

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS
OCTOBER 1, 2017**

A special meeting of the Board of Regents governing The University of Oklahoma, Cameron University, and Rogers State University was called to order at the Bird Library on the Health Sciences Center Campus in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at 1:17 p.m. on October 1, 2017.

The following Regents were present: Clayton I. Bennett, Chairman of the Board, presiding; Regents Leslie J. Rainbolt-Forbes, M.D., Bill W. Burgess, Renzi Stone, Phil B. Albert and Frank Keating.

Others attending all or a part of the meeting included Chief Legal Counsel Anil Gollahalli; and Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents, Dr. Chris A. Purcell.

Notice of the time, date and place of this meeting was submitted to the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted in the Office of the Board of Regents on or before 8:00 a.m. on September 17, 2017, both as required by 25 O.S. 1981, Section 301-314.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

I first want to again recognize and thank President Boren. We will be celebrating he and Molly throughout the academic year and we look forward to many meaningful and enjoyable times with them as we celebrate their incredible tenure at OU. One thing that strikes me, maybe the most consistent ideal that President Boren has always talked about and always lived and even made these remarks in his address, is he is first and foremost been about the academic mission and about the experience of students and teachers and the magic and beauty of what that is. Most certainly that will be the driving principal in our next steps and in our work to make sure that we build upon the academic excellence of the University and use that tremendous base that he built to make things even better. This is a very important time for the University to have a transition of such an important figure after such a lengthy period of time. It's something that we take very seriously and it's in the context of very demanding times in higher education not only here in Oklahoma, but across the country. We understand much of these challenges and certainly those challenges will be a big part of our discussions in this process. It's also a very important time for our state of Oklahoma. It's a time where we're facing a lot of uncertainty and a lot of issues related to of course financial sustainability, financial impact on services for our citizens and certainly the financial impact on higher education across the state. We think these all go hand in hand and that we want to attempt to help provide leadership and ultimately provide a new president that can be a part of those solutions in building and growing Oklahoma as we all aspire to. We view this as perhaps our most important assignment as Regents: the hiring of a president. It has not happened in twenty-three years. Only a few people in this room were involved when it last took place so it's an important and new day that we are very focused on. The good news is that we have a wonderful Board, we actually all get along, we actually work very well together on a variety of demanding topics and issues, we have a wonderfully complimentary group with different skill-sets and different experiences and I think it will really help us as we progress in the process. We know that it will require the best of all of us and I know we have all thought a lot about that. We have been having some of these discussions for a long period of time knowing that obviously it's inevitable that there would be a transition likely in this Board's

timing. So we talked about it and how to behave with each other, with the University community and with the public at large to do our best each and every day. We commit that this will be an open and inclusive process. We want involvement, we want information, we want to know all that we can about where we're heading and do the best job that we can. I will also commit that there are no predetermined candidates for this position. This position is wide open and we will cast the broadest possible net and we will continue to work on bringing that net down to a concentration of global caliber talent that we expect at this position. We will speak as one voice, we will distribute information in a measured fashion and we are not going to get ahead of ourselves with statements and information because we view the process as a sacred process and the work that the committee will do and the work that the Regents will do needs to be done thoughtfully, in confidence, with loyalty to each other. We will certainly make the public aware of steps and things that we achieve in the process, and of course we have a series of public meetings that will take place in the next few weeks. I want to stress our respect of the job of the search committee. I think that I view the population of that committee will be of utmost importance. I know that we will find extraordinary talent and extraordinary people to serve on that committee who will be principled, who will be dedicated, who will be thorough and who will do the job and I am very excited to get to work on that. We aspire to an impeccable process. We aspire to a principled, honest, thorough process and our objective is to find the best fit for the University of Oklahoma. We only have one thing that's driving us and we all agree on this, we only have one duty and that's to do, at all times, what is in the best interest of the University of Oklahoma. Just to give an overview of the day, we will consider three action items. One is to receive President Boren's resignation; I have a letter from the President. We will consider the approval of the composition of the search committee, and I believe that has been distributed. We will approve the copy for the advertisement which needs to be placed and disseminated this week; I think that we have some deadlines on Tuesday and Wednesday that we are trying to meet. It will appear in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, it will appear in various higher and trade publications, it will appear in some traditional media but it will be well broadcasted in various online platforms etcetera. Also we will need to convene an executive session to consider some matters regarding to President Boren's retirement and transition. So that's the lineup for the day and my opening comments and at this time we will proceed with the agenda. We have some representatives from the faculty and we are glad that you are here, thank you very much and we are happy to hear from you.

