

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING THE BOARD REGIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OKLAHOMA
BOARD OF REGENTS OCTOBER 2, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Regents governing East Central University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Northeastern State University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University and the University of Central Oklahoma was called to order at Southeastern Oklahoma State University Durant, Halley McKinney Building Room A, at 1:00 p.m., on October 2, 2025.

The following Regents were present for all or parts of the meeting: Jane McDermott, Chair of the Board, presiding; Regents Susan Winchester, Amy Anne Ford, Lake Carpenter, Chuck Perry, and Thomas Kupiec. Connie Reilly and Ryan Walters were absent.

Notice of the time, date and place of this meeting was submitted to the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted on the RUSO website and on the door of the meeting room on or before 1:00 p.m. on October 1, 2025, both as required by 25 O.S., Sections 301-314

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILING MEETING NOTICE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT

Official action can only be taken on items which appear on the agenda. The RUSO Board of Regents may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, amend, strike, or continue any agenda item. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Regents may refer the matter to the Chief Executive Officer or Legal Counsel. The Regents may also refer items to staff or committees for additional study. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely.

II. CALL TO ORDER AND REGENTS' ROLL CALL

Regent McDermott called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting notice was filed and the agenda posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Joely Smith called roll for the meeting.

A. (Action) Discussion and possible action excusing absent Regents.

Regent Reilly requested an excused absence from this meeting.

Motion to excuse Regent Connie Reilly from the meeting.

Motion moved by Lake Carpenter and motion seconded by Thomas Kupiec. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Presentation by Regent Jane McDermott regarding the Chairman's Report.

Regent McDermott welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on the following:

- The Board has hired a new RUSO CEO, Ellen Buettner, who is set to begin her position on October 20, 2025.
- The Board will be welcoming a new Regent, Carl McKenzie of Bixby, who will be filling Position 2.
- Regent Reilly was not in attendance due to a press conference announcing her new role at the Oklahoma Office of Educational Quality and Accountability.
- Regent Winchester gave remarks on *Better Conversations*, a program created by the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum designed to encourage individuals to engage in civil discussions on sensitive or controversial topics.

Hayley Thompson introduced Senator Hines, who spoke about his interest in creating a RUSO Caucus and expressed his admiration and ongoing support for the RUSO system.

IV. (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding the Consent Docket consisting of previous minutes and academic program modifications.

The consent docket was reviewed. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was approved unanimously.

A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting, September 4, 2025.

B. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

1. East Central University

Program Reviews:

- Chemistry (010)
- English (014)
- Human Resources Counseling (026)
- Mass Communication (049)
- Mass Communication: Social Media Marketing Certificate (005)
- Mathematics (029)
- Physics (035)

2. Northeastern State University

New Certificate Proposal:

- Molecular Ecology and Evolution (CIP: 26.0101)

Existing Program Modification Proposal:

- Occupational Therapy, M.S. (151)

3. Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Program Modifications:

- Bachelor of Fine Art (007)

New Certificates:

- New Certificate – Human Resource Management
- New Certificate - Leadership

4. University Of Central Oklahoma

Program Review Reports:

- Bachelor of Arts in History of Art and Visual Culture
- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design -Graphic Design
- Bachelor of Science in Public Health
- Master of Athletic Training in Athletic Training
- Master of Fine Arts in Design
- Master of Science in Counseling Psychology
- Master of Science in Public Health -Community Engagement

Program Modification:

- Bachelor of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

V. Presentation by Assistant Chief Jack Austin of the Choctaw Nation.

President Whitlock expressed his gratitude for the partnership and strong relationship between Southeastern Oklahoma State University and the Choctaw Nation, and introduced Assistant Chief Jack Austin of the Choctaw Nation to give his presentation. Assistant Chief Austin provided an overview of the Choctaw Nation's collaboration with Southeastern, highlighting several areas of success and continued growth. He emphasized that the overarching goal of the partnership is student success and noted that the Choctaw Nation is open to partnering with other universities to further advance this mission.

VI. REPORT OF RUSO COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

A. FACILITIES STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Regent Amy Anne Ford

Regent McDermott invited Regent Ford to present the Facilities report. Regent Ford went through each facilities request individually, detailing each project description, requested funding approval, budget breakdown, and revenue source.

