

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES February 15, 2024

The Board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma met Thursday, February 15, 2024, in the Regents Room of the Student Center on the University of 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 1:03 PM.
Chairman Walker then asked for roll call.

Regents presents:

Cale Walker, chair
Diane Ming
Chris Mosley
Suzanne Reynolds
Kelly Wilkerson

Regents absent:

Amanda Conley
JJ Francais

Also Present:

Kayla Hale, President
Donna Miles, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Nick Hathaway, Vice President for Business and Finance
JP Audas, Senior Vice President for External Relations
Cathy Perri, Chief of Staff
Sheppard McConnell, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Life
Mike Ross, Athletic Director
Angela Harris, Director of Human Resources
Amy Goddard, Director of Communications and Marketing
Mike Ross, Athletic Director
Adeel Siddiqui, Director of Information Technology
Marissa Moore, Staff Association President
Dawn Reitan-Brockman, Director of Alumni and University Relations
Dany Doughan, Faculty Association President
Nicole McMonagle, Librarian
Sharon Greene, Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the USAO Board of Regents

President Kayla Hale introduced new staff members, Angela Harris, director of Human Resources, and Nick Hathaway, Vice President for Business and Finance, to the Regents board.

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes for the December 13, 2023 meeting:

Diane Ming made a motion to accept the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes as printed with no additions or corrections. Kelly Wilkerson seconded the motion. Motion carried to approve the minutes.

Item 2: Communications to the Board:

- President Hale touched on several topics of communications, including a follow-up report on the Department of Energy visit in January.
- Nicole McMonagle has taken the lead for campus-wide records management.
- Professor Emeritus status was granted to Dr. Jan Hanson, former Professor of Music.
- Our 2024 George Nigh Scholar, Chloey Orosco, was introduced and spoke to the group regarding her experience at the George and Donna Nigh Leadership Academy.
- USAO hosted the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women's conference "Conversation on Human Trafficking" on February 9, 2024.
- The Emerson-Wier Liberal Arts Symposium featuring Dr. Temple Grandin and Tm Herbel takes place on Friday, February 23, 2024. Over 800 people have RSVP'd for the evening presentation.
- Regent Mike Turpen is holding a matching gifts scholarship fundraiser with the Chickasaw Nation on February 28, 2024 in Jourdan House (President's Residence).

Item 3: Personnel matters were presented as follows:

a. Appointments:

Andy Blevins, effective December 11, 2023, Carpenter
Craig Caffrey, effective January 25, 2024; Success and Retention Coach
Nicholas Hathaway, effective February 5, 2024; VP of Business and Finance

b. Change in Status:

Oralia Delong, effective December 1, 2023; promoted to FT Custodian
Angela Kinzinger, effective January 1, 2024; promoted to Head Custodian

c. Resignations:

Evelyn Talbot, effective December 8, 2023; Brass Adjunct Professor
Zoe Brown, effective January 3, 2024; Coordinator of Recruitment and Scholarships
Mike Coponiti, effective January 12, 2024; VP of Business and Finance

d. Retirees:

Dianne Johnson, effective December 31, 2023, Head Custodian
Dr. Jan Hanson, Professor of Music, (retired May 2, 2023) granted faculty emeritus status, Feb. 15, 2024

Suzanne Reynolds made a motion to accept the personnel report. Chris Mosley seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Item 4: VP Hathaway presented the financial statements.

Item 5: The listing of faculty eligible for Tenure and/or Promotion Consideration was presented as follows:

Promotion

Blake Morgan (Art)

B.A. Studio Art; East Central University, Ada Oklahoma

M.F.A. Painting; University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Appt. 2013

Jordan Vinyard (Art)

B.F.A. Fine Art; University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK

M.F.A. Kinetic Sculpture and Drawing; Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Appt. 2013

Dany Doughan (Science)

B.S. Chemistry; Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon

M.S. Computer Science; Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon

M.S. Physical Chemistry; Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

Ed.D. Higher Education Leadership, Benedictine University, Lisle, IL

Appt. 2018

Post Tenure Review

Aleisha Karjala (Political Science)

B.A. Political Science; University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Ph.D. Political Science; University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Appt. 2007

Jeannette Loutsch (Biology)

B.S. Biology; Briar Cliff College, Sioux City, IA

Ph.D. Pathology; Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO

Appt. 2007

Rachel Jones (Environmental Science and Biology)

B.A. Anthropology; Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

M.S. Botany; University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

Ph.D. Ecology; University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

Appt. 2013

Tonia Anderson (History)

B.F.A. Painting, Yale University, New Haven, CT

M.A. African American Studies, Yale university, New Haven, CT

M.A. American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Ph.D. American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Appt. 2013

Item 6: President's Report

President Hale updated the group on a number of issues:

- Recent hiring of Director of Human Resources, Angela Harris, and Nick Hathaway, Vice President for Business and Finance.
- Updates were delivered from the OSRHE and the Oklahoma Legislature by Cathy Perri, Chief of Staff and Governmental Relations.
- Sheppard McConnell, VP of Enrollment Management and Student Life, presented an update for enrollment numbers and projections for the fall semester.
- JP Audas, SVP for External Relations, provided an update on several topics including social media data points for Higher Ed Day at the Capitol, community engagement and fundraising; VP Audas praised the great work of the Communications team. Upcoming events include Neil-Wintt Symposium speaker Dr. Temple Grandin.
- VP of Academic Affairs, Dr. Donna Miles, has announced her retirement from USAO on May 1, 2024. President Hale commended Dr. Miles on her innovative leadership and devotion to education throughout the years.
- High level discussions are ongoing with Redlands Community College to expand our partnership.
- Plans for concurrent enrollment are being developed with several high schools.
- Seeking the possibility of GEER Funding for adult degree completion and teacher micro-credentials.

Item 7. Remarks from Representatives to the Board

Reports were submitted in advance from Student Government Association (Chandler Leamon-Webb); Faculty Association (Dr. Dany Doughan); Alumni Association (Dawn Reitan-Brockman) and Staff Association, (Marissa Moore).

Item 8: Time and Place of Next Scheduled Meeting – Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:00 p.m., USAO Student Center, Regents Room

A change of date was proposed for the April meeting to move to Wednesday, April 10, 2024, due to a conflict with mandatory OSRHE Free Speech Training Workshop in Edmond on April 11. Suzanne Reynolds made a motion to change the date of the April meeting to Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 1:00 PM. Kelly Wilkerson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Item 9: Consideration of “any matter not known about which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting” of the agenda:

None.

Item 10: Executive Session: Possible discussion and vote to enter into executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (1) for employment, hiring, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee.

1. **Reemployment of President for Next Fiscal Year**
2. **Reemployment of Administrators for Next Fiscal Year**
3. **Five-Year Review of Tenured Faculty**
 - a) **Dr. Rachel Jones**
 - b) **Dr. Jeannette Loutsch**
 - c) **Dr. Aleisha Karjala**
 - d) **Dr. Tonnia Anderson**

Diane Ming made the motion to enter into executive session. Chris Mosley seconded the motion. Motion carried to enter into executive session at 2:28 PM.

At 4:03 PM, Diane Ming made a motion to re-enter open session. Kelly Wilkerson seconded the motion and the motion carried to re-enter open session.

Item 10.A.1. Reemployment of the President: Chris Mosley made a motion to approve the reemployment of President Hale; Suzanne Reynolds seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Regents requested the President review and update the strategic plan and have a draft to present in September 2024 which should include a minimum of three key goals and/or objectives that can be easily tracked through the creation of a dashboard.

Item 10.A.2. Reemployment of Administrators for Next Fiscal Year 2024-2025
Suzanne Reynolds made a motion for the reemployment of administrative staff as listed for the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

Vice President for Business and Finance	Nick Hathaway
Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Life	Sheppard McConnell
Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of USAO Foundation	JP Audas
Chief of Staff and Director of Governmental Relations	Cathy Perri
Director of Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator	Angela Harris
Director of Athletics and Fitness Center	Mike Ross
Director of Information Technology	Adeel Siddiqui
Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Initiatives and Innovation	Tony Hutchison

Chris Mosley seconded the motion. Discussion on the need to change the title of “Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Initiatives and Innovation” since the person holding that title is a contract employee and not a full-time employee. President Hale noted that she will change the title. The motion carried to approve the reemployment of administrators.

Item 10.A.3.a. Five-year tenure review for Dr. Rachel Jones.

Acting on the recommendation from the Committee for Academic and Administrative Affairs, Chris Mosley made a motion to approve the tenure review for Dr. Jones. The motion was seconded by Diane Ming, and the motion carried.

Item 10.A.3.b. Five-year tenure review for Dr. Jeannette Loutsch.

Acting on the recommendation from the Committee for Academic and Administrative Affairs, Chris Mosley made a motion to approve the tenure review for Dr. Loutsch. The motion was seconded by Kelly Wilkerson, and the motion carried.

Item 10.A.3.c. Five-year tenure review for Dr. Aleisha Karjala.

Acting on the recommendation from the Committee for Academic and Administrative Affairs, Chris Mosley made a motion to approve the denial of tenure for Dr. Karjala. The motion was seconded by Diane Ming, and the motion carried.

Item 10.A.3.d. Five-year tenure review for Dr. Tonnia Anderson.

Acting on the recommendation from the Committee for Academic and Administrative Affairs, Chris Mosley made a motion to approve the tenure review for Dr. Anderson. The motion was seconded by Diane Ming, and the motion carried.

Item 11. Adjournment: Having no other business, Kelly Wilkerson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Chris Mosley, and the motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 PM.