

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

Minutes

Wednesday, March 26, 2025, NOC Stillwater

Regents Present: Brad Fox, Mike Loftis, Sandy Mulligan, and Jason Turnbow.

Regents Absent: Jami Groendyke

Employees Present: Diana Morris Watkins, Anita Simpson, Dr. Rick Edgington, Jason Johnson, Jeremy Hise, Dr. Marsh Howard, Dr. Shelly Mencacci, and Denise Bay.

Employees Absent: Sheri Snyder and Scott Cloud

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Jason Turnbow called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Notice of the meeting had been given to the Secretary of State and the agenda posted. Quorum was declared present.
2. **Introduction of visitors, guests, and/or speaker.**
3. **Reciting of the Northern Oklahoma College Mission Statement.** Northern Oklahoma College, the State's first public community college, is a multi-campus, land-grant institution that provides high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services which create life changing experiences and develop students as effective learners and leaders within their communities and in a connected, ever-changing world.
4. **Public Comments.**

BOARD ACTIONS

5. **Vote to approve minutes.**
 - The minutes of the Wednesday, February 27, 2025, meeting were approved on the motion of Regent Loftis as seconded by Regent Fox. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Loftis, Mulligan, and Turnbow.
6. **Proposed Summer Residence Hall Rates for Tonkawa and Enid Campuses.**
 - Anita Simpson presented the Proposed Summer Residence Hall Rates for Tonkawa and Enid Campuses for approval. Students will be housed in Jets Hall in Enid and Maverick Hall in Tonkawa for \$735.00 monthly. On the motion of Regent Fox as seconded by Regent Mulligan, the Regents voted to approve

the Proposed Summer Residence Hall Rates for Tonkawa and Enid campuses. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Loftis, Mulligan, and Turnbow.

7. **Monthly Financial Report.**

- Ms. Simpson presented for approval of the monthly financial report dated February 28, 2025. On the motion of Regent Loftis as seconded by Regent Fox, the Regents approved the monthly financial report as presented. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Loftis, Mulligan, and Turnbow.

8. **Monthly Purchase Report.**

- Ms. Simpson presented March 2025 purchases for approval. **Purchases of \$25,000 or more** were for: (#I.) Harold Hall 12.5-Ton Condensor and 20-Ton Condensor – Ideal Mechanical Services, LLC - \$66,280.00, Funding Source: Capital Funds, (#II.) Annual Software & Hardware Maintenance Support Renewal with Cloud Backup Service - Business Imaging Systems, Inc – \$40,573.68; Funding Source: Capital Funds. On the motion of Regent Fox, as seconded by Regent Mulligan, the Regents approved purchases for (#I.) Harold Hall 12.5-Ton Condensor and 20-Ton Condensor – Ideal Mechanical Services, LLC and (#II.) Annual Software & Hardware Maintenance Support Renewal with Cloud Backup Service - Business Imaging Systems, Inc. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Loftis, Mulligan, and Turnbow.

9. **Monthly Allocations Report.**

- Ms. Simpson presented for approval Section 13/New College Fund 600 & 650 allocation requests for the following projects: Computers & Networking – Tonkawa - \$10,000.00, Computer Hardware, Software, Licenses & Fees - \$70,000.00. On the motion of Regent Mulligan as seconded by Regent Fox, the Regents voted to approve the Section 13/New College Fund 600 & 650 allocation request for \$80,000.00 as presented. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Loftis, Mulligan, and Turnbow.

INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

10. **Administrative Comments.**

- Dr. Shelly Mencacci gave a brief update on Faculty Affairs, Grants, and Professional Development. The Faculty Affairs Committee will meet in April as a best practice; however, liaisons from each campus have reported no faculty concerns so far this spring semester. Strategic planning efforts are also underway, with an intentional focus on design and implementation in collaboration with both staff and faculty—referred to as “staculty”—to support long-term goals. Additionally, 100% of full-time and adjunct faculty successfully completed the required Title IX and Sexual Harassment Training.

Dr. Mencacci also stated that two of NOC's larger grants have received encouraging updates. The Department of Transportation grant has undergone a name adjustment to better align with current funding practices and improve the likelihood of continuation. The program is now titled *Tribal & Rural Autonomous Vehicles for Efficiency, Livability, and Safety (TRAVELS)*—replacing “Equity” with “Efficiency” to preserve the acronym while minimizing potential approval challenges. Final project agreements are expected within the next two weeks. In addition, although the Department of Education has reduced staffing, the NASNTI program has already been assigned a new project liaison in Washington, D.C., which supports the continued successful implementation of its initiatives. On the professional development front, the campus-wide book discussion on *Answering Why* by Mark Perna has officially launched. These discussions have generated meaningful dialogue and input from faculty and staff regarding potential improvements to professional development, training, and teaching strategies.