1. (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding the facilities approvals for East Central University.

Project #2025-12 – Stadium Apartment Doors

- Project Description: purchase and installation of new doors at Stadium Apartments student housing
- Vendor: Bison Construction
- Amount Paid to Date: \$219,538.00
- Total Cost: \$345,600.00
- Fund Source – Auxiliary

Project #2025-12 – Stadium Apartment Appliances

- Project Description: purchase of new refrigerators and stoves for all of Stadium Apartments student housing
- Vendor: Lowe's Home Centers LLC
- Amount Paid to Date: \$331,000.00
- Fund Source – Auxiliary

Project #2025-12 – Stadium Apartments

- Project Description: additional work for all of Stadium Apartments student housing (installation of lighting, cabinets and vent hoods along with various miscellaneous items)
- Vendor: Clark Construction LLC
- Amount: \$300,000.00
- Fund Source – Auxiliary

Project #2025-16 – Elvan George Football Locker Room

- Project Description: Renovation and upgrade of the football locker room including new lockers, mechanical and roof replacements.
- Vendor: Clark Construction
- Amount: \$1,551,167.24
- Fund Source – Foundation / Auxiliary

Motion to allow East Central University to make payment to Bison Construction in an amount that does not exceed \$345,600.00 to purchase and install new doors at Stadium Apartments student housing.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Susan Winchester. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to allow East Central University to make payment of up to \$331,000.00 purchase new refrigerators and stoves for all of Stadium Apartments student housing.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Chuck Perry. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to allow East Central University to award a contract to Clark Construction for an amount no more than \$300,000 for additional work for all of Stadium Apartments student housing (installation of lighting, cabinets and vent hoods along with various miscellaneous items).

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Thomas Kupiec. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to allow East Central University award a contract to Bison Construction to renovate and upgrade the football locker room including new lockers, mechanical and roof replacements in the amount of \$1,551,167.24.

Regent Ford noted that the funding source of this project is the ECU Foundation.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Chuck Perry. The motion was unanimously approved.

a. Informational Items

Project – Women’s Sports Facility

- Project Description: Replace roof and repair the women’s sports facility which houses soccer and softball
- Vendor: Restoration Construction LLC
- Amount: \$138,184.00
- Fund Source – Auxiliary (Insurance Proceeds)

Project – Tiger Commons Storm Damage

- Project Description: repairs to Tiger Commons housing for east and west roof repairs
- Vendor: Bison Construction
- Amount: \$156,173.00
- Fund Source – Auxiliary (Insurance Proceeds)

Project – Horace Mann

- Project Description: storm damage to Horace Mann building
- Vendor: Exterior Solutions Group LLC
- Amount: \$394,275.00
- Fund Source – Auxiliary (Insurance Proceeds)

Project – Bursar Office Renovation

- Project Description: Renovations to Bursar's office including carpet and lighting
- Vendor: Bison Construction
- Amount: \$74,554.00
- Fund Source – Auxiliary

b. Update Items:

Project – Stadium Apartments Renovations

- Project Description: complete renovations to Stadium Apartments including new flooring, fixtures, etc.
- Emergency declared/Board Approved June 5, 2025
- Vendor: Bison Construction
- Original Amount: \$5,229,201.00
- Amount Paid to Date: \$2,881,394.00
- Fund Source – Auxiliary & Deferred Maintenance

Project – Stadium Apartments Stairwell

- Project Description: repairs to stairwell at Stadium Apartments student housing
- Vendor: Bison Construction
- Original Amount: \$570,000.00
- Amount Paid to Date: \$365,137.00
- Fund Source – Auxiliary & Deferred Maintenance

2. (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding the facilities approvals for Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Southeastern Oklahoma State University is requesting approval to increase the total budget for the following project to include architectural and inspection fees. This project was originally approved at the September 2025 meeting.

Aviation Sciences Institute Renovations

- Project Description: Request approval to award the renovation of Aviation Sciences Institute at Eaker Field to Mid-Plains Construction. In addition, request approval to include the three

alternates which were part of the original construction documents.

The renovation includes modernizing office and classroom spaces, improvements to the hangar space to allow for maintenance and training, and the creation of makerspace located within the hangar. The renovation will result in a twin, single-story modern building which will offer collaborative work and training spaces conducive to innovative, aerospace-related economic activities.

