REDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Regents Meeting, Regents Room
October 8, 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, October 8, 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 in prominent public view at the location of the meeting and on the College website, www.redlandscc.edu, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Redlands Community College Board of Regents present:
Janie Thompson
Dale Cox
Dr. David Von Tungeln
Kassandra Newell
Jason Murray**

Redlands Community College Board of Regents absent:
Dr. Rhys Cole
Lori Burns

Redlands Community College personnel present:
Dr. Jena Marr, President
Jon Fields, Executive Vice President
Annie Pearson, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Troy Milligan, Coordinator of Institutional Research & Effectiveness/Coordinator of Title IX
Dayna Rowe, Executive Director of External Affairs
Kim Andrade, Director of Human Resources
Brady Leck, Student Services Specialist I
Dr. Kacey Daniels, Executive Director of Student Services
Bethany Holley-Griffith, Professor for History
Erin Karl, Professor of History/Department Head of Criminal Justice and Social Sciences
Josh Smith, Executive Director of the Physical Plant
Tara Douglas, Director of Foundation Development and Alumni Relations
Dr. Julie Flegal-Smallwood, Director of Institutional Accreditation and Strategic Academic Initiatives
Kenzi Hull, Executive Assistant to the President

Students Present: Maleah Zimmerman, Whitney Wollenberg, Zayne Sawatsky, Lydia Bullard, Summer Coble, Annabell Rose

Guests Present: Qi Hua Zhang, Finley & Cook

Regent Newell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call established the presence of a quorum with five (5) Regents present: Janie Thompson, Dr. Von Tungeln, Kassandra Newell, and Dale Cox.

Regent Cox made a motion, seconded by Dr. Von Tungeln, to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2026 Board of Regents Meeting. Those voting for the motion: Regents, Thompson, Von Tungeln, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None.

Jon Fields gave the Regents the September financial update. In response to a question about professional fees, Jon Fields and President Marr explained the category can include security, audit, IT, landscaping, and other third-party services.

President Marr invited the President's Student Leadership Academy class to attend the Board Meeting. She asked each student to introduce themselves and say their hometowns, studies, and plans after Redlands. The students discussed plans in agriculture education, radiology, animal genetics, veterinary medicine, psychology and political science, basketball, and healthcare.

The academy has 10 students; several could not attend. The students had met earlier with Kenzi Hull to prepare for the Angel Tree project and they will help launch it and solicit toy donations for the community. The Board thanked the students for attending and recognized their new polos.

President Marr asked Qi Hua Zhang with Finley & Cook to discuss the FY 26 external audit. The firm issued a clean opinion, with no audit findings, no observed fraud or illegal activity, and no disagreements with management. The federal grant expenditure audit portion was not included in the report because the U.S. Office of Management and Budget had not yet issued final FY26 compliance guidance. Audit testing had been completed using the prior-year final guidance and current-year draft guidance, but the federal portion cannot be released until final guidance is available. President Marr clarified that the Board was voting on the completed portion, which met the state's October 31 deadline. If there are no major changes in the final federal guidance, Kendra will update the Board and the federal portion will be presented for a later vote. Regent Thompson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Von Tungeln, to approve the audit as presented. Those voting for the motion: Regents, Thompson, Von Tungeln, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None.

President Marr and the Board recognized the Fall 2026 recipients of the OACC awards:

Erin Karl, Outstanding Faculty Member
Brady Leck, Outstanding Professional Staff
Valerie Black, Outstanding Support Staff
Bethany Holley-Griffith was also recognized as she received a $500 stipend for her Great Ideas for Teaching GIFT Award. She described a Native American history course activity that uses a language database to help students identify Indigenous languages connected to their home areas and understand Native history as living history.

Jon Fields updated the Regents on the annual renewal of network equipment support by asking the board to approve/disapprove issuing a purchase order to Peak Uptime in the amount of $65,662.91 from the revised quote of $74,209.13. Dr. Von Tungeln made a motion, seconded by Regent Thompson to approve issuing a purchase order to Peak Uptime in the amount of $65,662.91. Those voting for the motion: Regents, Thompson, Von Tungeln, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None.

President Marr aske Tara Douglas, Director of Foundation Development and Alumni Relations, to come to the podium and give the Regents an update on the Foundation. A July "Phantom" ticket fundraiser brought in $6,875 through donations made in $50 increments for a drawing for two tickets to Hamilton in Oklahoma City. Printing and postage cost about $500.