- Jeremy Hise reported that the Enid campus hosted its annual Black History Month Program on February 26, 2025, featuring Enid City Councilman Derwin Norwood as the keynote speaker. Councilman Norwood delivered a powerful message on unity, overcoming systemic racism, and the contributions of African Americans in labor and economic development. The event served as a meaningful opportunity for education and community engagement. Hise also noted NOC's participation in Enid Day at the Capitol, hosted by the Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce. The event included discussions with Governor Kevin Stitt and state legislators on key regional issues, including education, infrastructure, energy, and tourism. NOC used the opportunity to advocate for continued support of higher education and economic development initiatives.
- Dr. Rick Edgington reviewed the Spring 2025 Preliminary Enrollment Report dated March 26, 2025, noting that headcount is up by 8% and credit hours are up by 11% from last year.
- Anita Simpson reported that the HLC Institutional Report has been submitted along with the required financial indicator data for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) annual institutional update, based on the FY2023- 2024 audited financial statements. The Total Composite Financial Indicator (CFI) Score for NOC is 1.73. This score falls within the HLC's “Above the Zone” range (1.1 to 10.0) for public institutions, indicating sound financial health. She also stated that all non-compliant NOC employees have been notified in writing of their non-compliant tax status, the necessary steps to become compliant, and the resulting consequences of failure to meet compliance requirements. Anita Simpson also provided an update on the NOC Residence Hall Summary as of the Spring 2025 semester. The Tonkawa campus is currently at 72% occupancy, while the Enid campus is at 68% occupancy.

- Dr. Marsh Howard stated that on March 7, representatives from Northern Oklahoma College attended the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast. The event provided an opportunity for dialogue with state legislators, including Representatives Trish Ranson, Ty Burns, and John Kane Jenkins, as well as Senators Tom Hall and Chuck Grellner. NOC faculty in attendance included Luke Kruse, Ashley Kruse, and Tammy Davis. They were joined by four Stillwater PLC students and one concurrent student from Morrison. He also noted that NOC Stillwater participated in a meeting hosted by the Stillwater Public Education Foundation (SPEF) focused on addressing the teacher shortage. Discussions centered on alternative certification pathways for paraprofessionals pursuing full teacher licensure. Oklahoma State University currently offers some program options, and NOC may explore the development of micro-credential offerings to support this effort. SPEF also noted the availability of tuition assistance vouchers to help support individuals working toward certification.
- Jason Johnson announced the hiring of Joe Jolly as the new head coach for the NOC Enid Lady Jets soccer team. Jolly, a native of Lawton, Oklahoma, joins NOC from Arizona Christian University, where he served as Associate Head Coach and Recruiting Coordinator for the men's soccer program. He also brings prior coaching experience from the University of Central Oklahoma. NOC is excited to welcome Coach Jolly to the Jets family. Johnson also reported that, as of Spring Break, winter sports have concluded and spring sports are now entering Region 2 play following strong early-season performances. All three basketball teams qualified for the Region 2 Tournament but were eliminated in the first round. The Jets men's and women's teams fell to the eventual champions, Connors State and Murray State, respectively, while the Maverick women were defeated by Seminole State. Wrestling teams competed at the NJCAA National Championships in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Kamden Young and Christian Clark each went 1-2 in their respective weight classes. The women's team placed 9th overall, with three wrestlers reaching the quarterfinals before being eliminated in the consolation bracket—an impressive showing for their inaugural season. In spring athletics, both Maverick and Jets baseball teams are nationally ranked—Mavericks at No. 20 and Jets at No. 18. The softball teams have rebounded after tough early competition and are building momentum heading into Region 2 play.

11. **President's Update.**

- President Diana Morris Watkins reported that the NOC Legacy Scholarship for Fall 2025 was awarded to Hope Bradford, an incoming freshman from Tonkawa who will attend the Tonkawa campus. Hope is the daughter of Steve and Shannon Varner and Eric Bradford. Steve Varner is a 1989 NOC Tonkawa graduate. The \$1,000 scholarship recognizes Hope for continuing

her family's legacy at NOC, and President Watkins extended her congratulations on behalf of the College.

- President Watkins also provided an update on OSU partnership efforts, emphasizing NOC's continued collaboration with Oklahoma State University. A Meet & Greet was held with Dr. Hess on March 4 to reaffirm shared goals between NOC and the community. Dr. Hess expressed a strong desire for OSU and NOC to be aligned as true partners in supporting student success and regional development.

12. **Regents' Comments.**

- Regent Turnbow announced this will be his final term serving on the Board of Regents. Regent Turnbow expressed his deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve Northern Oklahoma College. He shared how meaningful it has been to contribute to the mission and vision of NOC and extended his sincere gratitude to his fellow Regents, the administration, faculty, and staff for their continued dedication and hard work. Regent Turnbow will officially step down from his position in June.

13. **Other Reports.**

- a. Personnel Changes.** Ms. Anita Simpson reported one new hire.



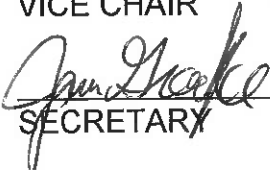
ROUTINE AND OTHER



14. **New Business.**

15. **Items for the next agenda.**

16. **Announcement of next scheduled meeting: The next regular scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., President's Large Conference Room on the Tonkawa campus.**

17. **Adjournment.** Motion made at 3:01 p.m. to adjourn by Regent Fox as seconded by Regent Loftis. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Loftis, Mulligan, and Turnbow.


CHAIR

VICE CHAIR

SECRETARY


MEMBER

MEMBER