

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 11, 2025
1727 W. Alabama Avenue, Chickasha, OK 73018

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Diane Ming called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Announcement of the Filing of Meeting Notice and Posting of Agenda in Accordance with the Open Meeting Act:** President Hale announced the filing of the meeting notice and posting of agenda was done in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.
3. **Roll Call** was taken. Regents in attendance were Amanda Conley, Chet Hitt, Diane Ming, Suzanne Reynolds, Cale Walker and Kelly Wilkerson. JJ Francais was absent.
4. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by those in attendance.
5. **Introductions:** President Hale introduced and welcomed Kyle Shifflett, deputy general counsel for the Attorney General's office and counsel for USAO and Associate District Judge Joseph Young, who was on hand to administer the oath of office for Mr. Hitt.
6. **Presentations:** Judge Young administered the oath of office for Mr. Chet Hitt, who joins the USAO Board of Regents and will serve a seven-year term to be completed June 2032. President Hale welcomed Regent Hitt to the board.
7. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the minutes of the June 16, 2025, Special Meeting:** The minutes of the June 16, 2025 special meeting were presented. Having no additions or corrections, Regent Walker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Regent Reynolds seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Regent Ming voting yes, Regent Reynolds voting yes, Regent Walker voting yes, and Regent Wilkerson voting yes to approve the minutes. Regent Conley and Regent Hitt abstained from voting. The motion carried with 4 yes votes.
8. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the minutes of the July 23, 2025 special meeting:** The minutes of the July 23, 2025 special meeting were presented. Having no additions or corrections, Regent Walker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Regent Reynolds seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Regent Ming voting yes, Regent Reynolds voting yes, Regent Walker voting yes, and Regent Wilkerson voting yes to approve the minutes. Regent Conley and Regent Hitt abstained. The motion carried with 4 yes votes.
9. **Communications to the Board On Upcoming Events and Special Programs:**
President Hale made aware the following announcements and upcoming events:
 - Renaming of the Student Center to the Katie Neill Student Union
 - New federal standards on ensuring accessibility and compliance for online courses
 - Employee performance evaluations are completed for FY25**Upcoming Events:**
9/12/25 USAO Alumni Night at OKC Comets game. 7:00 pm–10:30 pm. Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark.
9/19/25 Men's Soccer vs MidAmerican Christian University. 3:30 pm. McLaughlin Field.
Volleyball vs Southwestern Christian University. 6:00 pm. Fieldhouse.

Young Conductors Symposium. 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Te Ata Memorial Auditorium.
9/20/25 Women's Soccer vs Stephens College. Noon. McLaughlin Field.
Volleyball vs Oklahoma City University. 3:00 pm. Fieldhouse.
9/26/25 Men's Soccer vs Southern Nazarene University. 7:00 pm. McLaughlin Field.
9/27/25 Women's Soccer vs John Brown University. 4:00 pm. McLaughlin Field.
Men's Soccer vs John Brown University. 6:30 pm. McLaughlin Field.
9/29/25 Men's Soccer vs Oklahoma Wesleyan. 7:00 pm. McLaughlin Field.
9/30/25 Women's Soccer vs Oklahoma Wesleyan. 5:00 pm. McLaughlin Field.
Men's Soccer vs Oklahoma Wesleyan. 7:30 pm. McLaughlin Field.

10. **Reports from Association Representatives:** Reports were submitted in advance from the Faculty Association, Alumni Association and Staff Association for updates to those areas.
11. **Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements:** Controller David Smith presented the financial statements to the Board. No other action was necessary. See appendix A., pp.6-8
12. **Presentation of Report on Financial Aid for FY 2024-25:** Financial Aid Director Robyn Rogers presented the annual Financial Aid report for the University. No action was necessary.
13. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and USAO Employee Accommodations Policy and Procedure:** The Policies and Procedures Committee met earlier in the day to review and discuss the ADA and Employee Accommodations Policy and Procedure. On recommendation from committee, Regent Conley made a motion to approve the policy as written. Regent Wilkerson seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

See appendix B, pp 9-15
14. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Personnel Actions:** Personnel actions included new appointments, changes in status, resignations, retirements and newly added adjunct appointments for Fall 2025. Regent Walker made a motion to accept the personnel actions as listed. Regent Wilkerson seconded the motion and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

A. APPOINTMENTS:

Conner King, effective June 3, 2025; Security Officer
Laura Barrantes, effective June 3, 2025; Assistant Women's Soccer Coach
Caleb Stuckey, effective July 21, 2025; Groundskeeper (PT)
Malik Mohammed, effective July 9, 2025; Head Men/Women's Reserve Soccer Coach (PT)
Shaleia Jamison, effective July 1, 2025; Assistant Women's Basketball Coach (PT)
Ashton Callahan, effective July 1, 2025; Accounting Clerk
Shelby Hurst, effective July 7, 2025; Director of Development
Don Morris, effective July 17, 2025; VP of Business and Finance
Reece Reading, effective July 28, 2025; Assistant Baseball Coach (part-time)
Hannah Thompson, effective August 1, 2025; Public Relations Coordinator
Keely Kingsley, effective August 1, 2025; Assistant Softball Coach JV (PT)
Kyle Cox, effective August 4, 2025; Administrative Assistant to the School of Arts and Humanities
Alexa Sevenstar, effective August 4, 2025; Custodian
Josh Price, effective August 13, 2025; Maintenance Office Assistant
Jaycee Foust, effective August 14, 2025; Groundskeeper (PT)