The annual scholarship luncheon was held September 17 for approximately 100 attendees. It cost about $1,800; there was no admission charge and it was not a fundraiser.

A holiday open-house fundraiser is planned for December 3, 5–7 p.m., at Darlington Chapel. Planning is ongoing; ideas include a happy hour, holiday auction items, and an open bar.

Foundation contributions for the current fiscal year to date totaled $107,053, including $29,250 for the new President's Circle Fund. The remainder supported Foundation programs and scholarships. This is slightly above the approximately $101,000 reported for the prior year; Douglas attributed much of the early increase to large gifts for new endowed scholarship funds.

For 2026–27, the Foundation awarded 85 Foundation scholarships and 100 concurrent fee scholarships, totaling $168,000 in academic awards for the fall. Six new scholarship awards were established for this year, with nine more expected to be available for 2027–28. Applications open November 1. The Foundation plans to renew AwardSpring, an online platform that streamlined student applications, document uploads, and selection committee administration.

The American Emergency Assistance Fund has assisted 12 students so far this year. It can provide up to $750 per student for qualifying unforeseen expenses that threaten continued enrollment, such as living expenses, utilities, medical bills, and childcare; it cannot pay tuition or fees.

The Foundation manages the Austin Family Farms property, approximately 1,300 acres and two homes. Both homes have been renovated and leased to long-term tenants. Ongoing farmland work includes fencing, dirt work, cedar removal, and junk removal; five tenants currently lease farmland. Beginning in July 2027, a portion is expected to support expansion of the college's cattle-production program, with the Foundation interested in helping purchase livestock.

Regents discussed Foundation fundraising, governance, and alignment with college priorities. Douglas said the July fundraiser was a quick, low-cost option and not intended as an annual replacement for an in-person event. The last large gala, held in 2023, reportedly grossed about $71,000 and netted $53,402 after expenses; roughly 300 people attended, and estimated hosting costs were about $15,000. The last casino night was in 2019 and reportedly netted about $20,000. Participants noted that Redlands employees did most of the work for the 2023 gala and urged stronger Foundation board engagement in fundraising events and institutional priorities.

Housing was emphasized as a priority. Douglas said the Foundation had been receptive to considering Austin Fund interest to help develop housing for ACT students, subject to the fund's restrictions, and could be approached again when a specific need is presented.

Douglas said the Foundation has 11 members and no stated minimum or maximum in its bylaws. Members may serve three consecutive four-year terms, then spend one year as a non-voting member before returning.

Several members are expected to roll off within roughly two years, and the Foundation is recruiting new members. The Board also discussed attendance expectations and whether the bylaws should be updated.

The next Foundation Board meeting is November 4 at noon on campus. Douglas will convey the Regents' feedback to the Foundation Board. President Marr said she would remind Regents a couple of weeks before the meeting and suggested additional Board voices may be needed.

Jon Fields explained the FY 28-30 OSRHE Budget Need Survey. Fields explained that the multi-year survey is submitted to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and summarizes anticipated mandatory cost increases, operating and enrollment projections, potential strategic investments, and priority needs. Estimates are planning figures, not commitments to spend or raise tuition. The State Regents analyze submissions and incorporate them into a higher-education proposal to the Legislature. FY28 mandatory cost increases were reported as $124,453, representing the increase from FY27 to FY28, not the full annual costs. Categories include health, dental, and vision insurance; accounting and audit contracts; utilities; professional services; risk management;

and IT and technology renewals. The survey generally assumes a 10% annual health-premium increase, although health premiums rose 13% for calendar year 2027. Other estimates reflect contract terms, vendor negotiations, and available utility projections; Fields cautioned that the figures are uncertain.
Salary-and-benefit scenarios for FY28 were shown as approximately $101,368 for a 1% increase and $304,104 for a 3% increase, with the final decision dependent in part on state funding. Fields confirmed the scenarios were across-the-board.

