

**UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
MINUTES  
February 12, 2020**

The Board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma met Wednesday, February 12, 2020, in the Regent's Room on the USAO 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 Ferrell led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and then called the meeting to order at 1:30 and asked for roll call. Members present: David Ferrell, David McLaughlin, Diane Ming, Chris Mosley, and Cale Walker. Members absent were Tom Cordell and Bill Lance. Also present were: President John Feaver, Vice President Donna Gower, Vice President Mike Coponiti, Vice President Sid Hudson, Vice President Monica Trevino, Director of Communications and Marketing Amy Goddard, Staff Association Chair Dwight Yokum, Director of Alumni Development Misti McClellan, Faculty Association Chair Katie Davis, and Vanessa McNabb, Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the USAO Board of Regents.

**Introductions:** Gary Dubois, MD from Edmond, Oklahoma. Interested in higher education and attending various board meetings across the state.

**Presentations:** None

**Approval of the Minutes of the December 11, 2019, meeting:** On a motion by Regent Ming, seconded by Regent Walker, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Communications:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

**1. Personnel –**

a. **Appointments**

Sarah Swift, effective January 1, 2020, full-time, Director of University Events, salary \$32,000

Sandra Hunter, effective January 6, full-time, Custodian, salary \$20,800

Brett Benson, effective January 6, 2020, full-time, Instructor of Business Administration, salary \$43,500

Casey Ritter, effective January 23, 2020, full-time, Student Life and Hall Coordinator, salary \$28,000

Zoe Brown, effective February 10, 2020, full-time, Recruitment and Admissions Specialist, salary \$30,000

Rachel Drechsler, effective February 10, 2020, full-time, Administrative Assistant-Title III Grant, salary \$25,000

b. **Change in Status**

Olivia Chapman, fulltime, effective January 24, 2020, part-time Student Life and Housing Coordinator and part-time Assistant Women's Basketball Coach

c. **Resignations**

Myca Hinkle, effective January 3, 2020

Benjamin Blackstar, effective January 31, 2020

On a motion by Regent McLaughlin, seconded by Regent Ming, the Board voted unanimously to approve these personnel changes.

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

No action was necessary.

**3. Request to Approve USAO Master Plan** –Architect Ryan Smith updated the Board on projects and reminded them the Plan is a work in progress and will be updated biannually. The Habitat and ArtWrecker projects are underway; the new baseball facility is almost complete; Austin Hall window project is complete and Te Ata project is ongoing. Upcoming projects will include renovating the historic kitchen in Gary Hall into a conference room.

On a motion by Regent McLaughlin, seconded by Regent Ming, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Master Plan.

**4. Request to Authorize Faculty Sabbatical Leave** – Faculty member Jordan Vinyard, Associate Professor of Art requested sabbatical leave during the fall 2020 trimester to obtain new skills, generate new work, and extend her research. The need to hire someone to cover in her absence is not expected.

Regent Ming recommended approval to authorize faculty sabbatical leave, seconded by Regent McLaughlin. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

**5. Request to Approve Resolution Supporting Existing Law Concerning Weapons on Campus** – On a motion by Regent McLaughlin, seconded by Regent Walker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

**6. Request to Approve Curriculum Changes** – Regent Ferrell called on Regent Ming to report on the following requests:

The following requests for additions, deletions, and modifications in programs and courses have originated with the respective departments, and have won approval from the appropriate faculty committees and officers, including the President.

All courses are identified by a four-digit number. The first digit (1, 2, 3, or 4) represents respective levels of freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. The last digit represents the number of credit hours awarded for completion of the course. The middle two digits are unique to identify the specific course and will be determined by the registrar in consultation with the proposing faculty.

**1. Change in Existing Program:**  
**a. Change to BFA Art program**

The proposal is to reorganize options within the BFA Program. It removes Printmaking I from options, move to the core. Removes Watercolor II from options. Removes Graphic Design/Computer Graphics from the core, move to options. Removes Ceramics from the core, move to options. Reorganizes options. No change in total required hours.

The proposed changes will allow: Greater flexibility for students in choosing courses for content and scheduling. Give improved control of enrollment numbers for courses. Open Pottery, Performance, and Expanded Media for Artistic Expression options. Gives a simplified understanding of requirements.

**2. Curriculum Change:**  
**a. Change to Teacher Certification in Art**

Remove from the catalog, the prerequisite, "Admission to Teacher Education", for ART 3262 Public School Art and ART 3273 Teaching Art in the Public School.

The prerequisite change has been approved by the Teacher Education Committee due to low enrollments. Previously, both courses were offered every summer. They will now be offered only in even years. The removal of the prerequisite has assisted in boosting enrollments making the course more successful. The catalog needs to reflect this change.

Teacher certification should not be listed as a concentration, it is a certification program only.

Remove "Teacher Certification" from areas of concentration list in Art program narrative.

**3. Curriculum Change to Art:**  
**a. Art Minor**

Changes include reducing the core from 22 hours to 10 hours, plus 3 hours of art history, allowing for 11 hours to be taken from any Art electives of the student's choosing. 24 hrs. total, no change.

Remove "with approval of discipline chair" from required art electives section.

Changes will allow students a large selection of studio choices. Changes will assist with controlling enrollments as some of the major courses fill very quickly. It was sometimes difficult to get minors into the current required coursework with limited enrollments.

