UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA
1727 W. Alabama Avenue, Chickasha, OK 73018
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR MEETING
For Thursday, June 11, 2026

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:** Regents in attendance were Diane Ming, Suzanne Reynolds, Cale Walker, Amanda Conley and Kelly Wilkerson. Regents JJ Francais and Chet Hitt were 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 Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General. She also introduced Dr. Makenna Garrison, USAO's new Vice President for Academic Affairs.
6. **Presentations:**
    a. Judge Kory Kirkland administered the oath of office for Regent Cale Walker upon his reappointment to the USAO Board of Regents. His term runs from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2033.
    b. President Hale presented outgoing Chair of the Board, Regent Diane Ming, with a gavel and thanked her for her leadership of the board this past year.
7. **Communication to the Board on Upcoming Events and Special Programs:** President Hale share these upcoming dates: Aug. 20, 2026 is Matriculation and Continuous Improvement Day; Aug. 21 is the Convocation meeting, and new student orientation is Aug. 21-23, 2026.
8. **Reports from Association Representatives:** Updates and reports were submitted in advance from the Faculty Association, the Staff Association, Student Government Association and the Alumni Association.
9. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the minutes of the April 9, 2026, Regular Meeting:** Minutes of the April 9, 2026 regular meeting were presented with no additions or corrections. Regent Walker made a motion to approve the minutes, and Regent Reynolds seconded the motion. The votes were recorded as follows: Amanda Conley – abstained; Regent Ming – yes; Regent Reynolds – yes; Regent Walker – yes; and Regent Wilkerson – yes; The motion carried with 4 yes votes and 1 abstention.
10. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the minutes of the April 24, 2026 Special Meeting:** Minutes of the April 24, 2026 special meeting were presented with no additions or corrections. Regent Walker made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Regent Wilkerson made a motion to accept the minutes with no additions or corrections. The votes were recorded as follows: Regent Conley – abstain; Regent Reynolds – abstain; Regent Ming – yes; Regent Walker – yes and Regent Wilkerson – yes. The motion carried with majority vote.

11. Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the proposed Personnel Actions: The personnel actions were presented with no changes or corrections. Regent Wilkerson made a motion to accept the personnel actions. Regent Conley seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

a. APPOINTMENTS:
Makenna Garrison; effective June 1, 2026; Vice President of Academic Affairs
Maribel Pereyra; effective May 26, 2026; Academic Advisor & Success Coach
Mallory Emerson; effective May 11, 2026; Academic Advisor & Success Coach
Micah Elroy; effective May 11, 2026; Academic Advisor & Success Coach
Tim Ingram; effective May 1, 2026; General Maintenance Worker
Travis Mammedaty; effective April 20, 2026; Security Officer
David Mathias; effective April 20, 2026; General Maintenance Worker

b. CHANGE IN STATUS:
Kyla Patterson; effective May 1, 2026; Coordinator of Marketing Operations
Lisa Wegener; effective April 13, 2026; Associate Director of Neill-Winter Center for Neurodiversity

c. RESIGNATIONS:
Derek McNeff; effective May 13, 2026; General Maintenance Lead
Danielle McAllister; effective May 7, 2026; Facilities Coordinator
Adeel Siddiqui; effective April 30, 2026; Director of IT
Lucretia Scott; effective April 30, 2026; Head Groundskeeper
Luke Fredette; effective April 30, 2026; Instructor of English
Nina White; effective March 31, 2025; Custodian

d. RETIREMENTS:
JC Casey; effective April 30, 2026; Professor of Communications

e. ADJUNCTS - FALL 2026, 1ST QUARTER

School of Arts & Humanities	
Andrew Myers	Art/Photography
Adam Heilman	Art
Emily Maddox	Art
Kelli Monroe	IDS
Jerry Weems	IDS
Tamara Powell	IDS
Conner Sullivan	IDS
Guilherme Lopes Correa	Music
Ronald Blankinship	Music
Audrey Oden	Music
Correy Hubbard	Music
Kelly Brown	Museum Studies
Cadyln Wollenberg	Photography
School of Education & Speech-Language Pathology	
Conner Sullivan	Speech-Language Pathology
School of Science & Kinesiology	
Ryan Chester	Biology

