

# NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

## Minutes

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, NOC Tonkawa

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

**Employees Present:** Diana Watkins, Anita Simpson, Sheri Snyder, Dr. Rick Edgington, Dr. Shelly Mencacci, Jason Johnson, Dr. Marsh Howard, Jeremy Hise, Scott Cloud, and Denise Bay.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Jason Turnbow called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Notice of the meeting had been given to the Secretary of State, and the agenda posted. A quorum was declared present.
2. **Introduction of visitors, guests, and/or speaker.** Kevin Ditmore, Tonkawa Economic Development Authority.
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, May 14, 2025, meeting were approved on the motion of Regent Loftis as seconded by Regent Fox. Voting aye were Regent Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.
6. **Group One Trustee(s) of Northern Oklahoma College Foundation, Inc.**
  - On the motion of Regent Groendyke as seconded by Regent Fox, the Regents voted to approve Regents Mike Loftis and Regent Brad Fox to serve on the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation Board for the next year. Voting aye were Regent Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.

7. **Election of NOC Board of Regents Officers.**
  - On the motion of Regent Mulligan as seconded by Regent Groendyke, the Regents appointed Regent Mike Loftis as Chair, Regent Brad Fox as Vice Chair, and Regent Sandy Mulligan as Secretary.
8. **Northern Oklahoma College Foundation (NOCF) Policies and Procedures.**
  - Sheri Snyder reviewed recent policy revision(s) and additions to the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation, Inc. in these four areas: a.) Investment Policy, b.) NOC Gift Fees Policy, c.) Spending Policy, and d.) Whistleblower Policy. On the motion of Regent Fox, as seconded by Regent Loftis, the Regents approved Northern Oklahoma College Foundation (NOCF) Policies and Procedures. Voting aye were Regent Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.
9. **Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates for FY2026.**
  - **Tonkawa and Enid Campuses.** Ms. Anita Simpson presented the Tuition and Mandatory Fees for FY2025- 2026 for the Tonkawa and Enid campuses for approval. No increases were made for FY2025- 2026.  
**NOC/OSU Gateway Program.** Ms. Anita Simpson presented for approval that there will be no increase in Tuition and Fees for the NOC/OSU Gateway program. On the motion of Regent Loftis as seconded by Regent Fox, the Regents approved no increase to Tuition and Mandatory Fees for Tonkawa, Enid, and NOC/OSU campuses. Voting aye were Regent Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.
10. **Institutional Budget for FY2026.**

Ms. Simpson presented for approval the Institutional Budget for FY2026. On the motion of Regent Fox as seconded by Regent Groendyke, the Regents approved the Educational and General Budget FY2025- 2026 Part 1 – Primary Budget of \$26,099,793.00. Voting aye were Regent Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.
11. **Campus Master Plan.**

Ms. Anita Simpson presented for approval the Campus Master Plan FY2027- 2034. On the motion of Regent Loftis, as seconded by Regent Mulligan, the Regents approved the Campus Master Plan FY2027- 2034. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.
12. **Monthly Financials**
  - Ms. Simpson presented for approval of the monthly financial report dated May 31, 2025. On the motion of Regent Fox as seconded by Regent Loftis, the Regents approved the May 2024 Financial Report. Voting aye were

Regents Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.

13. **Monthly Purchase Report.**

- Ms. Simpson presented June 2025 purchases for approval. **Purchases of \$25,000 or more** were for: (#1.) 30 HP Z2 G5 SFF Replacement Desktops – IT Outlet, Inc., \$26,250.00; Funding Source: Capital Funds, TIPS Contract. On the motion of Regent Groendyke, as seconded by Regent Fox, the Regents approved June 2025 Monthly Purchases. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.

14. **Monthly Allocations Report.**

- Ms. Simpson presented for approval Section 13/New College Fund 600 & 650 allocation requests for the following projects: Furniture & Equipment – Tonkawa - \$70,000.00, Furniture & Equipment – Enid - \$20,000.00, Computers & Networking – Tonkawa – 30,000.00, Computers & Networking – Enid – 30,000.00, Computers & Networking – Stillwater – 30,000.00, Computer Hardware, Software, Licenses & Fees - \$35,000.00, Repair of Educational Facilities – Tonkawa - \$15,000.00, Repair of Education Facilities – Enid - \$15,000.00, Library Acquisitions – \$10,000.00, Library Acquisitions – Enid - \$10,000.00. On the motion of Regent Groendyke, as seconded by Regent Fox, the Regents voted to approve the Section 13/New College Fund 600 & 650 allocation request for \$265,000.00 as presented. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.

15. **Transfer of Funds.**

- Ms. Simpson presented a request for the transfer of \$2.5 million from Fund 290 to Fund 295 to support renovation and construction of campus facilities. On the motion of Regent Loftis, as seconded by Regent Fox, the Regents voted to approve the transfer of funds from 290 to 295 as presented. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.

16. **Proclamation for Regent Jason Turnbow.**

- Ms. Diana Watkins read a proclamation honoring Regent Jason Turnbow for his dedicated service on the Board of Regents. Regent Turnbow served for four years, completing the term of former Regent Stan Brownlee. Diana expressed that it has been an honor to work alongside Regent Turnbow and shared that he will be greatly missed.

17. **Executive Session.**

- Executive session pursuant of Title 25. Oklahoma Statutes 307 (B)(1), for the purpose of discussing the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of (the President of NOC) any individual salaried public officer or employee. On the motion of Regent Mulligan, as seconded by Regent Fox, the Regents voted to go into executive session. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.

18. **Vote to return to open session.**

- On the motion of Regent Fox, as seconded by Regent Groendyke, the Regents voted to return to executive session. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.

(Regent Loftis stepped away from the meeting at 4:18 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 4:20 p.m.)

