Meeting of the

Council on Instruction

October 12, 2023

The Council on Instruction (COI) met at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, October 12, 2023 by Zoom.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Willis welcomed members and guests.

Institutional representatives attending included Dr. Richard Beck (RSU), Ms. Rachel Beckner (WOSC), Dr. Theresa Billiot (OPSU), Dr. Chris Francisco (OSU), Dr. Theresa Golden (SEOSU), Dr. Dustin Grover (NEOA&M), Ms. Becky Henthorn (MSC), Dr. Travis Hurst (RSC), Dr. Joel Kendall (SWOSU), Mr. Chris McBeath (CSC), Donna Miles (USAO), Dr. Mark Morvant (OU), Ms. Robin O’Quinn (EOSC), Dr. Alonzo Peterson (LU), Dr. Angela Sivadon (TCC), Dr. Carla Swearingen (NSU), Dr. Ronna Vanderslice (CU), Ms. Diana Watkins, and Dr. Marc Willis (CASC).

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) staff attending included Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Ms. Brittany Blake, Mr. Brad Griffith, Ms. Angel Icenhour, Ms. Heather Peck, Dr. Robert Placido, Ms. Tracey Romano, Dr. Goldie Thompson, and Ms. Elizabeth Walker.

COI members absent included Dr. James Bell (NWOSU), Dr. Amanda Estey (SCC), Dr. Jeffrey Gibson (ECU), Ms. Annie Pearson (RCC), Dr. Charlotte Simmons (UCO).

Guests included Ms. Crystal Bowles Palacioz (OACRAO) (OSUIT), Mr. Tennent Emmons (OACADA), Ms. Jody Grammer (OSUIT), Dr. Steven Maier (NWOSU) (for Dr. Bell), Dr. Liliana Renteria Mendoza (for Dr. Simmons), and Dr. Glenné Whisenhunt (OCCC).

1. Minutes of June 2023 Meeting

Minutes of the June 2023, 2023 meeting were approved.

1. OSRHE Legislative Agenda

Dr. Jobe provided updates on the OSRHE 2024 Legislative Agenda and current legislative interim studies related to higher education.

1. Tier Meeting Updates

In Dr. Estey’s absence, Dr. Sivadon reported that the 2-year COI met that morning and discussed concurrent enrollment, development education, faculty compensation, syllabi services, seat time, and what services institutions offer during spring break. She added that the group welcomed 2 new VPAs to the meeting.

Dr. Kendall reported that the 4-year COI met that morning and discussed concurrent enrollment, cyber security, faculty review processes and online documentation portfolios, and semester breaks, including a discussion about taking the entire week of Thanksgiving off.

1. Policy Workshops

Dr. Beauchamp reported that due to the policy revision process the usual annual policy workshop was not held this year. She said that it is anticipated that all policies except Concurrent Enrollment will be approved by the December 7, 2023 State Regents meeting, and that OSRHE staff is planning to provide policy workshops to discuss the new policies and answer questions. After discussion, the COI determined to hold multiple workshops of one to two hours, beginning Wednesday, November 8, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

1. Academic Innovation Updates

Mr. Griffith reported that the Academic Innovation Team now includes Reach Higher, Online Education and UpskillOK Micro-credentials. He announced that the Online Consortium of Oklahoma has been recognized this year with the WICHE (Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education) [WCET Outstanding Work Award](https://wcet.wiche.edu/for-members/awards/wcet-outstanding-work-wow-award/). Mr. Griffith reported updates on the OER Summit and available textbook grants as well as new developments in Reach Higher and UpskillOK micro-credentials, which are detailed in Attachment A.

1. Teacher Education Update

Dr. Thompson reported that the Inspired to Teach program is continuing to grow, and effective November 1, non-resident high school graduates, GED earners, and individuals who received home school instruction will be eligible to participate. She said that this year’s deadline has been extended to October 25, 2023. Dr. Thompson added that 2,810 students are currently participating in the program including 1,350 new applicants this fall, with an initial fall disbursement of $1.6 million, 671 graduates transitioned into the workforce, and 35 institutions participating.

1. CEP Update

Ms. Icenhour reported that the faculty meetings for the year are concluded and the AVP Round One spreadsheets were emailed to members the day before, ready for the final edit.

Dr. Placido announced that Ms. Icenhour has been appointed the new Director of Concurrent Enrollment Programs.

1. Online Biology and Chemistry Labs

Dr. Beauchamp reminded members that during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns, exceptions were made to the requirement for biology and chemistry lab courses to be conducted at least 75% in person, and now that the shutdowns are ended, the 75% requirement has been restored at the insistence of sciences faculty. However, administrators and others have proposed that this requirement creates an unnecessary barrier to students being able to complete a program that requires a lab course, and in response to those concerns, she and Dr. Placido are bringing the question of whether biology and chemistry lab courses could be taught 100% online to the COI for discussion. After a robust discussion, the COI concluded that while it might be possible for students who do not intend to major in a physical or medical science to learn acceptable outcomes from a completely online lab course, for those who do, the skills and etiquette of functioning well in a professional lab can only be learned by completing in-person courses in a real lab. Additionally, doubts were expressed about whether the Accrediting Board for Engineering Technology and/or other similar accreditors would accredit a program without in-person lab courses. The discussion concluded with the decision to contact the CEP faculty groups in Chemistry and Biology to see how they feel about certain lab courses being offered completely online to non-majors or as fulfillment for the general education lab science requirement.