Thomas Wilcock	Chemistry/Physics
Meredith McCormick	Kinesiology
Annette Shaw	Kinesiology
Andrea Freymiller	Kinesiology
Niall Crick	Kinesiology
Meredith Noland	Math
Sherry Read	Math
Jonathon Knapp	Math

School of Social Sciences & Business

Jason Carter	Business Administration
Zachary Widener	History
Kellee Jernigan	Management
Mark Jernigan	Management
Brian Steele	Political Science
George Burnett	Political Science
Abigail Caselli	Psychology
Pamela Foster	Psychology
Lara Jernigan	Psychology
Elizabeth Throop	Sociology
Tamara Powell	Political Science

12. **Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements:** Controller David Smith presented the monthly financial statements to the group. No action was necessary. Appendix A, pp. 7-9

13. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Employment of the Auditor for FY 2026-27:** David Smith informed the Regents that Hinkle & Company is in their fifth year of their five-year contract. Regent Walker made a motion to employ Hinkle & Company for audit of the FY2026 finances at USAO. Regent Conley seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

14. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Proposed FY2026-27 Budget:** David Smith and Vice President Maddy presented the proposed budget for FY27. On behalf of the Finance & Audit Committee, Regent Walker made a motion to accept the proposed FY2027 budget. Regent Reynolds seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

15. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove a Food Service Provider:** The Finance & Audit Committee met prior to the Regents meeting to review proposals for a food provider on campus. Regent Walker, on behalf of the committee, made a motion to employ Fresh Ideas Food Service Management. This is a five-year contract starting July 1, 2026. Regent Conley seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

16. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the Food Plan for FY2026-27:** The Finance & Audit Committee met prior to the meeting to discuss the proposed food plan for FY2026-27. The proposed food plan price will remain the same with no increase from FY2025-26. Regent Walker made a motion to accept the food plan as presented. Regent Reynolds seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

17. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove Guaranteed Tuition Rate Plan for FY2026-27:** The guaranteed tuition rate plan for FY2026-27 was presented at the Finance & Audit Committee meeting prior to the Regents meeting. Upon recommendation from the committee, Regent Walker made a motion to approve the guaranteed tuition rate for

FY2026-27. Regent Conley accepted the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

18. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove 2026-27 Board Committees:** Proposed Regents' Committees for FY 2026-27 were presented. With no changes or corrections, Regent Wilkerson made a motion to accept the Committee list for 2026-27. Regent Reynolds seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

19. **Discussion and vote to approve/disapprove the Election of Regents' Officers for 2026-27:** Proposed Board Officers for the 2026-27 year are: Amanda Conley, chair; JJ Francais, Vice-Chair, and Suzanne Reynolds, Secretary. Regent Walker made a motion to accept the slate of officers are presented. Regent Wilkerson seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

20. **Authorization for Regents' Committees to Act on Behalf of the Board:** The University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma Board of Regents normally does not meet again until September. In the interim and if a matter of extreme importance should arise, the Chairman could authorize a special meeting of the Board. For unforeseen but necessary routine items that require Regents' action, it is recommended that the Regents' committees be authorized to act on behalf of the Board with their action ratified in the September meeting. Regent Walker made a motion to approve the authorization for Regents Committees to act on behalf of the Board with action ratified at the September meeting. Regent Conley seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

21. **Presidents Report**
    - Update from the OK State Regents for Higher Education
    - Enrollment Management Report
    - Internal Operations Audit Reports
    - University Advancement Report
    - Other Campus Updates