Riley Merrill, effective August 22, 2025; Recruitment & Admissions Specialist
Jared Halphin, effective August 21, 2025; Assistant Professor of Business Administration
Reza Gheibi, effective August 21, 2025; Instructor of Computer Science
Kevin Jennings, effective August 21, 2025; Assistant Professor of Social Studies
Samantha McLendon, effective August 21, 2025; Assistant Professor of Early Childhood and Special Education
Sara Baird, effective August 21, 2025; Visiting Instructor of Technical Theatre
Jessica Mason, effective August 21, 2025; Instructor of Deaf Education

B. CHANGE IN STATUS:

Jordan Vinyard, effective July 1, 2025; Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities
Blakely Flores, effective August 1, 2025; Administrative Assistant to Nash Library
Brenda Brown, effective August 1, 2025; Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities
Emily Schumacher, effective September 1, 2025; Assistant Professor of Anthropology & Interdisciplinary Studies
Adelina Flores, effective August 18, 2025; Program Coordinator for the Neill-Wint Center for Neurodiversity

C. RESIGNATIONS:

JP Audas, effective June 30, 2025, Sr. VP of External Relations/Executive Director for USAO Foundation
Allen Kaulaity, effective July 25, 2025; IT Tech I
Brian Tyler, effective July 29, 2025; Custodian
Jennifer Reeves, effective July 31, 2025; Director of Operations USAO Foundation

D. RETIREEES:

None

E. FALL 2025 ADJUNCT LIST – Newly added

School of Arts & Humanities:

Tamara Powell	Adjunct of IDS
Bryan Dick	Adjunct of Theatre Arts
Cady Wollenburg	Adjunct of Public School Art
Corey Hubbard	Adjunct of Music Composition

School of Social Sciences & Business:

Elizabeth Peters	Adjunct of Psychology
Amanda Coldiron	Adjunct of Psychology

School of Science and Kinesiology:

Elsie Schafer	Adjunct of Kinesiology; Adjunct of Psychology
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School of Education and Speech-Language Pathology:

Brittanie Neito	Adjunct of Education
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15. President's Report:

President Kayla Hale noted the sudden passing of long time and current faculty member, Dr. Linda McElroy. Dr. McElroy recently completed 30 years of service to the School of Education. Her presence will be greatly missed. The University also just learned of the death of former retired faculty member, Dr. Frank Dorman. Dr. Dorman taught physics as USAO from 1967 until 2011.

Other topics of the President's report included:

New Revenue

- Undergraduate credit hour production has increased 8% = \$250,000
- Minerals lease with Haggard Land Co. = \$350,000 and 1/5th royalties
- Notable private gifts to the USAO Foundation

Fundraising Progress

Notable Recent Gifts and Commitments

- Billye Cheatum (OCW '55) - \$100,000 estate gift commitment
- Jesse Kinley Trust - \$65,000 for an existing endowed IDS chair
- Hazel Evans Trust - \$40,000 for Deaf Education scholarships
- OSRHE - \$40,000 for micro-credential development
- Kelly Nunn - \$30,000 for an endowed scholarship in education
- Krista Jones, Kathy Black and Mo Anderson - \$17K for a new softball scoreboard

Year-to-date cash in the door

- FY26 to date: \$258,860
- 84% increase from this time last year (\$116,970)
- 1908 Society Members: 58 (\$13K annually unrestricted)

Safety and Security

Campus Safety and Security

- New cameras installed with focus on maintenance facility
- New DVRs purchased to ensure long-term image capture
- Talks underway with CPD to expand officer visibility on campus
- Multifactor Authentication went into effect on 9/8/25
- Keyless building access being explored

USAO's Economic Impact

Report from the Economics Center (FY24)

- \$49.5M in economic output
- Supported 593 jobs with wages equaling \$28.2M
- In FY24, every \$1 in state appropriations to USAO generated \$7.34

Partnerships Update

- OU College of Nursing – Campus visit on 9/9
- UALR Clinton School of Public Service – Campus visit on 9/18
- OU School of Engineering – Conversations over the summer. Multiple graduate degree pathways for physics, chemistry, mathematics

- Rose State College – Art student recruitment focus
- Chickasha High School – Establishment of internship opportunities in art and theatre
- Rogers State College – Pathway to a MS in Cyber studies

Academic Affairs

- Update on the Interdisciplinary Studies project
- Assessment and Higher Learning Commission report
- Academic Calendar reform
- Prior Learning Assessment changes

Enrollment Management and Student Affairs

Campus Composite

- Nearly 1,100 students from 35 states and 66 countries
- 93% receive scholarships or financial aid
- 13:1 student to faculty ratio
- 47% of USAO students graduate with no debt

16. Time and Place of Next Meeting – Thursday, November 13, 2025, 1:00 p.m., USAO, Student Center, Regents Room, 1727 W. Alabama Ave., Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018.

17. Discussion and vote to adjourn. Having no other business, Regent Reynolds made a motion to adjourn, and Regent Walker made the second. The motion passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.