to be a tourism draw it would stay as a permanent piece of the park. If it doesn't a change might be warranted.

The Board wants to collaborate with the City on the downtown park. President Feaver recommended moving forward with the contracts. After further discussion, a Regents committee will be formed to work on the Co-Development Agreement with the Chickasha Community Foundation regarding coverage of liabilities and the Contract for Transfer of Real Property from the Chickasha Municipal Authority, regarding the issue of giving the land back to Chickasha Municipal Authority if it is decided Science & Arts wants to separate itself from the park. Regents to serve on the committee will be T. Cordell, C. Mosley, and K. Wilkerson.

On a motion by Regent Ferrell for both documents to be amended as stated above to address concerns expressed during discussion and seconded by Regent Mosley the Board voted unanimously to move forward and allow the committee to amend the Co-Development Agreement with the Chickasha Community Foundation and the Chickasha Municipal Authority Transfer of Real Property and submit to the Board for ratification in their February meeting.

5. Request for Approval of Academic Program Reviews – Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Donna Miles addressed the Board regarding the five academic programs up for their regular 5-year review. Programs in the 2021 cycle include both art programs,

business administration, communication, and speech-language pathology. With approval the programs will continue to be offered.

On a motion from Regent Mosley, seconded by Regent Wilkerson, the Board voted unanimously to approve all five program reviews.

6. Request for Approval of Proposed Curriculum Changes – Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Donna Miles addressed the Board regarding the proposed curriculum changes. Changes include adding a minor in deaf education and American sign language. The remaining curriculum changes are changes to the course title and description to align with current practices.

On a motion from Regent Ming, seconded by Regent Ferrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed curriculum changes.

7. Request for Approval of Academic Calendar for 2022-2023 – The 2022-2023 academic calendar was presented to the Board for approval.

On a motion from Regent Cordell, seconded by Regent Ferrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the academic calendar.

8. Adoption of Schedule for Regular Meetings for 2022 – The regular meeting schedule was presented. On a motion by Regent Cordell and seconded by Regent Ferrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2022 schedule for regular meetings.

9. Remarks from Representatives to the Board

- a. Faculty Association – Dr. Rachel Jones, Faculty Association President noted this time all divisions are represented in various aspects, mostly off campus. Things shared in addition to the packet materials: music adjunct Susan Adams-Johnson has a book chapter being published and also received a grant for professional opportunities for students in the Arts (music). She performs in local and regional music groups and is involved with video documenting; Zach Simpson presented at a conference and has a book chapter up for publishing 2022.

The Festival of Arts and Ideas formatting will change from once a term to a trimester long series of different presentations from students and faculty.

Science & Arts will be hosting Oklahoma Academy of Sciences Technical Meeting on campus in 2023. This will allow the university to showcase the Habitat facility and get Science & Arts name in the collegiate academic research arena.

- b. Student Association – No report
- c. Alumni Association – Dawn Reitan-Brockman, Director of Alumni Relations and University Development just met with a room full of education graduates who are excited about teaching. Homecoming is complete and now focusing on a retreat in February 2022 for the newly elected board members. Things being

- worked on are scholarship updates and descriptors on our website; identifying alums to do letters to prospective students; looking to recognize alums during Native American Heritage and Hispanic months; revitalize partnerships with students and businesses.
- d. Staff Association – No report

10. President's Report

- a. First-Generation Student Celebration – Dr. Misty Steele, Director of Student Success explained why these students need extra support to be retained; first-gen students experience more obstacles; they have less support and are more at risk for attrition. The celebration was a weeklong event with various activities taking place throughout the week. The week ended with an inaugural First-Generation family luncheon.

She is working to get an accurate count of first-generation students on campus. Moving forward there will be a question on the application asking if they are first-generation.
- b. Senior Day – Sheppard McConnell, Associate Vice President for Entering Student Services and First-Year Retention shared that the event went smoothly, the energy of students and parents was great, had groups in and out by 1pm. He also provided a handout of a PowerPoint presentation containing the December report which covered Senior Day, recruitment and activities, along with retention and activities. AVP McConnell went over points of interest from the handout.
- c. MinervaFest – Mr. Rob Miles, business adjunct professor, addressed the Board. MinervaFest was a student idea from an entrepreneur class to help keep students active and to interact with other students on campus. There were lots of activities and events for the campus community to participate in throughout the day. The event was held to focus on retention to try to keep students here beyond the sophomore year. It was encouraging to see all the different departments come together.
- d. Chancellor's visit – Chancellor Allison Garrett visited the campus on Senior Day. She started the day addressing the Senior Day group, which was a huge success. VP Audas commented she was impressive, is data driven and feels "she has a place in her heart for smaller universities". Special Assistant to the President Ms. Perri reiterated she is data driven and we need to be sure reporting is accurate. VP Hudson commented that she asked questions about which she already knew the answers. She was very impressive.
- e. Gifts and fundraising – JP Audas, Vice President of Advancement thanked the Board for their generosity. Regent Walker, book scholarships; Regent Ming, outdoor space at the Stevens Alumni House; Regent McLaughlin, scholarships and additional funding for the President's Student Success Fund. The university's largest gift received was from a 1982 USAO graduate Debra A. Worley, a gift of \$335,000 to be used for scholarships with some flexibility to

help more students. A notice was received of a gift coming from the Sarah Kincannon Weaver estate. She was a 1948 OCW alum.

JP's father passed and in lieu of flowers Mr. Bill Audas wanted USAO to be a possible recipient for gifts in his honor. The John Feaver Student Success Fund has received over \$7,000.

Lastly, the annual solicitation letter will be sent out next week.

f. Other –

- I. Athletics – Vice President Sid Hudson shared two women's soccer players were named All American.

Through working with CBTS, one of their engineers' daughters is a graduate student at Baylor and wanted to do an internship at Science & Arts doing institutional research work. She worked with K. Brown and the Student Success Center regarding student success and retention. Correlated results found the number one thing for getting a degree was being a member of an athletic team, number two, highest GPA was being a member of an athletic team. This shows academics is an important part of athletics at Science & Arts.

Ms. Cathy Perri has been named the NAIA Senior Women's Leader.

- II. Claudia San Pedro, CEO of Sonic Corp. will be the spring 2022 commencement speaker.
- III. There is a possibility there may be quite a bit of money in the State budget next year for higher education. If so, this will assist with our FY2023 budget.

11. Time and Place of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. on the Science & Arts Campus.

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

13. Adjournment – On a motion by Regent Wilkerson, seconded by Regent Mosley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Chair McLaughlin declared the Board meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.