Update from OSRHE

- Funding formula officially approved; in effect 7/1/27
- Framework for 90-hour degree programs approved.
- Tuition request presentations to State Regents – June 24
- Workforce Development Initiative continues
    - $125,000 allocated to USAO (year 2 of 3)
- Concurrent enrollment allocation remains unchanged.
    - FY25 – USAO had 115 juniors/seniors = $95,693

Enrollment Management and Student Life

Retention Initiatives

- Momentum Scholarships
    - $750 – 3.5 to 3.74
    - $1000 – 3.75 to 4.0
- Professional Advising Integration
- Strategic Enrollment Alignment

USAO Application Funnel

	2026	2025	2024
Started	**1364**	**1340 (+18)**	**1300 (+64)**
Submitted	**1078**	**1043 (+35)**	**956 (+122)**
Admitted	**685**	**650 (+35)**	**626 (+59)**
Right to Try	**37**	**53 (-16)**	**63 (-26)**

Enrollment Management

- Academic Advising
    - Now fully staffed in renovated space in Nash Library; essential to our revenue generation strategy
- Counseling Center
    - Kristi Trapp, LPC, has made a tremendous impact in expanding services and outreach
- Toast Creative – Marketing Partner
    - Progress report on 90-day goals:
        - #1: Onboarding a new Coordinator of Marketing and Communication
        - Kyla Patterson has been hired for this role
    - #5: Development and delivery of a brand integrity and governance guide
        - Brand guide has been delivered including uniform templates for e-publishing

Internal Operations Audits

SCOPE OF WORK

- Review of budgeting processes and expenditure controls
- Evaluation of financial management policies, procedures, processes
- Evaluation of organizational structure
- Review of employee benefit plans and the periodic evaluation process
- Review of Enrollment Management processes for optimization
- Evaluation of campus operations focusing on maintenance and capital assets replacement

OBSERVATIONS

- Aging campus facilities and infrastructure require capital project prioritization
- Key metrics tied to organizational financial strategies should be more effectively communication/utilized
- Restructure of IT function needed to improve implementation of technology strategies and delivery of service to end users
- Enhancement of budget processes needed for improved predictive value

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish an Office of Compliance (internal policies, Title IX, etc.)
- Annually review net tuition, fees, housing strategies as the foundation for budget development
- Annually articulate key financial indicators and metrics (including the Composite Financial Index) to ensure progress toward tracking financial goals

University Advancement Updates

- Total cash in the door as of 6/8/26: $3,802,907
- 622 donors/1,294 gifts
- Received an unrestricted gift of $68,857 from the estate of Beverly and Gale Thorsen (former USAO Director of Financial Aid).
- On 5/28/26, the USAO Foundation Board approved a 10-year strategic plan with a goal to grow endowed assets to $100M by 2036.

FOUNDATION INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL)

- Total Fund Market Value: $26.6 million
- One month return: 7.4%
- Fiscal Year-to-Date return: 28.6%
- One year return: 36.1%
- Three-year annualized return: 18.9%
- Five-year annualized return: 11.1%
- The USAO Foundation ranks in the top percentile of the Foundation and Endowment peer universe (+900 colleges/universities) one-year, three-year, and five-year periods.
- The mineral management account ended the quarter with an appraised value of $3.4 million. This calculated into a trailing one-year return of 543%. This appraisal was the lead contributor to the portfolio's recent returns.

CAMPUS UPDATES

- 3-D imaging of Addams Hall floor plans are complete.
- Power lines have been buried to allow for new roof installation this summer.
- USAO is an engaged partner with Chickasha's Festival of Freedom celebration.
- Campus highlights notable women associated with USAO

22. **Time and Place of Next Meeting – September 10, 2026, 1:00 p.m., USAO, Student Center, Regents Room, 1727 W. Alabama Ave., Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018**

23. **Discussion and vote to adjourn:** Having no other business, Regent Reynolds made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Regent Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.