

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
FOR THE OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES
JANUARY 19, 2012

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON JANUARY 11, 2012, AND JANUARY 13, 2012.

The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges met in the Honors Lounge of the Skirvin Hotel, One Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on January 19, 2012.

Those present: Mr. Jay L. Helm, Chairman; Mr. Andrew W. Lester, Vice Chairman; Mr. Calvin J. Anthony; Mr. Douglas E. Burns; Mr. Rick Davis; Mr. Joe D. Hall; Mr. Tucker Link; Mr. Jim Reese; and Mrs. Lou Watkins.

Absent: None.

Others present: Dr. W. Douglas Wilson, Executive Secretary; Mr. Robert White, Health and Higher Education Policy Analyst; Mr. Jason Ramsey, Director, State Government Relations; Dr. George E. Ayers, President of the executive search firm of Ayers & Associates, Inc.; and Ms. Shari Brecht, Administrative Associate.

After the Executive Secretary announced a quorum was present and it was noted that notice had been filed with the Secretary of State, the meeting was called to order at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

Regent Lester moved and Regent Anthony seconded to approve the Agenda as posted (ATTACHMENT A).

Those voting aye: Board Members Anthony, Burns, Davis, Hall, Helm, Lester, Link, Reese, and Watkins. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

Executive Session

At approximately 11:06 a.m., Regent Helm moved and Regent Burns seconded that the Board convene into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment (including interviewing and evaluating candidates) of a President of Langston University.

Those voting aye: Board Members Burns, Davis, Hall, Helm, Lester, Link, Reese, Watkins, and Anthony. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None. The motion was approved.

Open Session

At approximately 6:00 p.m., Regent Burns moved that the Board now go out of Executive Session, and Regent Watkins seconded the motion.

Those voting aye: Board Members Davis, Hall, Helm, Lester, Link, Reese, Watkins, Anthony, and Burns. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None. The motion passed.

Chairman Helm said the Board is now in Open Session. He said the Board has been in discussion regarding the search for the next President of Langston University. Chairman Helm recognized and thanked Dr. George Ayers, President of Ayers and Associates, who did a marvelous job in assisting the Search Committee and the Board as the executive search firm during the Langston University Presidential Search. Chairman Helm said he would also like to thank all members of the Langston University Search Committee, which included alumni, students, faculty, staff, etc. He recognized as being in attendance Ms. Venora McKinney, President, Langston University National Alumni Association. He noted that she resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the Board appreciates that she came down for this meeting. Ms. McKinney said she loves Oklahoma and truly loves Langston University.

Chairman Helm expressed special appreciation to Regent Andy Lester who served as Chair of the Search Committee and to Regents Rick Davis and Lou Watkins who served as members of the Committee. At this time, Chairman Helm called upon Langston University Search Committee Chair Andy Lester.

Regent Lester said the Search Committee worked very hard. There were spirited discussions; the Committee did a great job; and the search process has arrived at this point.

Appointment of Langston University President

Regent Lester moved that the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges appoint Dr. Kent Smith as President of Langston University and Professor of Education with tenure effective July 1, 2012, at an annual salary of \$220,000 with usual and customary benefits, payment of moving expenses, occupancy of the President's home, an automobile allowance of \$20,000, and an expense allowance of \$15,000. This includes authorization for the Board Chairman to execute a three-year contract pending review by Legal Counsel. Regent Davis seconded the motion.

Those voting aye: Board Members Hall, Helm, Lester, Link, Reese, Watkins, Anthony, Burns, and Davis. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

Chairman Helm noted that there was a unanimous vote approving this appointment. He then recognized Dr. Kent Smith, Jr., and asked that he introduce his wife Tiffany Hill-Smith, his mother, and other family members present.

Dr. Smith said first of all he wished to say that it has been a great process. He said he and his wife are humbled, honored, and absolutely thrilled about this opportunity to serve not only the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Langston University, but the State of Oklahoma. He thanked the Board and said they look forward to working with each and every member of the Board.

Dr. Smith said he received a surprise today. He said he had no idea that some of his family members were flying here. They did not know if they would have a dinner kind of consoling him because they were not offered the opportunity; but, it seems now there will be a celebratory dinner. He said he did not get to where he is presently as Kent Smith without standing on the shoulders of other people. His family is certainly the reason he stands before the Board today, and he wished to introduce his family members who are present at the meeting. He said the Board already knows his wife Tiffany. He introduced his mother Elaine Smith, who is a retired educator and probably the reason he is in education today. He introduced his brother Keith Smith who is Assistant Chief, a firefighter, and also a volunteer police officer in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He said having gone through this process with him, Keith probably knows more about Langston University than anybody. The two of them have been on the phone, emailing, texting, etc., for about a month straight. He was actually the one who found the President's home on Google. He introduced his 17-year-old son Trey Smith, and said to his son, "It looks like we will be moving to Langston." He introduced Patrick DeCuir, who really for him is a father figure and is actually his godfather and first cousin. He said he has steered him in the right direction and continues to give him great counsel and leadership in making the right decisions.

Dr. Smith said he would like to say to Ms. McKinney a thank you for the last few days and being a part of the search process. He said he made a commitment to her that he would involve and be involved with alums. He said he wished to publicly state to her that he will honor that commitment. Both he and Tiffany will be heavily involved supporting the alums of Langston University. They look forward to serving her and the alums in a dynamic way.

Dr. Smith again thanked the Board for this opportunity.

Chairman Helm said the Board wishes to welcome Tiffany. He said she has been a vital part of this decision-making process and the Board appreciates her and wishes both of them the best.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:05 p.m., Regent Burns moved and Regent Davis seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Those voting aye: Regents Helm, Lester, Link, Reese, Watkins, Anthony, Burns, Davis, and Hall. No: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None. The motion was approved.

AGENDA

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR
THE OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES**

January 19, 2012 – 11:00 a.m.


Honors Lounge
Skirvin Hilton Hotel
One Park Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on January 11, 2012, and January 13, 2012.


Business to be discussed:

- (1) Approval of Agenda.
- (2) Executive Session, if so approved by the required number of Board members present, for the purpose of discussing the employment (including interviewing and evaluating candidates) of a President of Langston University. (Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, §307B.1.)
- (3) Consider or take any action with reference to the matters contained in the immediately preceding item.

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE OKLAHOMA
AGRICULTURAL AND MEHCANICAL COLLEGES

By:  _____
Jay L. Helm, Chairman

ATTEST:

 _____
W. Douglas Wilson, Executive Secretary

Certified correct minutes subject to approval of the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges on February 24, 2012.

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Shari Brecht, Administrative Associate