#### 4. Change in Existing Courses:

- a. **Primary Math Content and Strategies.** This is a change in the name of the course to meet requirements by the State Department of Education.
- b. **Elementary Math Content and Strategies** - This is a change in the name of the course to meet requirements by the State Department of Education.
- c. **Elementary Supplement to Primary Math Strategies**– This is a change in the name of the course to meet requirements by the State Department of Education.
- d. **Biology, Chemistry and Physics** – These changes are only updates to the pre- and co-requisites for several courses in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics. These updates are being made mainly as a result of USAO's upgrade to Jenzabar (MyUSAO). This tech upgrade has changed the implementation of pre- and co-requisites, allowing the registrar's office to implement multiple pre- and co-requisites. This was previously not possible in our old system. In addition, a few updates are being made in light of faculty and advisor experience with student needs for courses and to avoid unnecessary enrollment workarounds. See chart attached to request.
- e. **Probability and Statistics I** – These are updates to the language of the course description to better reflect Student Learning Outcomes for the course after a review of the course by all math faculty and review of similar courses at other state institutions.
- f. **Probability and Statistics II** – These are updates to the language of the course description to better reflect Student Learning Outcomes for the course after a review of the course by all math faculty and review of similar courses at other state institutions.

Regent Ming recommended approval of curriculum changes, seconded by McLaughlin. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

**7. Preparation for Higher Learning Commission Visit in March** – Vice President Gower introduced Dr. Misty Steele. Dr. Steele discussed the Board's role in the upcoming HLC reaccreditation visit March 30-31. Board members will be sent a preparation packet and will need to be available for lunch with the visiting team on either March 30 or 31. She mentioned faculty and staff would be updated in a convocation to be held on March 5, just a few days before our assurance argument is locked.

**8. Listing of Faculty Eligible for Tenure and/or Promotion** – Faculty members listed are eligible for tenure and/or promotion and will be considered during the April 2020, meeting.

#### 9. President's Report

- a. Foundation and fundraising – VP Hudson updated the Board on Foundation financials. JP Audas, Director of Development shared information on most

- recent gifts received totaling \$240,000 going towards the Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Center for Social Justice and Racial Healing and tennis court upgrades. Mr. Audas distributed a packet on the February 27 Giving Day asking for participation from all and for everyone to share via social media that day.
- b. Admissions – Sheppard McConnell, Dean of Admissions and Recruitment distributed and went over the 2020 goals for the office of Admissions and Recruitment.
  - c. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Center for Social Justice and Racial Healing – Dr. Tonnia Anderson, Director of the Center addressed the Board regarding the Center’s relationships being built, internships, and speakers to further community relationships. She shared the meaning of the Center’s social justice and racial healing motto of “A chain is only as strong as its weakest link”, stating hatred, ignorance, and despair are weak links.
  - d. “A Century of Oklahoma Women in Democracy” – Misti McClellan, Director of Alumni Development talked about the event, the panel, and keynote speaker. February 28, 2020, at 6:30pm in the USAO Ballroom.

#### **10. Remarks from Representatives to the Board**

- a. Faculty Association – Ms. Katie Davis talked about faculty involvements and initiatives during the spring which include annual reports, engagement in the community, serving as ambassadors for the campus, planning summer/fall class schedules, welcoming transfer students this spring and responding to students requesting letters etc. for graduate school applications.
- b. Student Association – None
- c. Alumni Association – Misti McClellan talked about alumni goals/matching for Giving Day and using digital services, e.g., Text to Give. Will provide a report at the next meeting. She and Sheppard McConnell are working with alumni to recruit. Alumni Association received \$150,000 from a family trust for scholarships.
- d. Staff Association – Dwight Yokum talked about efforts to encourage graduates as active alumni. Staff is currently working on three projects 1) creating a memorial for Linn Linton, custodian who passed away unexpectedly last year. A tree has been planted and a plaque will be placed by the tree; 2) promoting Giving Day, hoping to raise \$1000 so a major Staff Association scholarship can be awarded this fall; 3) preparing for our annual fundraiser bake sale at Droverstock.

**11. Time and Place of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. on the USAO 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. Executive Session –** Regent Ferrell asked for a motion to move the meeting into executive session. On a motion from Regent Ming, seconded by Regent McLaughlin, the

Board voted unanimously to move into Executive Session at 3:25pm in order to address the remaining agenda items.

- a. Reemployment of President for Next Fiscal Year
- b. Reemployment of Administrators for Next Fiscal Year
- c. Five-Year Review of Tenured Faculty

**14. Return to Open Session** – Regent Ferrell asked for a motion to move the meeting into open session. On a motion from Regent Mosley, seconded by Regent Ming, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session at 4:31pm.

- a. Reemployment of President for Next Fiscal Year – On a motion by Regent Mosley, seconded by Regent Ming, the Board voted unanimously to reemploy the President for the next fiscal year.
- b. Reemployment of Administrators for Next Fiscal Year – On a motion by Regent Ming, seconded by Regent Mosley, the Board voted unanimously to reemploy the Administrators for the next fiscal year.
- c. Five-Year Review of Tenured Faculty – On a motion by Regent McLaughlin, second by Regent Ming the Board voted a positive tenure review of faculty members Drs. B. Brown, J. Hanson, L. McElroy, Z. Simpson, and S. Weber. On a motion by Regent McLaughlin, seconded by Regent Ming, the Board voted a negative tenure review of faculty member Dr. L. Hester.

**15. Adjournment** – On a motion by Regent Mosley, seconded by Regent McLaughlin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Chair Ferrell declared the Board meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

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