

## Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes, April 1, 2021

**Call to order:** A meeting of the Legislative Oversight Committee convened on April 1, 2021 at the Oklahoma State Capitol, Senate Room 535, Oklahoma City, OK. Written notice was provided four days in advance, in compliance with Open Meeting Laws. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m., upon which time quorum was established in accordance with Joint Rule 10.5.

**Members Present:** Chairman Kevin Wallace, Rep Meloyde Blancett, Rep. Jeff Boatman, Rep. John Echols, Rep. Kyle Hilbert, Rep. Cyndi Munson

Chairman Roger Thompson, Sen. Michael Brooks, Sen. Chuck Hall, Sen. Julia Kirt

Others: (in person) Director Mike Jackson, LOFT Staff members Regina Birchum, Frank Magness, Brad Ward, Tom Bogdanowicz, Zach Sumner, Ryan Maren; representatives from the Oklahoma State Regents:(virtually) Chancellor Glenn Johnson, John McArthur, Leigh Goodson, Kylie Smith, (in person) Sheri Mauck; Legislative staff: House fiscal director Mark Tygret and Senate fiscal director Anthony Sammons.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Wallace asked Director Jackson to present the minutes from the last committee meeting. Director Jackson provided a brief overview of minutes for the Committee. Chairman Wallace asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes. With no questions, Rep. Echols made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Rep. Boatman. The motion carried 10-0, with the following votes: Chairman Thompson, Aye; Sen. Brooks, Aye; Sen. Hall, Aye; Sen. Kirt, Aye; Chairman Wallace, Aye; Rep. Blancett, Aye; Rep. Boatman, Aye; Rep. Echols, Aye; Rep. Hilbert, Aye, Rep. Munson, Aye.

The motion was adopted unanimously in accordance with Joint Rule 10.6.

### **LOFT Presentation of Draft Report: Rapid Response Evaluation of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF):**

Chairman Thompson recognized Director Mike Jackson to discuss the HEERF report. Director Jackson introduced the report and thanked the Oklahoma Higher Regents for their cooperation and acknowledged the agency representatives in the room and those participating virtually. Director Jackson requested the chairs recognize Mr. Zach Sumner to discuss the report's first finding.

After presenting the first finding of the report, Chairman Wallace recognized the Regents for Higher Ed to provide comments or a response. Chancellor Johnson introduced staff from the Regents in attendance and online, as well as representatives present from institutions.

Chancellor Johnson responded that the Regents agree with the findings and recommendations contained in Finding One.

Rep. Echols asked for verification of the state funding composition totals reflected in LOFT's report. The Regents confirmed the accuracy of the figure reflecting legislative appropriations. There was discussion about other revenue sources contributing to institutions of higher education.

Chairman Wallace recognized Director Jackson for presentation of the report's second finding. With approval from the Chairmen, Mr. Sumner was recognized to discuss the Finding Two.

Chairman Wallace invited the Regents to make comments regarding Finding Two of the report.

Chancellor responded the Regents are trying to be proactive and has currently engaged a consulting group to assist with identifying ways they can achieve efficiencies.

Members of the committee asked questions and discussed whether the Regents had data pertaining to international students and if they continued with virtual learning despite the pandemic, as well as any data about enrollment trends for students on scholarship.

LOFT stated the office had requested but were still awaiting the most recent enrollment data from the Regents.

Chairman Wallace recognized Director Jackson for presentation of Finding Three. After Director Jackson discussed the finding, Chairman Wallace opened the floor to committee members for any comments or questions.

Senator Kirt commended the institutions for having excellent controls.

Seeing no other questions or comments, Chairman Wallace asked Director Jackson to go over the report's recommendations.

Director Jackson presented policy changes for the Legislature's consideration, as well as recommendations for the Regents of Higher Education.

Chairman Wallace invited Chancellor Johnson to respond to the recommendations. Chancellor Johnson stated the Regents concurred with the recommendations by LOFT. He also noted that their agency has begun reviewing some of the policy areas contained in the recommendations, particularly student fees.

Director Jackson noted that as part of each evaluation, LOFT conducts a follow up six months out from the report to assess the status of recommendations and related agency actions.

#### **New Business:**

Chairman Wallace asked if members had any new business to discuss. Seeing none, Chairman Wallace informed the committee that the next meeting would be May 6<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

Director Jackson let the committee know the report being presented would be a Priority Evaluation on TSET.

#### **Adjourned:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 pm.