

Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2025 Oklahoma State University Veterinary Medicine Authority

The OSU Veterinary Medicine Authority convened a regular meeting at 10:00am on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 in the Alumni Conference Room, McElroy Hall, OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, 115 McElroy Hall, Stillwater, OK.

Notice of the meeting was provided to the Oklahoma Secretary of State consistent with the open meetings guidelines, and the agenda was posted at 115 McElroy Hall prior to the meeting in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

I. Call to Order, Acknowledgement of Meeting Filing and Establishment of a Quorum

Chair Arthur called the meeting to order at 10:00am. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Blayne Arthur, Joe Hall, Jerry Ritchey, Richard Prather, Troy Shelby, Phil Wood, Jim Hess

ABSENT: L. D. Barker

Chair Arthur introduced Senator Jech and thanked him for his continued support. She also recognized Steve Thompson, Director of Public Policy in the OSU Board of Regents office who introduced their four new interns who are assisting legislators as interns during this legislative session.

II. Discussion and Possible Vote for the Approval of Minutes of the October 15, 2024 Meeting of the Authority

Chair Arthur asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the October 15, 2024 Authority meeting.

Motion to approve October 15, 2024 minutes was made by Joe Hall, and seconded by Phil Wood.

AYES – Arthur, Hall, Ritchey, Prather, Wood and Shelby

NAYS – None

III. Report and Overview of College of Veterinary Medicine Status – Interim Dean Jerry Ritchey

a. Status and update report on the College of Veterinary Medicine

Interim Dean Ritchey presented a power point presentation.

Admissions changes include:

- Minimum GPA increased to 3.0
- Drop GRE and Casper exams
- Add last 45 hours GPA
- Interviews for both in-state and out-of-state applicants and a system for subjective scoring
- Increasing the number of in-state admittees. The current ratio is 58 in-state/48 out-of-state. The new ratio for Fall 2025 will be 69 in-state/37 out-of-state

Accreditation:

- Minor facilities, equipment, clinical resources, and curriculum deficiencies were removed. Received positive acknowledgement from COE and a directive to continue to report data as improvements continue
- College remains on probationary accreditation

Hospital:

- Several leadership roles have been assigned and affirmed
- Several things have been put in place to improve clinical case numbers
- Clutter has been removed and cleanliness is a top priority

Hiring:

- New positions include an epidemiologist and a pathologist
- Several open positions have been filled and many more are in the interview process

Scholarship

- James and Elizabeth Wise endowed a professorship for \$2 million

Chair Arthur said she is glad to see more collaboration between Dean Lusk, College of Agricultural Sciences, and Interim Dean Ritchey. Interim Dean Ritchey said they had a very productive meeting and have exchanged perspectives and goals.

IV. Chief Executive Officer's Report and Possible Action Items

- a. Report on the request for funding from the Oklahoma Legislature for the 2025-2026 fiscal year

Dr. Hess reported that he had an opportunity to share the request for funding with the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) conference. He thanked Steve Thompson and Karlee Belle Gholson for their help and for providing more opportunities to share the plan with legislators in the near future.

Dr. Hess presented the Executive Summary of the legislative request:

1. Completion of a three-year funding plan will establish a premiere animal teaching hospital – **Funding request \$2,133,532**
2. A change in the in-state/out-of-state student ratio will help alleviate the shortage of rural veterinarians. Funds will be needed to make up the loss of out-of-state tuition – **Funding request \$5,184,000**
3. The Lee Denney Scholarship is pivotal to the success of retaining rural veterinarians in Oklahoma – **Funding Request - \$600,000**
4. A Mobile Food Animal Vet Med Program would add 8 mobile units which would provide on-site services. This program will not compete in areas of already practicing veterinarians – **Funding Request - \$3,436,400**
5. Veterinary Teaching Hospital Facilities - \$295 million is needed to construct a new teaching hospital and ranch facilities. The \$295 million would be allocated from the Legacy Fund and amortized over 20 years, requiring only the annual debt service payment of \$14.75 million to be appropriated each year.

Steve Thompson reported that seven House members have toured the Veterinary School and 16 additional House members are scheduled to tour this week.

b. Report and possible action on architectural expenses paid since October 15, 2024.

- i. Three payments, a) \$14,110, b) \$29,170 and c) \$13,240 for a total of \$56,520 were made pursuant to the Authority's action on October 15, 2024. Approval is requested to make additional payments that may occur prior to the next meeting of the Authority. Any payments authorized by the CEO will be reported to the Authority at their next regular meeting.

Dr. Hess explained that the architectural expenses are for a conceptual design which can be used for the current facility or the new one.

Vice Chair Hall reminded the Authority that Dr. Ritchey, Dr. Black and Jeremy Douthit are the points of contact with Phil Thomas and the Long Range Facilities Planning group.

Dr. Hess requested a motion for approval of interim payments. A motion for the CEO to approve additional payments for architectural expenses that may occur prior to the next Authority meeting was made by Troy Shelby and seconded by Richard Prather.

AYES: Arthur, Hall, Ritchey, Prather, Wood and Shelby

NAYS: None

- ii. Report on debt service payments to date to the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority.

Dr. Hess reported the debt service allocation of \$3.95 million has been encumbered to repay the \$79 million in capital funds for the Teaching Hospital.

- c. Report on the recapitalization of the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostics Laboratory (OADDL) – the OSU Board of Regents approved the expansion of the scope of work and services of the current architectural and construction managements firms to include the renovation of OADDL

Dr. Hess gave an update of toxicology services at OADDL. Dr. Jarrad Wagner, Director of the Forensic Sciences Department at CHS has been working with Dr. Jerry Saliki, Director of the OADDL to prepare the facility. After a trip to Texas A&M to gather ideas and consultation with Dr. Kathryn Barr, Toxicology Consultant, decisions were made about which equipment to purchase that would be the most effective. Toxicology services should be available within 60-90 days.

- d. Financial Report for the Animal Teaching Hospital including accruals for Authority funding.

Dr. Hess introduced Kristi Howey for the presentation of the financial report for the Animal Teaching Hospital. Kristi reported the hospital currently has its highest revenue increase so far in FY25 of 7%. Public Service expenses increased due to Tech salary raises. The rest of the hospital staff salaries will also be increased this year to bring them all up to competitive rates.

- e. Financial Report of the Authority as of December 31, 2024.

Dr. Hess presented the Financial Report of the Authority.

The total amount of the Lee Denney Scholarship, \$600,000 was distributed. Dr. Hess thanked Dr. Rosslyn Biggs for handling the process.

The Capital Appropriations for the Teaching Hospital shows expenses of \$230,650 which represents the conceptual design phase of capital improvement project.

Dr. Hess concluded by saying we will continue to look for state and federal support for the College. He thanked Dr. Billy Clay, OSU Veterinary Medicine Alumnus, for his work with the One Health approach which focuses on humans, animals, and environmental interaction.

Adjournment

Chair Arthur asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Richard Prather, seconded by Vice Chair Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY VETERINARY
MEDICINE AUTHORITY



Richard Prather, Secretary