19. **Personal Actions of NOC President.**

- On the motion of Regent Groendyke, as seconded by Regent Fox, the Regents approved the rehiring of Diana Morris Watkins as President of Northern Oklahoma College for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 academic years. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.

## **INFORMATION TO THE BOARD**

20. **Administrative Comments.**

- Dr. Shelly Mencacci provided an update on Northern Oklahoma College's continued accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Open Pathway Assurance Process. As part of the 10-year cycle, NOC is preparing to launch a new Quality Initiative Proposal in Fall 2025. The proposal, titled *Empowering Non-Traditional College Students: Aligning Success with Core Values*, was submitted to HLC on June 1. It reflects NOC's strategic focus on student success and responds to recent HLC policy changes allowing more flexibility in Years 1–4 of the accreditation cycle. This initiative builds on NOC's previous Quality Initiative (2014) and aligns with OSRHE's Blueprint 2030 by addressing workforce demands and supporting non-traditional students, who now represent 23% of NOC's enrollment. The project aims to enhance student persistence, retention, academic performance, graduation, and transfer rates, and the utilization of support services—ultimately strengthening institutional quality and effectiveness.

- Sheri Snyder stated that President Morris Watkins and Shannon Lorg, Webmaster, continue to meet weekly via email with Cave Interactive and are actively working through assigned project tasks. Phase I (Discovery, Planning, and Content) has been completed, and Phase II (Design) is scheduled to conclude next Monday. A prototype of the new homepage was received this week. Sheri also noted that she is working on finalizing the end-of-year budget. She also stated that she attended the Enid Higher Education Council fundraising meeting. She reported that donor letters will be sent out next week to both previous and prospective supporters.
- Jeremy Hise reported that he met with the NJCAA Vice President for Championships, Membership & Sports Governance, Dr. Brett Monaghan, to discuss the long-term future of the NJCAA World Series at David Allen Memorial Ballpark. He also provided a brief update on the Public-Private Partnership (P3) grant awarded to NOC by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Of the \$675,000 awarded, \$285,000 of those funds were collected in May.
- Dr. Rick Edgington presented the Preliminary Enrollment Report for Summer and Fall 2025, dated June 18, 2025. He noted that summer enrollment has increased by 17% in headcount and 19% in credit hours compared to Summer 2024. Fall 2025 headcount and credit hours have both increased by 1% over the previous year.
- Anita Simpson reported that Physical Plant staff have been addressing storm-related damage across campuses, including the removal of downed trees and debris. While no major losses occurred, a few large limbs caused damage to a light pole on the Tonkawa Campus and may require the removal of affected trees. The Stillwater Campus experienced wind damage to rooftop HVAC units. At the NOC Cove on Kaw Lake, staff continue to manage fluctuating water levels. The dock has been raised and is being closely monitored. A new system for safely raising and lowering the dock will be installed due to safety concerns. Grounds crews in Tonkawa and Enid have been working diligently to manage mowing schedules impacted by recent heavy rainfall. Additionally, several Physical Plant projects are currently in the bidding phase.
- Dr. Marsh Howard reported that, in collaboration with Vice President Jeremy Hise, a TSET Legacy Grant proposal was submitted on June 16. The \$6.4 million request includes three strategic goals: Expand rural healthcare access and workforce development through the construction of an Athletic Training Education Center; Strengthen education and family support for children and youth through the creation of a Family Resource Center; Improve community wellness through the revitalization of outdoor spaces that promote physical

activity and recreation. He noted that notification regarding advancement to Stage 2 of the grant process is expected by September 8.

- Jason Johnson stated that NOC is in the process of submitting teams and individual athletes for NJCAA Academic All-American and other awards, with announcements expected next month. Blade Carver of Mavericks Baseball was named to the NJCAA All-American First Team, following his earlier recognition as Region 2 Player of the Year. Coach Michael Kerran, Head Baseball Coach at the Tonkawa campus, has accepted a position at Missouri Western State University, an NCAA Division II institution in St. Joseph, Missouri. The search for his replacement is currently underway.

21. **President's Update.**

- President Diana Morris Watkins reflected on her first year in the role, expressing gratitude and enthusiasm for the direction in which Northern Oklahoma College is headed. She extended her appreciation to Vice President for Financial Affairs, Anita Simpson, for her leadership and dedication during an intense budget planning period.
- President Watkins also recognized and congratulated Vice President Jeremy Hise for being named the Enid Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year.
- She concluded by reminding the Regents of the upcoming presentation by guest speaker, Mark Perna, "*Answering Why*," scheduled for August 15.

22. **Regents' Comments.**

- Regent Turnbow shared that it has been a pleasure serving as a NOC Regent over the past four years. He concluded by expressing his confidence in the College's strong leadership team and bright future.
- Regent Loftis expressed his appreciation for the progress made over the past year, particularly regarding the budget. He noted that Northern Oklahoma College is moving in a positive direction and described the momentum as remarkable.

23. **Other Reports.**

- ***Personnel Changes.*** Ms. Anita Simpson reported four resignations.
- ***Updated Organizational Chart.*** Ms. Anita Simpson presented the updated Organizational Chart for 2025-2026 dated June 18, 2025.

## **ROUTINE AND OTHER**

24. **New Business.**

25. **Items for the next agenda.**

26. **Announcement of next scheduled meeting:** The next regular scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., President's Large Conference Room, 106B on the Tonkawa campus.

27. **Adjournment.** – Motion made at 4:41 p.m. to adjourn by Regent Groendyke, as seconded by Regent Loftis. Voting aye were Regents Fox, Regent Loftis, Regent Groendyke, Regent Mulligan, and Regent Jason Turnbow.

  
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VICE CHAIR

  
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SECRETARY