

# REDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Board of Regents Meeting, Regents Room

April 9, 2026

1300 S. Country Club Rd. El Reno, OK 73036

## MINUTES

The Board of Regents of Redlands Community College met in regular session at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 2026, in the Regents Room at Redlands Community College, El Reno, Oklahoma. Notice of the meeting date had been properly filed with the Secretary of State, and a copy of the notice and agenda was posted by 4:00pm Wednesday April 8, 2026, in prominent public view at the location of the meeting and on the College website, [www.redlandsc.edu](http://www.redlandsc.edu), in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

### Redlands Community College Board of Regents present:

Dale Cox	Dr. David Von Tungeln
Dr. Rhys Cole	Kassandra Newell
Jason Murray	Lori Burns

### Redlands Community College Board of Regents absent:

Janie Thompson

### Redlands Community College personnel present:

Dr. Jena Marr, President  
Annie Pearson, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dayna Rowe, Executive Director for Academic Affairs  
Kim Andrade, Director of Human Resources  
Troy Milligan, Coordinator of Institutional Research & Effectiveness  
Dr. Kacey Daniels, Executive Director of Student Services  
Valerie Black, Executive Assistant  
Jeff Pearce, Chief Information Officer/Chief Information Security Officer  
Eli Zucksworth, Director of Athletics/Institutional and Student Compliance  
Dr. Julie Flegal-Smallwood, Director of Institutional Accreditation and Strategic Academic Initiatives  
Dr. Rachel Cockrell, Professor of Business  
Erin Karl, Professor of History/Department Head of Criminal Justice and Social Sciences  
Cherry Rain, Professor for Political Science | Academic Bowl Coach | Student Organizations Coordinator  
Melissa Hilliard, Testing Center Assistant/Assistant Coach for the Academic Team  
Kenzi Hull, Executive Assistant to the President

Guests present: Kyle Shifflett, Legal Counsel, Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General.

### Student present:

Daley Rain  
Gary Beverly  
Gabby Cervantes  
Marshall Noah Benavides  
Wyatt Lovins  
Melody Derksen  
Derrick Krantzman  
Jack Shottenkirk  
Averi Manning  
Jared Rempe

Regent Lori Burns was formally sworn in by Regent Newell to serve on the Redlands Community College Board for a 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-year term.

Regent Newell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call established the presence of a quorum with five (6) Regents present: Dr. Von Tungeln, Lori Burns, Dr. Cole, Kassandra Newell, Dale Cox, and Jason Murray

Regent Cox made a motion, seconded by Regent Burns to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2026 Board of Regents Meeting. Those voting for the motion: Regents Von Tungeln, Burns, Cole, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None.

President Marr updated the Regents on the upcoming Esports Camp registration flyer (event: May 31 – June 5, 2026).

President Marr updated the Regents on the Annual Livestock Judging Camp May 26-27, 2026.

President Marr updated the Regents on a full-page ad featured in the Nursing Times Magazine.

President Marr highlighted a video of Deer Creek student Grayson, signing on for Esports.

President Marr updated the Regents on a thank you note from El Reno Mobile Meals for volunteering to deliver meals.

President Marr asked NIGH Scholar Noah Johnson to introduce himself, he also updated the Regents on his wonderful experience while at Nigh Leadership Academy at UCO in February. He gained leadership, networking skills, participated in volunteer activities at the OKC Zoo.

President Marr asked Cherry Rain and Melissa Hilliard to come to the podium and update the Regents on the Academic Teams Achievements 2025-2026.

- **National Performance:**
  - Qualified for nationals over a dozen times.
  - 13 individual top-10 placements; team top-10 in nationals 11 times; five times top-5 (including this year).
  - Riley Ray (top individual performer this year) unable to attend due to work.
- **Team Leadership:**
  - Captain: Daily Rain (recognized for exceptional leadership and dedication).
  - Each team member introduced, with background, major, and career plans:
    - Fields from nursing, data analytics, professional sciences, general studies, paleontology, agroecology, psychology, criminal justice, political science, English, and dance.
  - Diversity of academic interests and transfer plans highlighted.

Erin Karl, substituting for President Jeffrey Sheldon post-surgery, presented the Faculty Senate Update to the Regents.

- **Key Faculty Accomplishments:**
  - **OER (Open Educational Resources) Grants:**
    - Paul Simon: Level 1 grant for developmental psychology (student savings: \$80 per student).
    - Erin Snyder: Level 2 grant for art appreciation (student savings: \$230 per student); enrollment in Art Appreciation has increased.
  - **Great Questions Foundation Fellowship:**
    - Four history professors (including Karl) accepted into a national two-year fellowship for discussion-based learning. Trip to Austin (Nov 2025); next session in Rochester, NY, June 2026. Early adoption in classes has improved student engagement.

