Meeting of the

Council on Instruction

March 7, 2024

The Council on Instruction (COI) met at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 7, 2024, by Zoom.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Willis welcomed members and guests.

Institutional representatives attending included Dr. Richard Beck (RSU), Dr. James Bell (NWOSU), Dr. Amanda Estey (SCC), Dr. Jeffrey Gibson (ECU), Dr. Theresa Golden (SEOSU), Dr. Dustin Grover (NEOA&M), Ms. Becky Henthorn (MSC), Dr. Travis Hurst (RSC), Dr. Joel Kendall (SWOSU), Dr. Marge Kingsley (CU), Dr. Chris McBeath (CSC), Dr. Donna Miles (USAO), Dr. Mark Morvant (OU), Ms. Robin O’Quinn (EOSC), Dr. Juanita Ortiz (OCCC), Ms. Annie Pearson (RCC), Dr. Carla Swearingen (NSU), Ms. Diana Watkins (NOC), and Dr. Marc Willis (CASC).

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) staff attending included Dr. Colbi Beam, Dr. Stephanie Beauchamp, Ms. Brittany Blake, Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Ms. Heather Peck, Dr. Robert Placido, and Ms. Hannah Schwab.

COI members absent included Ms. Rachel Beckner (WOSC), Dr. Chris Francisco (OSU), Dr. Angela Sivadon (TCC), Dr. Alonzo Peterson (LU), and Dr. Charlotte Simmons (UCO).

Guests included Ms. Josita Baker (TCC) (OACADA), Dr. Kristopher Copeland (TCC), Mr. Tennent Emmons (OCCC) (OACADA), Ms. Jody Grammer (OSUIT), Mr. Kyle Gregorio (OSUIT) (OACRAO), Dr. LeeAnn Paris (UCO), and Dr. Ronna Vanderslice (OSU-OKC), and guest speakers Mrs. Kathy Cullen, Chief Financial Officer, OKC Innovation District, Mr. Koey Keylon, Executive Director, BioTC, and Mr. DeAndre Martin, Director of Partner Engagement and Special Projects, OKC Innovation District.

1. OKC Innovation District Presentation

Mr. Martin, Mr. Keylon, and Mrs. Cullen provided a presentation on the work of the OKC Innovation District.

1. Minutes of January 11, 2024 Meeting

Minutes of the January 11, 2024, meeting were approved.

1. Legislative Update

Dr. Jobe reported on the progress of higher education-related legislation in the Oklahoma legislative session.

1. Tier Meeting Updates

Dr. Kendall reported that the 4-year COI met that morning in person at the State Regents’ office and discussed changes to guidelines for Oklahoma Research Day at the state capitol, free speech training, concurrent enrollment, and potential changes to the meaning of exempt personnel.

Dr. Estey reported that the 2-year COI met that morning and discussed whether and how institutions move to virtual instruction if a campus has to close for weather, HLC changes to faculty qualifications regarding high school teachers of concurrent enrollment classes, student satisfaction surveys, the possibility of creating inter-institutional common course names and numbers, and the new federal prohibition on withholding student transcripts based solely on the student owing the institution a balance. Dr. Estey reported the group also discussed the recent OSRHE policy revision prohibiting institutions from offering 0-level courses, their continuing concerns about implementing the revision, and relayed their request for clarification of expectations and options under the new policy. She added that the group also discussed the new policy revisions sent to them by Dr. Beauchamp.

1. Course Equivalency Project

The COI approved the 2024-2025 course equivalency matrix. The COI approved the proposed disciplines for the 2024 Fall Faculty CEP Meetings. Dr. Beauchamp presented two proposals to update the structure of the CEP. The first is that the representative from the institution whose AVP is facilitating the discipline is automatically the chair of that discipline’s faculty meeting that year. The second is to remove the historical restriction on meeting once a year, and hold multiple smaller meetings throughout the year by Zoom. She explained that this would solve the problem of disciplines only being ablet to meet every 3 to 5 years, so that course equivalencies for disciplines in which content and outcomes change more rapidly can be kept current. She stressed that these are still conceptual proposals, and work would have to be done to create concrete implementation plans for them. The COI responded favorably to both ideas, and requested that more detailed proposals be developed and presented at a future meeting. Dr. Morvant brought up the 2-Year COI’s discussion of inter-institutional common course names and numbers, and remarked that systemwide common course numbering based on student outcomes would also be a major improvement to the functionality of the CEP.

1. Policy Updates

Dr. Beauchamp reviewed details of proposed revisions to OSRHE policies 3.2 Functions of Public Institutions, 3.4 Academic Program Approval, 3.7 Academic Program Review, 3.11 Undergraduate Transfer and Articulation, 3.12 Grading, and 3.14 Granting of Degrees. She said the proposed revisions are intended to address small issues and inconsistencies that resulted from the revisions made as part of the Chapter 3 policy review process, many in response to input from COI members. The COI posted the proposed revisions, and Dr. Beauchamp specified that any comments or feedback are due to her by April 7.

Dr. Beauchamp reminded members of the new OSRHE policy revision process, where new language is jointly drafted by staff, the Chancellor, and the State Regents, the result of which work is submitted for review and feedback to the COI and then to the COP, and when approved by both, is presented at a State Regents meeting for their consideration.

1. Smartsheet Improvements

Dr. Beauchamp reviewed various improvements to the functionality of the Smartsheet new program request process, and reviewed the new OSRHE website, demonstrating how to navigate to various pages on the new site. She added that the OSRHE communications department has agreed to separate the degree inventory and status report on one page from forms on a separate page, but it will be some time before this change is implemented.

1. Academic Innovation Updates

Neither Mr. Griffith nor Ms. Romano were able to attend.

1. State Regents’ Update

Dr. Placido reported that proposed distribution of GEER funds available to the state system will be presented to the State Regents at their meeting next week. He added that if the State Regents approve the distribution, the timing and scope within which the funds must be expended are very narrow and urged members to ensure they use all of their allocation within the required timeframe.

Dr. Placido reported that the State Regents are in possession of the work and recommendations of the Concurrent Enrollment committees and are considering what to do. He said that staff will assist in drafting policy language, and when that is done it will move through the review process that Dr. Beauchamp explained earlier.

Dr. Placido reported that he has been informed by the COP that presidents and provosts want the COI to resume meeting in person rather than by Zoom, alerting members that their presidents will likely approach them on this topic.

1. Campus Share-Out

There were no campus share-outs.

1. New Business

Dr. Beauchamp announced that the OSRHE will no longer require institutions to submit a degree-completion plan; however, the academic plan will still be required and institutions will receive notification of this year’s due date soon. Dr. Placido remarked that he is hoping to be able to eliminate the academic plan requirement, as it is more an institutional governing board matter than one for a coordinating board, and he has requested that Mark Tygret remove the requirement from the allocation funding formula as part of the work he is doing to revise the pertinent Chapter 2 policy.

1. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on Thursday, April 4, 2024, by Ms. Elizabeth Walker of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.