

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS
DECEMBER 21, 2017**

A special meeting of the Board of Regents governing The University of Oklahoma, Cameron University, and Rogers State University was called to order in the Auditorium at the Robert M. Bird Library on the Health Sciences Center Campus in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at 10:02 a.m. on December 21, 2017.

The following Regents were present: Clayton I. Bennett, Chairman of the Board, presiding; Regents Kirk Humphreys, Leslie J. Rainbolt-Forbes, M.D., 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 December 19, 2017, both as required by 25 O.S. 1981, Section 301-314.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

1. Troy Stevenson, Freedom Oklahoma
2. Kay Holladay, Mother & Alum
3. Nancy Herrington, Mother & Alum
4. JD Baker, SGA President
5. Sarah Ellis, Norman Campus Faculty Senate Chair
6. Tony Tyler, 2011 graduate with a Masters in Education
7. Kayla Bonnywell, Pastor in OKC
8. Julia Earhart

Chairman Bennett called the special meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. He stated that the Board has one item of business to undertake, and the better part of that discussion will take place in executive session so asked to indulge the patience of the attendees in that regard. "Before moving into executive session it is the Board's pleasure to entertain comments from the public. We ask that you maintain the appropriate decorum, that you come forward and state your name and limit your comments to three minutes. Is there anyone in the audience who wishes to make any comments before we move into executive session?"

Troy Stevenson: Hi my name is Troy Stevenson I'm the executive director of Freedom Oklahoma. First, I would like to thank the University of Oklahoma and the Board of Regents for having this meeting, allowing public comment and for swift action in making sure that the concerns of students in our community were addressed. We would also like to once again thank Regent Humphreys for his apology and his sincerity in that. The comments that were made were very hurtful to our community and I think very hurtful to the student body at the University of Oklahoma in many different ways. There is a very large LGBTQ population on the campus. The most important thing that we wanted to get across was these words and when people make statements like this it's not about one person it's about the community in general and these young people and the bias and intimidation and bullying that they face from elementary school to college. We just want to make people aware that their comments and their words go further than just in that one moment. They

have a great effect on young people and the youth in our community. While we do believe wholeheartedly in the freedom of speech and we believe in the sincerity of Regent Humphreys' apology, we do believe that there should be some consequence for the hurt made towards these young people. Thank you for your time and thank you for meeting today.

Regent Humphreys: Mr. Chairman if I could, we usually don't respond but I would just like to thank Troy for his kindness to me over these days and his willingness to meet with me and do a joint press conference. I would just like to say thank you.

Kay Holliday: Hello thank you very much for holding this special meeting. My name is Kay Holliday, I live in Norman, I happen to be an alum of the University of Oklahoma as well as a donor. All three of our children are alums of the University of Oklahoma and it is our university. I'm speaking as a mom and I don't claim to speak for every parent in this room or every mother in Oklahoma. However, these words that were spoken have done a harm to our LGBTQ kids. My husband and I happen to have a son that is gay who is also an alum of the University of Oklahoma. The harm that has been done can't be retracted. I have listened to both of the apologies. The second one was better than the first. I think thinking can be transformed and evolve over time, however, I have spent lots of time reading the University of Oklahoma's nondiscrimination policy as well as its ethics policy and I think that every single Regent should square up with those policies and if one does not, that person must resign. Thank you very much for having this special meeting and listening.

Nancy Herrington: Hello my name is Nancy Herrington and I also want to thank you for holding this special session. I want to talk about my son Zack. He died in 2010 by suicide and we wrote extensively of the pain caused by the words that people use. He was born gay, God made him that way. I'm not sure how anybody that spoke the words you did could advocate for all our youth. I also am an OU alum and so is my daughter and my son was college age. I think that you need to be aware of all the needs of all the students. We can't bring Zack back, but we can speak for other children. Thank you again for having this special session.

J.D. Baker: Good morning Board of Regents. I appreciate you all for being able to hold public comments. I'm J.D. Baker, the Student Government Association president. First of all, I appreciate your apology. Your apology was definitely sincere and the meetings and discussions that we've been able to have this week. I think that it's important and very vital. That being said, I think that there are still a lot of people upset. I continue to hear from students. I think that we should continue to take this seriously. I do appreciate your diligence and holding this meeting. I know that moving forward I think you will still have many important things to discuss and I think that something important to keep in mind is that there are still a lot of people watching and I think that there is a certain standard that the general public as well as the students of the University of Oklahoma, the students at Rogers State University and the students at Cameron University, I think that there is a certain standard that we believe in our leaders. Not only our University presidents but as well as our Board of Regents. Just keeping that in mind I know that there are a lot of students that are still watching, and they are wanting to know that we have good leaders in place. Leaders that we feel are inclusive and that truly represent us and truly understand the needs of the everyday student. Thank you so much.