- **Innovation in Teaching Awards, 2026:**
  - Erin Karl: “Integrating AI and Historical Inquiry”—emphasis on teaching AI literacy, critical evaluation, and context for AI-assisted research.
  - Elise McCauley: “One-on-One Conferences”—personalized 10-minute student meetings increase retention and comfort.
- **Faculty Senate Transition:**
  - Dr. Rachel Cockrell named upcoming Faculty Senate President.

President Marr asked the Regents for a vote to approve/disapprove resubmitting the application for the Mary K. Ashbrook Foundation, no change in grant request due to needed correction in tax-exempt/signature section. Regent Burns made a motion, seconded by Dr. Von Tungeln to approve the application for the Mary K. Ashbrook Foundation. Those voting for the motion: Regents Von Tungeln, Burns, Cole, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None.

President Marr asked for a vote to approve/disapprove changes to Policy 411 Faculty Tenure, due to the February 5, 2026 executive order Gov. Stitt issued prohibiting new tenure-track positions at community colleges.

- **Proposed Policy Update:**
  - All new tenure-track postings discontinued.
  - 15 faculty currently on tenure-track; only those hired under previous model can complete process.
    - Of Those 15, 1 is retiring, and several have no interest in pursuing tenure, while others are interested in finishing out the process.
  - Tenure at Redlands is not a lifetime guarantee; annual contract, yearly review, due process for dismissals, and minimal financial difference.
  - Detailed discussion on the differences between actual and perceived tenure protections.
  - Legal input referenced: Ongoing dialogue about contractual implications, possible lawsuits, and ambiguity in executive order language; interpretation may rely on pending lawsuits or further guidance from Regents or Governor’s office.
  - The board discussed options (grandfathering vs. strict cutoff, timelines for eligibility, contracts, future policy language).
  - Recognized confusion due to conflicting instructions from Governor's office and state regents.

Dr. Von Tungeln made a motion, seconded by Dr Cole to table changes pending further legal/regulatory clarification. Those voting for the motion: Regents Von Tungeln, Burns, Cole, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None.

President Marr asked for a vote to approve/disapprove changes to Policy 606-Tuition Waiver for Employees and their Dependents. Policy previously excluded zero-level/remedial courses from 50% employee/dependent tuition waivers, even when required for degree completion. Dr. Von Tungeln made a motion, seconded by Regent Burns to approve the changes to Policy 606 -Tuition Waiver for Employees and their Dependents. Those voting for the motion: Regents Von Tungeln, Burns, Cole, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None

President Marr updated the Regents on Spring 2026 Enrollment Data: Institutional Report Compared to State Regents Overall Enrollment Reports.

- **Spring 2026 Report:**
  - Redlands had the state’s largest percentage increase in community college enrollment; third highest among all Oklahoma institutions.
  - Highest spring enrollment in 16 years; third highest headcount in 33 years.
  - Concurrent enrollment: third highest in state; second largest year-on-year jump.
  - However, 50% of OK institutions (including Redlands) had declines in first-time freshman enrollment, reflecting a national trend (economic factors cited).
  - College working on new strategies to attract recent high school graduates.

- **Discussion of National Trends:**

- Question raised about the “enrollment cliff” (predicted but now debated); trend data shows increased degrees among eligible youth now (30%+ vs. 6-8% in the 1960s).
- Region's enrollments expected to be stable; more older students returning to college than ever.

- **Resident Housing Update:**

Spring 2026: 87% full; projected to be completely full by Fall.

President Marr updated the Regents on Personnel Items:

- **New Hire:**

- Delana Smiley to start April 15, Coordinator, Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Grant.

- **Resignations:**

- Amanda Greenfield (filled by above hire)
- Dana Smith (Human Resource Specialist; last day April 8, 2026)

- **Terminations:**

- Dorothea Holyan-Director for the Native American Service Non-Tribal Institutions (NASTNI) Part A Cooperative Grant, - Last day of employment 3-31-26 (grant funded -position ended)

Dr. Cole made a motion, seconded by Regent Burns to approve the President’s Report. Those voting for the motion: Regents Von Tungeln, Burns, Cole, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None

New Business – None

At 4:51 p.m., Regent Burns made a motion, seconded by Regent Murray to adjourn the meeting. Those voting for the motion: Regents Von Tungeln, Burns, Cole, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None

Chairperson\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_