Regent Burgess moved to accept the President's retirement as outlined in his letter to the Chairman. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Humphreys, Rainbolt-Forbes, Burgess, Stone, Albert and Keating. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

Chairman Bennett recognized individual faculty representatives to make remarks.

First of all, I want to thank you Chairman Bennett and the Board for letting us speak. I am Sarah Ellis and I am the chair of Norman Campus Faculty Senate including those who are in Tulsa who are affiliated with the Norman Campus. I am an associate professor in the College of Fine Arts. As you all know, the University of Oklahoma has been on an impressive, positive structuring of growth in both quantity and quality in the past few decades. We have more students and they are significantly improved when it comes to academic capabilities, our research has increased in both breadth and depth. I could go on for a long time about this but I

won't. I am with Chairman Bennett and the Board in that we all have the same goal for the future of the University and that is to insure that it stays on this trajectory. Even to maintain the status quo is not what we want, we want to keep going forward. There have been many people that have played an important role in the University's advancement, but I would argue that the driving force in this growth is the faculty. The faculty are the people who are constantly pushing for expanded excellence when it comes to research and creative activity. The faculty are deeply invested in our students. Not only in the classrooms, labs and studios, but outside of these environments where we mentor, advise and support them while at the University but also as they begin new chapters in their lives and leave the University. The faculty are genuinely committed to the University of Oklahoma and to making it the best possible place for all affiliated with the institution through our commitment to service, shared governance and public service. The faculty have knowledge and insight of the academic enterprise that is unique to the role that we have to play in the institution, and we acutely aware of some of the major challenges facing the next President and the University of Oklahoma. It is vital that the faculty plays a significant role in the search for the next President as it is essential that the new President fully understands the role that we play in the academic enterprise and be able to earn and maintain the full confidence of the faculty as we all work to move the University forward. I think that the University of Oklahoma is at a very important crossroads and as I noted earlier, we all have the same goal. Ultimately the decision of who will be the next President of the University rests with you, the Board of Regents. I urge you to empower the faculty to play a significant role in helping you to make this decision. Thank you.

Greetings with respect to the OU Board of Regents and to Chairman Bennett. Thank you for the opportunity to voice the interest of faculty for increased representation for the search committee for the next President of the University of Oklahoma. My name is Patsy Smith. I am an assistant professor in the College of Nursing here at the Health Sciences Center and I am chairperson of the Faculty Senate here at the Health Sciences Center. The last search in 1993 was for President of a University that was smaller in numbers, educational programs, students and international footprint. Throughout the twenty-three years since that time the faculty have been the mainstay of support, collaboration and interaction for the education of students and service to community. In addition to education and research, the Health Sciences Center has a significant role in clinical practice education to help insure the health of Oklahomans is in the hands of the best-prepared practitioners. The twelve hundred full time faculty of the Health Sciences Center, larger than in 1993, are committed to excellence and education, research and clinical service and to involving students into every juncture to advance their development. Therefore, it is essential that faculty have significant input into the selection of the next OU President to ensure that the President fully appreciates the roles and interests of faculty as he or she leads the University of Oklahoma. With respect, thank you.

My name is Marie Hanigan. I am a professor of cell biology here at the Health Sciences Center, I do cancer research, and I am the chair-elect of the Faculty Senate. I just wanted to reiterate what both my colleagues have said and I would also like to emphasize that President of the University of Oklahoma is a position in which you are running an educational institution and the faculty are delivering the goals of that institution. So it is critical that the President has a good relationship with the faculty and understand the concerns of the faculty. Therefore, I think it is important to have significant faculty representation on the search committee in order to help achieve that goal of a healthy relationship between the faculty and the new President. Thank you.

Regent Burgess moved that the Board enter into executive session on issues surrounding the President's retirement. The executive session was held in the same location, beginning at 1:33 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 1:48 p.m.