This project also includes three alternates that were part of the original construction design. These alternates are in the hangar area and include 1) updated LED lighting, 2) high velocity low speed fans, and 3) pusher motors for the large hangar doors.

- Project Number(s): 660-0335
- Amount: \$2,000,000.00 (*amount approved in Sept. \$1,831,580*)
- Source of Funds: Economic Development Authority Grant, Master Lease Funds, Capital Funds, Auxiliary, & Donated Funds
- Vendor: Mid-Plains Construction

Regent Ford noted that this request was for an addition of \$168,420 to be added to the previously approved amount of \$1,831,580. This increase is to fund the architectural fees.

Motion to allow Southeastern Oklahoma State University to increase the total budget for project #660-0335 to include architectural and inspection fees.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Thomas Kupiec. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding the facilities approvals for Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Roof Repairs-Across Campus

- Project Description: Request approval to issue a Request for Proposal and award a contract to the most responsive bidder for the removal and replacement of the roofs on the Science Building, Hilltop Theatre, Memorial Student Union, Mann Hall, Oklahoma, Black Kettle Residence Hall, and Tom Stafford Center.
- Requested Funding Approval: \$700,000

- Budget Breakdown: Renovation/Repairs
- Revenue Source(s): OSHRE Deferred Maintenance Funds

Motion to allow Southwestern Oklahoma State University to Request for Proposal and award a contract to the most responsive bidder for the removal and replacement of the roofs on the Science Building, Hilltop Theatre, Memorial Student Union, Mann Hall, Oklahoma, Black Kettle Residence Hall, and Tom Stafford Center in an amount not exceeding \$700,000.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Lake Carpenter. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. University of Central Oklahoma

Information Items:

Project # 120-1015 West Hall Renovations and Additions

- Project Description: Awarded on-call contract to Trinity Builds in the amount of \$93,089 to repair drywall and paint the ceiling following the abatement on the 2nd and 3rd floors at West Hall. Trinity Builds Construction has an on-call construction manager contract. (June 2024 RUSO)
- Fund Source: Auxiliary Funds

Project # 120-0027 Major Repairs and Deferred Maintenance

- Project Description: Awarded on-call contract to Lippert Brothers, Inc., for \$56,363 to replace the southwest penthouse roof on the Education building. Lippert Brothers has an on-call construction manager contract. (June 2024 RUSO)
- Fund Source: Section 13 Offset

Project # 120-0032 Sports Complex Improvements

- Project Description: Awarded Australian Court Works a contract through solicitation of three written quotes in the amount of \$32,300 to replace the windscreen at the soccer facility.
- Fund Source: Section 13

5. (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding the facilities approvals for Northeastern State University.

Project #485-0073 – NSU Skilled Nursing Simulation Laboratories

- Project Description: Request permission to design, bid and award to the lowest responsive bidders the renovation of two existing laboratory/ classroom spaces to create two nursing skills and simulation laboratories on the Tahlequah campus (includes the purchase of essential equipment).
- Requested Funding Approval: \$800,000
- Budget Breakdown: Renovation/Repairs
- Revenue Source(s): Donation

Project #485-0073 – Emergency Flood Repairs to Mike Synar Building

- Project Description: This project was originally approved in June 2025 for \$150,000. This project item is to request an increase of \$30,000 to complete repairs. Emergency repairs to the Mike Synar building on the Muskogee campus that was a result of a frozen fire suppression line. The suppression line broke on February 20th 2025 flooding the south half of the building.
- Requested Funding Approval: \$180,000
- Budget Breakdown: Renovation/Repairs
- Revenue Source(s): 600 Fund

Motion to allow Northeastern State University to design, bid and award to the lowest responsive bidders the renovation of two existing laboratory/ classroom spaces to create two nursing skills and simulation laboratories on the Tahlequah campus in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Chuck Perry. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to allow Northeastern State University to increase the budget for by \$30,000 to complete repairs on the Mike Synar building on the Muskogee campus.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Thomas Kupiec. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE- Regent Susan Winchester

Regent McDermott requested that Regent Winchester provide an update on the Audit and Finance Committee meeting.

Regent Winchester reported that the committee met Tuesday, September 30th, 2025. Regent Kupiec, Regent Perry and herself attended the virtual meeting. They discussed the audit and finance committee submissions and reviewed the request from SWOSU. All other submissions were informational.