Sarah Ellis: Good morning. I am Sarah Ellis and I am here as the chair of the Faculty Senate of the Norman campus of the University of Oklahoma. Thank you for calling this meeting, thank you for taking public comments and thank you for taking this seriously. I would like to reiterate the statement that the faculty senate made shortly after Regent Humphreys made his comments: We the members of the Norman Campus Faculty Senate of the University of Oklahoma strongly condemn these comments. His statements do not reflect the views of the OU Faculty Senate nor the views of the OU community which are stated in our nondiscrimination policy. Our nondiscrimination policy is clear that we do not discriminate against sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, disability, etcetera. It's clear in there. Regent Humphreys' statements eroded our confidence in his ability to fulfill his duties as a Regent of the University in a fair and confident manner. Therefore, the senate called for Regent Humphreys to resign as a regent. The Norman Campus Faculty Senate is committed to inclusivity. We fully support our LGBTQ community and we encourage the OU community, and I call on the OU community including the Regents, to support all students, faculty and staff and let us all continue to work to make the University a truly inclusive community. Thank you.

Tony Tyler: Good morning. My name is Tony Tyler. I am a 2011 graduate from the College of Education where I earned a masters of education degree. When I was a student at OU I began the coming out process. Because of coming out I lost my job, I lost my home and I lost many friends. However, my Sooner family took care of me. They came through for me. The reason I share this with you today is because the comments that were made by Mr. Humphreys did the exact opposite. Words give credence to the people who may enact violence. I ask that Regent Humphreys resign immediately.

Kayla Bonniwell: I am pastor of two churches and believe I represent all Christianity and the churches in Oklahoma City in saying that Regent Humphreys' words hurt people and we need to do better as a state.

Julia Erhardt: I am a Reach for Excellence Associate Professor, and I am appalled by the Regent's comments, I believe that they are untrue and are unable to be backed up by science. His comment implied that homosexuality is equivalent or predisposes one to pedophilia, while in the library there are hundreds of articles from various researchers that say that this is not true. I cannot trust a Regent who does not do the research.

The Board entered into executive session in the Provost's Conference Room, beginning at 10:18 a.m. Regent Burgess joined the meeting at this time.

The Board returned to open session in the Auditorium at 12:18 p.m. The following Regents were present: Clayton I. Bennett, Chairman of the Board, presiding; Regents Kirk Humphreys, Leslie J. Rainbolt-Forbes, M.D., Bill W. Burgess, Renzi Stone, Phil B. Albert and Frank Keating.

After the meeting was called to order, the Chairman called on Regent Humphreys.

Regent Humphreys: I want to start by saying how deeply I appreciate all my fellow Regents. Last Friday I got back from out of the country on vacation, Saturday morning I called Clay and told him that I was willing to step aside from consideration to be chairman next spring. I further told him that even

though this Board can't remove me, I did not want my presence on the Board to be a problem to the Regents or to make the path of the University more difficult and if they indicated to me at any time that my presence on the Board was a problem then I would happily resign. So I want you to know that they have indicated that and it is my intention to resign from the Board of Regents before the beginning of the second semester. Now let me just say this, I told my dear friend Brenda Jones who's sitting in the room just now that there was not a bad outcome for me today. I am totally at peace with whichever way this discussion went. I have been a Sooner all my life, I am still a Sooner, I intend to do everything that I can working with this Board and with Sooners around the world to help move this University forward. So live on University.

Chairman Bennett: Thank you Kirk and on behalf of the Board this is a very difficult day for us. We have had a very constructive tenure together. You have been a terrific Regent, you're a wonderful man, you're a great friend. We've all learned a lot through this process. We've learned a lot about this University and about each other. We will always focus on what's best for this institution but please know that you have our love, our friendship and we look forward to many good days.

Regent Burgess moved that in accordance with Article 2, Section 3 of the Board of Regents Bylaws, that the Board elect Dr. Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes as Vice-Chair of the Board for the remainder of Regent Humphreys' unexpired term in that office. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Humphreys, Rainbolt-Forbes, Burgess, Stone, Albert and Keating. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

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