1. Posting of Spring 2024 COI Proposed Meeting Dates/Discussion of a Meeting at CASC

Ms. Walker presented proposed meeting dates, explaining staff recommendation to hold the March meeting on the first week rather than the usual second to avoid the State Regents meeting and the April meeting on the first week to avoid conflicting with the HLC Annual Meeting. Additionally, Dr. Willis proposed holding one meeting during the year at Carl Albert State College in Poteau, and the group agreed to do so at the April meeting.

1. Oklahoma NACEP Chapter

Dr. Placido asked if any members are interested in actively pursuing or participating in an Oklahoma chapter of the [National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships](https://www.nacep.org/), an accreditor for concurrent/dual enrollment programs, and said that interested institutions should let him know and he will take the lead on organizing a chapter.

1. State Regents’ Update

Dr. Placido reported OSHRE staff are working on developing an automated system for scholarship applications beginning with Inspired to Teach that will eventually be extended to all OSRHE scholarship programs.

Dr. Placido reported that the new concurrent enrollment committee chaired by Regent Casey will be meeting with legislators to present proposals for strengthening concurrent enrollment with increased funding as well as less restrictive state system policy to allow for greater institutional innovation. He stressed the need to ensure that students who falter are not penalized for trying but supported in achieving academic success through other paths. To address the need to provide more resources for concurrent enrollment to underfunded rural and inner city schools, Dr. Placido reported a proposal that would create an arrangement between college faculty and K-12 teachers, including those teaching under emergency certification, where the faculty would coach and mentor the teacher in learning the necessary subject matter and pedagogy skills to teach college-level courses, and the teacher would then be eligible to receive college credit potentially leading to a teaching degree.

1. Campus Share-Out

There were no campus share-outs.

1. New Business

Dr. Beauchamp announced that Dr. Goldie Thompson has been selected by the Journal Record as one of its 50 Women Making a Difference honorees for 2023.

1. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on Thursday, November 9, 2023, by Ms. Elizabeth Walker of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

# Attachment A

# OSRHE Council of Instruction Innovation Team Updates October 12, 2023

## Online Education Updates

* OCO won a WCET WOW Award
* November 3 OER Summit
  + Hybrid options
  + Guest speakers
  + $600 grants provided OCO institutions
* OER 101 and OER Textbook Project Grants available
  + FY23 OER Textbook Grants Impact
    - $71,500 issued for 63 projects to 42 faculty at 13 institutions
    - Over $2,300,000 cost savings generated per year for over 25,000 students
    - $91.82 saved per learner

## Reach Higher

### Finish Line Scholarship

* Updates for this year
  + Essay is optional
  + FAFSA is not required
  + Shift to semester-level reimbursement
    - First Fall Deadline: October 27
      * Allocation minimum guaranteed
    - Additional Request Fall Deadline: November 13
      * Unused funds may be redistributed to other institutions
* Funds were underutilized for the first year of the program
  + 2-year reported $207,752 remaining
  + 4-year reported $102,000 remaining

### Direct Complete Endorsement

* Programs for Oklahoma’s Top 100 Critical Occupations
* To become a Direct Complete institution, a simple form is required to be submitted to the COI two or four-year council.
* Additional programs can be added via email to the Reach Higher Team.

## UpskillOK Micro-credentials

* Status update as of October 4, 2023
  + 262 programs offered
  + 23 participating institutions
  + 92 industry partners
    - Only 108 of the 262 programs currently have partners
* FY24 Initial Funding Allocation
  + $528,850 of $1,080,000 allocated
  + Subtraction of half of unencumbered FY23 funds from initial $40,000 maximum available
  + Initially funded institutions included:
    - CU
    - CASC
    - CSC
    - MSC
    - NSU
    - NOC
    - NWOSU
    - OCCC
    - OSU
    - OSUCHS
    - OSUIT
    - SSC
    - SWOSU
    - USAO
    - WOSC
* Second Round [Special Project Grant Proposals](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dqj2aNTWjBOf8-mUvd41cpFylEAKnqbH/view?usp=sharing) Due October 27
  + Aerospace and Defense
  + Artificial Intelligence
  + Cybersecurity
  + Nursing
  + Teacher Education
  + Other Top 100 Critical Occupations
* Micro-credentials Design Lab Series – Nominations due October 27
  + Design Studio 1: Opportunity Scanning and Workforce Needs
    - Tuesday 11/14/2023, 10-11:30
  + Design Studio 2: Co-Designing Micro-credential Strategies
    - Tuesday 11/28/2023, 10-11:30
  + Design Studio 3: Aligning Micro-Credentials to In-Demand and Emerging Skill Needs
    - Tuesday 12/12/2023, 10-11:30
  + Design Studio 4: Maximizing the Value of Digital Badges
    - Tuesday 1/23/2024, 10-11:30
  + Design Studio 5: Marketing and Promoting Micro-credentials
    - Tuesday 2/6/2024, 10-11:30
  + Design Studio 6: Leading Future-Ready Micro-Credentials
    - Tuesday 2/20/2024, 10-11:30
* Additional scholarship funds for micro-credentials will be available following second round funding of projects

## Requests for COI Members

* Promote OER grant opportunities to faculty (**Deadline to apply: December 1)**
* Become a Reach Higher Direct Complete institution **or** add more programs targeting the Top 100 Critical Occupations list
* Promote Reach Higher Finish Line scholarship opportunities
* Nominate a team of three for the micro-credentials design lab series