1. East Central University

Informational Purchases:

Sovereign Bank

- \$68,533.00
- E&G – Ideal Impact Quarterly Energy Savings

Skybox Sports

- \$76,878.75
- E&G – Custom LED Tickertape Displays for School of Business

Softdocs SC LLC

- \$68,915.00
- Auxiliary – Etrieve Cloud and Database

Johnson Controls Inc

- \$68,232.00
- E&G – Mechanical/HVAC Labor

Ellucian Company LLC

- \$64,616.00
- E&G – Colleague technical management for Blackboard/Touchnet

2. Northeastern State University

Informational Purchases:

ADA Accessibility Training and Compliance

- \$100,000

Softball Field Equipment

- (Aux)
- \$60,000

Science Lab Equipment

- \$65,000

3. (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding the audit and finance approvals for Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Southwestern Oklahoma State University respectfully requests approval to lease clinical space of 4,909 square feet in the newly constructed Jerry and Margaret Hodge Pharmacy and Rural Health Facility to the Custer County Health Department. They will provide services comprising the following: disease surveillance, family planning, health education, immunizations, tobacco prevention, WIC, and more. The space will be leased to the Custer County Health Department at the rate of \$20,000 per year.

The lease agreement has been reviewed and discussed with the RUSO General Counsel's office to ensure compliance with applicable law and RUSO policies. This collaboration will provide valuable health services to the community while also supporting the mission of the University.

Motion to allow Southwestern Oklahoma State University to lease clinical space of 4,909 square feet in the Jerry and Margaret Hodge Pharmacy and Rural Health Facility to the Custer County Health Department.

Motion moved by Susan Winchester and motion seconded by Lake Carpenter. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. University of Central Oklahoma

Informational Purchases:

Complete Home Assistance LLC, fall housing cleaning.

- Source: Auxiliary
- \$95,404

Certified Commercial Restoration LLC, water remediation and removal.

- Source: Auxiliary
- \$90,000

ABM Industries, Inc., janitorial consumables.

- Source: Auxiliary
- \$65,000

Caldwell & Gregory LLC, washer and dryer rentals for campus residence halls.

- Source: Auxiliary
- \$60,217

Dell Marketing LP, annual renewal for enterprise licensing agreement for Adobe products. Year 3 of 3-year agreement.

- Source: E&G
- \$72,664

iParadigms Holdings LLC, Turnitin plagiarism software.

- Source: E&G
- \$89,356

Carahsoft Technology Corp., Google Cloud Platform (GCP) solution 12-month subscription.

- Source: Technology Fee
- \$149,001

International Business Machines Corp., IBM Campus Value (CVO) license and subscription.

- Source: E&G
- \$53,757

ProctorU Inc, online proctoring service.

- Source: E&G
- \$110,000

Mongoose Research, Inc., Cadence text messaging and solution for CRM Recruit.

- Source: E&G
- \$59,949

Chickasaw Telecom Inc., Cisco SmartNet licensing renewal.

- Source: Technology Fee
- \$62,324

VII. Presentation by President Bo Hannaford regarding the President's Council Report and possible discussion with RUSO Regents

Regent McDermott invited President Hannaford to give the President's Council Report. President Hannaford reported that the following was discussed at the President's Council meeting:

- Impact on the Universities that new ruling regarding undocumented citizens has had
- Workplace policies
- Interim studies
- Budget priorities

VIII. (Action) Presentation and possible action regarding the RUSO University Presidents recommendations presented by leadership at each institution.

A. Southeastern Oklahoma State University President's Recommendations

President Whitlock presented a virtual facilities tour of the Southeastern Oklahoma State University campus.

1. Personnel
2. Grants and Contracts (none to report)

Motion to approve Southeastern Oklahoma State University's president's recommendations.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Lake Carpenter. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Southeastern Oklahoma State University President's Report

President Whitlock reported on campus updates.

C. East Central University President's Recommendations

1. Personnel
2. Grants and Contracts (none to report)

Motion to approve East Central University's president's recommendations.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Thomas Kupiec . The motion was unanimously approved.

D. East Central University President's Report

President Godwin reported on campus updates.

