Meeting of the

Council on Instruction

November 9, 2023

The Council on Instruction (COI) met at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, November 9, 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. James Bell (NWOSU), Dr. Amanda Estey (SCC), 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, Mr. Brad Griffith, Ms. Angel Icenhour, Ms. Heather Peck, Dr. Robert Placido, Ms. Tracey Romano, Dr. Goldie Thompson, Ms. Elizabeth Walker, and Ms. Jenny Wood.

COI members absent included Dr. Theresa Billiot (OPSU),), Dr. Jeffrey Gibson (ECU), Ms. Annie Pearson (RCC), Dr. Charlotte Simmons (UCO).

Guests included Ms. Crystal Bowles Palacioz (OACRAO) (OSUIT), Ms. Jody Grammer (OSUIT), Dr. Pam Stinson (OSU-OKC).

1. Minutes of October 2023 Meeting

Minutes of the October 12, 2023, meeting were approved.

1. DaVinci Annual Fall Forum Report

Dr. King reported on the DaVinci Fall Forum that took place October 20, and announced that the 2024 Transformative Learning Conference is scheduled for March 28 and 29 at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City.

1. Legislative Interim Studies Update

Dr. Jobe and Mr. Dean were not able to attend the meeting.

1. Tier Meeting Updates

Dr. Estey reported that the 2-year COI met that morning and discussed the recent OSRHE policy revision that eliminates the offering of 0-level courses, and the group’s concerns that the elimination might adversely affect their ability to prepare students who are not college-ready for college-level work. She said the group appreciated Dr. Placido joining their meeting to discuss their concerns and requests that the implementation date be extended to Fall 2025, so that they can ensure appropriate review of their curriculum, class schedules, faculty assignments, and fee structures to best support their students moving forward. Dr. Estey also reported that Dr. Sivadon updated the group on the work of the Concurrent Enrollment committees.

Dr. Kendall reported that the 4-year COI met that morning and also discussed concurrent enrollment, policy revisions regarding 0-level courses, how changes to the Carnegie Classifications may affect their institutions, and spring enrollment.

1. Academic Innovation Updates

Mr. Griffith reported that restructuring of the Finish Line scholarship program is proceeding and reminded members of the November 10 deadline to submit additional request for the scholarship. He also reminded institutions of the opportunity to become a Direct Complete institution and announced that Coach Connect planning is underway with start planned for early spring. He reported that 278 UpskillOK programs are now active, and said that staff will be reaching out to institutions whose programs are low producing to discuss calibrating messaging about the program’s availability. He reported that the Design Lab Series will start November 11 with 70 participants with five seats still open. Mr. Griffith announced that the OK Quality Matters consortium welcomed Oklahoma Panhandle State University this month, that 2024 workshop dates will be announced soon, and COLE is hosting monthly learning innovation sessions in spring 2024 leading up to the 2024 Oklahoma Learning Innovations Summit on April 26. The sessions will cover topics including the legal importance of digital accessibility on January 26, faculty media production for online courses on February 23, and online proctoring on March 8. Finally, Mr. Griffith said that $72,500 in Open Education Resource grants have been awarded so far; $20,500 in awards is pending, and $97,000 is still available.

1. Concurrent Enrollment Update

Ms. Icenhour reported that all four concurrent enrollment subcommittees have met. She said the committees discussed barriers to entry, how to best determine college readiness, student financial obligations, the current MOU process, the possible development of a statewide enrollment system, how to work with SDE to enforce the 19 hours limit if a student is attending more than one institution concurrently, HLC requirements for faculty credentials, maximize the usage of the Course Equivalency Matrix in regards to concurrent enrollment courses, the proposal to arrange a mentoring relationship between college faculty and high school teachers, the potential negative effect on academic freedom of requiring all course materials to be OERs, and the potential to reduce the cost barrier by establishing a systemwide concurrent fee structure specific for concurrent courses.

1. STEM Pathways Committee

Dr. Beauchamp reminded members about the email request they received for campus representatives to form a committee that will review opportunities to incentivize student enrollment in STEM fields and retention in the state after graduation, as part of the OSRHE Blueprint 2030 initiative. She added that staff would like to hold the initial meeting before the end of December.

1. Update on SARA Policy Modifications

Ms. Walker reported that the NC-SARA board approved five policy modification proposals at their October 23-24 2023 meeting, but that the only one that might affect public institutions will not be effective until January 2025, so she will defer further discussion of the approved proposals to the Oklahoma SARA Webinar that she and Dr. Beauchamp will conduct in February. She reported that the NC-SARA has announced that it will consider raising institutional participation fees at its February 8, 2024 meeting to help offset the costs of automating SARA forms and giving participating institutions access to their records in the SARA Salesforce database. She said more information should be forthcoming by email to SARA institutional contacts from NC-SARA.

1. Vote to Approve Spring 2024 COI Proposed Meeting Dates/Meeting at CASC

The proposed meeting dates, and to hold the April 2024 meeting in person at CASC in Poteau, were approved.

1. State Regents’ Update

Dr. Placido reported he is going to the HLC meeting next week at which it is anticipated HLC will approve revised faculty credential criteria for high school concurrent enrollment teachers. Dr. Placido thanked the 2-year members for their input on 0-level courses and expressed appreciation for being welcomed to their meeting that morning to discuss their concerns. He said it is understood and anticipated that further adjustments to OSRHE policy will be necessary to remedy potential unintended consequences that arise as the revisions are implemented, and noted that several policies are already being presented to the State Regents with proposed adjustments. He added that if institutions can provide data showing that the 0-level course revisions are unsuccessful in enhancing student success he would welcome that information.

Dr. Placido reported high levels of interest in concurrent enrollment among legislators as well as other stakeholders, and clarified that when the various committees whose work Ms. Icenhour reported above have completed and compiled their research, all committees will meet together to create recommendations to the State Regents. He added that once the recommendations are established, the process in place for the OSRHE policy comprehensive review will be followed, so the recommended revisions will first be reviewed internally then submitted consecutively to stakeholders, the COI, and the COP for review, discussion, and approval before being submitted to the State Regents for their consideration.

Dr. Placido reported that the OSRHE is in the process of contracting with OutSystems to create automated scholarship application processes for all the scholarship programs the OSRHE manages, beginning with the Inspired to Teach scholarship.

1. Campus Share-Out

Ms. O’Quinn announced that the EOSC meat judging team was named national champion at the American Meat Science Association Cargill High Plains Collegiate Meat Judging Contest last week in Friona, Texas. She added that EOSC and CSC have been awarded a nearly $4 million federal grant to provide increased support for academic success, career preparation, and mental health counseling for students at both of our campuses.

Dr. Willis reported that NEOA&M and CASC have received a grant to provide similar support to their online students.

1. New Business

There was no new business.

1. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on Thursday, December 14, 2023, by Ms. Elizabeth Walker of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.