

**UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
MINUTES  
September 14, 2023**

The Board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma met Thursday, September 14, 2023, in the Regents Room of the Student Center on the Science & Arts campus. Before the meeting was called to order, President Kayla Hale stated that advance public notice of this meeting was properly filed and displayed in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Chairman Cale Walker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked for roll call.

**Members present:**

Diane Ming  
Chris Mosley  
Cale Walker  
Kelly Wilkerson  
Amanda Conley\*

**Member absent:**

JJ Francais

**Also present:**

Kayla Hale, President  
Donna Miles, Donna Miles  
Mike Coponiti, Vice President  
Sheppard McConnell, Vice President  
Amy Goddard, Director of Communications and Marketing  
Mike Ross, Athletic Director  
Adeel Siddiqui, Director of Network Services  
Monica Trevino  
Daniel Pool, Staff Association President  
Alumni Director Dawn Reitan-Brockman  
Dany Doughan, Faculty Association President  
Sharon Greene, Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Science & Arts Board of Regents

**Introductions:** Welcomes were acknowledged for President Hale and new Regent Amanda Conley.

*\*Incoming Regent*

**Presentations:**

- 1) Zoe Brown, Regents Staff Achievement Award & Employee of the Year
- 2) Recognition of outgoing chair, Chris Mosley
- 3) Swearing in of new Regent, Amanda Conley, by Grady County Associate District Judge Joseph Young

**Approval of the Minutes for the June 14, 2023 meeting:** On a motion to accept the minutes by Regent Mosley, and seconded by Regent Ming, the minutes were approved with four (4) yea votes and one abstaining vote.

**Communications to the Board:** None

**Personnel:**

**a. Appointments:**

- Alexandria Hampton, effective July 19, 2023, Assistant Coach, Women's Soccer.  
Andrea Freymiller, effective July 01, 2023, Head Athletic Trainer.  
Joshua Smith, effective August 24, 2023, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music.  
Kassy Hanson, effective August 28, 2023, Instructor of Physical Education.  
Michael Brand, effective May 08, 2023, Mechanical Maintenance Helper.  
Riley Coop, effective August 03, 2023, Recruitment & Admissions Specialist.  
Sharon Greene, effective August 28, 2023, Executive Assistant to the President & Secretary to the Board of Regents.  
Skyler Sturgis Garneau, effective July 26, 2023, Housing Facilities Coordinator.  
Tarra Kinney, effective August 25, 2023, Instructor of Education.  
Yan Cretacci, effective August 24, 2023, IDS Science Instructor and Lab Coordinator.  
Zachary Sanders, effective August 25, 2023, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science.

**b. Change in Status:**

- Cynthia Fuston, effective August 25, 2023, Visiting Assistant Professor of Business.  
Niall Crick, effective July 01, 2023, Head Coach, Women's Soccer.  
Galen Phillips, effective August 28, 2023, Residential Outreach & Housing Coordinator.  
Annie Roberts, effective July 10, 2023, Student Life & Housing Coordinator.  
Lana Souders, effective August 1, 2023, Administrative Assistant to Academic Affairs.  
Melanie Bilyeu, effective July 1, 2023, University Services.

Misty Steele, effective September 5, 2023, October 1, 2023, Full Time Faculty, Associate Professor of Psychology.

Dany Doughan, effective September 1, 2023, Associate Professor of Chemistry.

**c. Resignations:**

Caleb Gembacz, effective August 14, 2023, Success & Retention Coach.

Sid Hudson, effective August 3, 2023, Vice President for Initiative & Innovation & IT.

Diane Carroll, effective August 31, 2023, Executive Assistant to the President & Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Elizabeth Conrad, effective July 10, 2023, Residential Outreach & Housing Coordinator.

Dr. Kate Sekula, effective August 14, 2023, Associate Professor of Music.

Kaylee Souders, effective July 20, 2023, Technology Specialist for NASNTI.

Jeremy Berry, effective August 21, 2023, Event Manager/Facility Technician.

Reagan Thatcher, effective June 30, 2023, Housing Facilities Coordinator.

Zachary McGrew, effective September 008, 2023, Media Manager.

**d. Retirees:**

John Feaver, effective August 31, 2023 Retired, President Emeritus.

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

**Financial Statements:** Vice President for Business and Finance Mike Coponiti covered the monthly financials with the group.

No action was necessary.

**Financial Aid 2022-23:** Robyn Rogers, Director of Financial Aid, presented an award source summary and report for FY 2022-23.

No action was necessary.

**Ratification of MOU with Redlands Community College and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma:** President Hale made note that she had spoken with Chancellor Garrett regarding the partnership with Redlands. The contract has been signed; however, President Hale would like to modify the agreement and have more conversations with the President at Redlands College about space and other needs at both Colleges.

Regent Mosley made a motion to approve the ratification with Redlands Community College, the motion was seconded by Regent Wilkerson and was passed with a unanimous vote.

**President’s Report:**

President Hale provided an overview of accomplishments during the first 45 days of her tenure based on the goals she articulated to the Board of Regents during her interview process for President. Included in the updates were ongoing efforts to connect with the campus, the community, and the City of Chickasha leadership. President Hale shared that she reorganized the senior leadership team while also introducing a new Office of Government Relations and redistributing or expanding responsibilities amongst the smaller senior leadership team. President Hale offered an update to the Regents regarding the upcoming OSRHE legislative agenda and provided some personal observations and recommendations which included reviewing our course offerings to ensure alignment with the OSRHE Blueprint 2030, updating the campus master plan, reviewing the current university strategic plan, the introduction of an employee performance evaluation framework now that most campus positions have updated or new job descriptions.

Vice President McConnell provided the group with enrollment numbers for Fall as well as reports on summer melt and retention efforts. All data offered showed progress in increasing student numbers and retention percentages.

**Remarks from Representatives to the Board:**

- a. Faculty Association – Faculty Association President, Dr. Dany Doughan, prepared a report in advance of the meeting.
- b. Student Association – No report
- c. Alumni Association – Dawn Reitan-Brockman, Director of Alumni Relations and University Development, sent in the report in advance of the meeting.
- d. Staff Association –Daniel Pool, Staff Association President, prepared a report in advance of the meeting.

**Executive Session:**

Chairman Walker asked for a motion to enter into executive session. Regent Wilkerson made a motion to go into executive session, and it was seconded by Regent Mosley; after a unanimous vote the board went into executive session at 2:11 pm. Vice Presidents Miles and Coponiti were asked to remain in the room for executive discussion to address the remaining agenda item:

- a. Personnel issue

**Return to open session:** A motion to reconvene was made at 2:42 pm by Regent Wilkerson, seconded by Regent Mosley, and the motion carried to return to open session.

**Time and Place of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. on the Science & Arts Campus.**

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

**Adjournment:** Having no other business, a motion was made by Regent Mosley to adjourn; a second was made by Regent Wilkerson, and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Walker declared the Board meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.