E. Northeastern State University President's Recommendations

1. Personnel
2. Grants and Contracts (none to report)

Motion to approve Northeastern State University's president's recommendations.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Chuck Perry. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. Northeastern State University President's Report

President Hanley reported on campus updates.

G. Northwestern Oklahoma State University President's Recommendations

1. Personnel
2. Grants and Contracts (\$50,000.00)

Motion to approve Northwestern Oklahoma State University's president's recommendations.

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Thomas Kupiec. The motion was unanimously approved.

H. Northwestern Oklahoma State University President's Report

President Hannaford reported on campus updates.

I. Southwestern Oklahoma State University President's Recommendations

1. Personnel
2. Grants and Contracts (\$1,870,844.00)

Motion to approve Southwestern Oklahoma State University's president's recommendations.

Motion moved by Susan Winchester and motion seconded by Amy Anne Ford. The motion was unanimously approved.

- J. Southwestern Oklahoma State University President's Report
President Cunningham reported on campus updates.

- K. University of Central Oklahoma President's Recommendations
 - 1. Personnel
 - 2. Grants and Contracts (\$516,159.00)

Motion to approve the University of Central Oklahoma's president's recommendations.

Motion moved by Thomas Kupiec and motion seconded by Amy Anne Ford. The motion was unanimously approved.

- L. University of Central Oklahoma President's Report
President Lamb reported on campus updates.

IX. Regent's Comments and Announcements

- X. Discussion and possible action regarding New Business (not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of the agenda).

- XI. (Action) Vote to enter into executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(4) for the purpose of discussion of the following issues:

Motion to enter into executive session.

Motion moved by Thomas Kupiec and motion seconded by Amy Anne Ford. The motion was unanimously approved.

- A. Tatum Robertson, Eve Brennan, and Marin Rhodes v. University of Central Oklahoma ("UCO") and Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma ("RUSO"), Western District of Oklahoma, Case # CIV-2022-836-HE
- B. Dr. Rachel Tudor v. Marie Galindo et al. and Ezra Young and Brittany Stewart v. Dr. Rachel Tudor, Southeastern Oklahoma State University ("SE"), and Regional University System of Oklahoma ("RUSO"), Western District of Oklahoma Case #CIV-2022-480-C
- C. Dr. Ian Gerg v. Southeastern Oklahoma State University ("SE")
- D. Terry Worcester v. East Central University ("ECU"), District Court of Pontotoc County Case #CJ-2019-37
- E. Alan Scott Asher and Nancy Asher v. Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow ("NSU"), and The Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges-Regional University System of Oklahoma ("RUSO"), District Court of Wagoner County Case #CJ-2022-309
- F. Harold Blish v. East Central University ("ECU") Tort Claim # 2520034157
- G. Shekhar Rathor v. University of Central Oklahoma ("UCO") EEOC Charge #564-2022-02211
- H. OCR Docket No. 07-23-2169 - Website accessibility complaint against East Central University
- I. US Department of Education Complaint by Margo McKenzie against Northeastern State University for alleged FERPA violations
- J. Hannah Caperton v. Northeastern State University ("NSU") OCR Complaint #07222072
- K. MidFirst Bank v. James L. Lindsay II, Northwestern Oklahoma State University ("NWOSU") et al., District Court of Oklahoma County Case #CJ-2022-6342
- L. Northwestern Oklahoma State University Internal Revenue Service Audit
- M. Oklahoma Insurance Department Consumer Complaint against VOYA
- N. Discussion of UCO's request to hire outside counsel to perform an investigation regarding a pending whistleblower/retaliation claim by Ms. Kristen Stewart pursuant to RUSO Policy 1.24.2
- O. Remain in executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. §307(B)(1) to discuss the following:

Discussion of the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of the presidents, interim presidents, and acting presidents of East Central University, Northeastern State University,

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and the University of Central Oklahoma.

- P. Remain in executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. §307(B)(1) for the purpose of discussing the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of the Chief Executive Officer for RUSO.

XII. (Action) Vote to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session.

Motion to exit executive session,

Motion moved by Amy Anne Ford and motion seconded by Thomas Kupiec.

- A. Discussion and possible action to implement matters discussed in Executive Session.

No action taken.

XIII. (Action) Vote to Adjourn the Board Meeting

The meeting adjourned by acclamation.