Regent Stone stated:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion for the search committee composition for the search for a new President. My motion includes that we include five faculty: three from the Norman Campus and two from the Health Sciences Center to be selected from six nominations from the Norman Campus Faculty Senate and four nominations from the Health Sciences Center Faculty Senate. Further, I motion that we include two staff members to be selected from four nominations, two each from the Employee Executive Council and the Employee Liaison Council with the two staff members having one-half votes each. I further motion for three students to be selected from six nominations. Two graduate and two undergraduate nominees from the Norman Campus and two nominees from the Health Sciences Center, with one-third vote each. Further, I motion for seven at-large members to be selected by the Board of Regents with one vote each. I have two things I might add to this. For the record number one, this is the same process that was used for the 1993-1994 selection committee composition. Number two, how grateful the Board of Regents are for all of the faculty comments and that this is going to be a very inclusive process and we're looking forward to working with the faculty on these selections.

Five faculty

Three Norman Campus, six nominations to the Board

Two Health Sciences Center, four nominations to the Board

Two staff, with ½ vote each

One Norman Campus, two nominations from the Employee Executive Council

One Health Sciences Center, two nominations from the Employee Liaison Council

Three students, with 1/3 vote each

One undergraduate, two nominations from Norman Campus Student Government Association

One graduate, two nominations from Norman Campus Student Government Association

One Health Sciences Center student, two nominations from the Health Sciences Center Student Government Association

Seven At-Large members

The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Humphreys, Rainbolt-Forbes, Burgess, Stone, Albert and Keating. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

The Regents moved into committees for discussion in different locations in the building.

Upon return to open session, Regent Stone amended his motion on search committee composition to the following:

Five faculty

Three Norman Campus, six nominations to the Board

Two Health Sciences Center, four nominations to the Board

Two staff, with ½ vote each

One Norman Campus, two nominations from the Staff Senate

One Health Sciences Center, two nominations from the Staff Senate

Three students, with 1/3 vote each

One undergraduate, two nominations from Norman Campus Student Government Association

One graduate, two nominations from Norman Campus Student Government Association

One Health Sciences Center student, two nominations from the HSC Student Government Association

Chris Purcell, Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents
Ex officio as secretary to the Search Committee

The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Humphreys, Rainbolt-Forbes, Burgess, Stone, Albert and Keating. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

Regent Rainbolt-Forbes moved the advertisement be approved as amended by Regents' committees and shown below. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Humphreys, Rainbolt-Forbes, Burgess, Stone, Albert and Keating. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA



The Board of Regents governing The University of Oklahoma is seeking a dynamic, articulate and strategic leader with integrity, drive, commitment and a track record of proven results as its next President. Candidates should be able to conduct their own due-diligence and clearly communicate a vision for the University, demonstrate an understanding of the state's and nation's changing higher education marketplace and be focused on advancing the academic mission of the University. Diverse candidates of color, gender and various backgrounds are encouraged to apply; graduate and doctoral level degrees are preferred. The President is the chief executive officer of the institution and reports directly to the Board of Regents.

The University of Oklahoma is a U.S. News and World Report Top 100 comprehensive research university offering a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs in the arts and sciences, architecture, business, education, engineering, fine arts, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and allied and public health, and an extensive continuing education and public service program. Its 3,500-acre Norman Campus houses 15 colleges, including the Law Center, and the Oklahoma Geological Survey, seven medical and health-related colleges are located on the Health Sciences Center campus in Oklahoma City and OU-Tulsa's Schusterman Center houses programs from both campuses.

The student enrollment is approximately 32,000 with a faculty of approximately 2,900. The annual budget is \$2 billion.

The review of resumes and other supporting materials has begun. The submission of nominations and applications by December 6, 2017, is requested.

Nominations with a current address, and applications with a complete resume, should be submitted to:

*Presidential Search Committee
c/o Dr. Chris A. Purcell
Vice President for University Governance
660 Parrington Oval, Room 119
Norman, Oklahoma 73019
regents@ou.edu*

*An Equal Opportunity Employer
Protected veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*

Chairman Bennett closed the meeting with these remarks: again, thank you very much for your attendance especially on a Sunday. We appreciate your engagement with this very important work. I mentioned at the outset that there are no predetermined candidates. I also want to make the statement that no member of this Board is a candidate for the position. Thank you very much.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Chris A. Purcell, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary of the
Board of Regents