A $392,500 request was aligned with the State Regents' Strategic Plan 2030: $160,000 for student success, retention, and completion; $110,000 for workforce-ready graduates; $55,000 to grow the student population; and $67,500 for system efficiency and effectiveness. The requests include efforts such as aligning programs to workforce demand, strengthening K–12 and career-tech partnerships, improving retention and completion, and supporting institutional sustainability.
The total FY28 request for mandatory increases, salary and benefits adjustments, and strategic priorities was stated as $821,057.
The four budget-priority items totaled $1.64 million and included security and Title IX compliance, access control, ADA compliance, and cybersecurity. President Marr explained that many needs originated in an earlier forensic audit and remain relevant despite improvements and reductions to estimated costs. Examples included uneven sidewalks, door locks and lockdown capabilities, and campus safety needs. Fields noted that deferred-maintenance funding may cover roofs and some ADA work but not most of these priorities.
Regents asked how closely the State Regents review the survey. President Marr and Jon Fields said it is submitted with other institutions' requests and analyzed for a statewide proposal; they believe review may now be more thorough, although funding is uncertain. President Marr explained that FY29 and FY30 largely carry forward FY28 requests with projections added, while FY28 requires the most detailed work.
The discussion also covered insurance deductibles: $25,000 for property insurance and $12,500 for health insurance. Regent Cox suggested that "most favored nation" language or a similar competitive-quote approach could help secure stronger vendor pricing; Jon Fields said he was unfamiliar with that term and would consider it.
Jon Fields also described the time burden of recurring state reports and noted that the new Vice Chancellor of Finance has discussed streamlining reporting.
The current FY27 state appropriation was identified as approximately $5.8 million. President Marr said previous increases were generally applied consistently across colleges and universities, but future distributions will be affected by a new state funding formula that directs any unearmarked new higher-education funding according to the formula.

President Marr asked for a vote to approve/disapprove issuing a Purchase Order and payment to Academic HealthPlans for Athletic and Student Accident Insurance premiums in the amount of $104,888. Dr. Von Tungeln made a motion, seconded by Regent Thompson to approve issuing a Purchase Order and payment to Academic HealthPlans for Athletic and Student Accident Insurance premiums in the amount of $104,888. Those voting for the motion: Regents, Thompson, Von Tungeln, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None.

President Marr asked Kenzi Hull to discuss the President's evaluation. Regents were asked to return evaluations to her by November 5 so she could compile them before the December 3 meeting.
At the December 3 meeting, the Board will convene in executive session to discuss the President's employment. Kenzi will send the timeline electronically in addition to providing hard copies.

President Marr discussed State-Wide Enrollment numbers for the Fall 2026 semester. President Marr reported that Redlands ranked first among Oklahoma community colleges in year-over-year

enrollment growth, increasing 12.2%, from 2,392 to 2,684 students—a gain of 292. Statewide colleges and universities grew 0.4% overall, while community colleges collectively declined 0.1%. Redlands also ranked first in full-time headcount growth at 9%; statewide full-time headcount declined 0.2%. Redlands had the third-highest increase in concurrent enrollment, up 16.1% over the prior fall, compared with a statewide average increase of 2.5%. Tulsa Community College had the largest overall increase in student count.

President Marr asked Annie Pearson to discuss Suspending the Associate in Applied Science in Agriculture Technology and Sustainability due to low enrollments and no graduates in the past five academic years. Over the past five years, 17 students declared the major and there were no graduates. Some courses, including vermiculture and aquaponics, remain available as electives for students in programs such as Agroecology or Uncrewed and Autonomous Aircraft Systems. Dr. Von Tungeln made a motion, seconded by Regent Thompson to approve Suspending the Associate in Applied Science in Agriculture Technology and Sustainability. Those voting for the motion: Regents, Thompson, Von Tungeln, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None.

President Marr updated the Regents on Personnel Items:

New Hires:

- Matthew Brown – Director for Veterans Upward Bound – Start Date 10/12/2026.

Resignations:

- Tim McMichael, Student Services Specialist II, Last Working Day: September 11, 2026.
- Brayden Bleeker – Last day employed was 9/30/2026.

New Business –President Marr thanked Dr. Von Tungeln for bringing Congressman Hern to campus for a visit on Tuesday.

Redlands hosted a luncheon on Tuesday for partner CareerTech superintendents. The college currently has 11 partnerships; approximately five or six superintendents and Brent Haken attended, and participants discussed opportunities for further collaboration.

President Marr reported that the President's Circle campaign was approaching $30,000, with additional checks received that day, and thanked participating Regents.

At 5:04pm, Regent Murray made a motion, seconded by Dr. Von Tungeln , to adjourn the meeting. Those voting for the motion: Regents, Thompson, Von Tungeln, Newell, Cox and Murray. Those voting against the motion: None.

** Denotes late arrival at 4:03pm.

Chairperson _____ Date _____

Secretary _____ Date _____