Meeting Minutes – July 29, 2025
Oklahoma State University Veterinary Medicine Authority

The OSU Veterinary Medicine Authority convened a regular meeting at 10:00am on Tuesday, July 29, 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 10:01am. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Blayne Arthur, L. D. Barker, Jerry Ritchey, Richard Prather, Troy Shelby, Jimmy Harrel, Jeff Stroup

ABSENT: Joe Hall

Chair Arthur welcomed Regent Jimmy Harrel as a new Authority member and thanked President Hess for being there.

II. Discussion and Possible Vote for the Approval of Minutes of the April 29, 2025 Meeting of the Authority

Chair Arthur asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the April 29, 2025 Authority meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Richard Prather and seconded by Troy Shelby.

AYES – Arthur, Barker, Ritchey, Prather, Harrel and Shelby

NAYS – None

III. Vote and Adoption of a Memorial Resolution Honoring Authority Member Philip Wood

Chair Arthur presented the Memorial Resolution honoring Phil Wood and asked for a motion to approve.

The motion to approve the resolution was made by Lloyd Barker and seconded by Jerry Ritchey

AYES - Arthur, Barker, Ritchey, Prather, Harrel and Shelby

NAYS – None

IV. Report and Overview of OSU – President Jim Hess

President Hess stated that the College of Veterinary Medicine would continue to be a priority for him. He recalled a visit he had on August 14 when he traveled to Weatherford, OK to visit with Regent Harrel about the College of Vet Med needs. Since that visit there have been many hours of work by Regent Harrel and other Authority members visiting the Capital and making phone calls to push through the legislation. President Hess thanked the Authority, staff, Regent's office and Alumni for their hard work. He is hoping this transformational change will be one of the most important moments in our land grant university.

He will be embarking on a search for a new Dean over the next few months. The search committee will be represented by several groups including the Authority, faculty, students, staff and alumni.

As a personal goal, he would like to be able to show that the new teaching hospital is in process before the next legislative session starts in February.

He provided a handout with two options for possible placement of the new Teaching Hospital. He asked for input from the Authority members and explained that the Board of Regents will make the final decision.

Option One is on Western Road between McElroy and Lakeview. Option Two is on Highway 51 and Western. If Option Two is chosen, the Agronomy Research Facility currently located on that land would be relocated to the Option One property. Alumni member Billy Clay reminded the Authority that the Magruder plots of wheat are on the Option Two property. These are experimental winter wheat field plots established in 1892. President Hess assured Mr. Clay that the plots will be protected. Richard Prather said that as a cattle rancher, Option Two might provide easier access than Option One.

President Hess reminded everyone of the Celebration of Oklahoma's Veterinary Future on August 12^{th} at 10:00am in the Conoco Phillips OSU Alumni Association.

V. 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.

- From the class of 2025 graduates, 43 have stayed in Oklahoma.

- The number of nonresident applicants continues to drop while the resident applicant number remains solid.

- The rural student applicant number has risen to 69 for the Class of 2029, which is an increase of 11 students.

- The overall number of caseloads has increased by 20% for this fiscal year.

- Several new faculty members have been hired including a Neurologist, Anesthesiologist, Epidemiologist, and a Director of Pre-veterinary and Graduate Student Initiatives who will improve the quantity and quality of applicants. Several more positions are in the interview stage.

- The College has partnered with local station KFOR to increase involvement with the community.

- Five students received scholarships or awards ranging from $5,500 to $25,000.

VI. 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. Stroup presented the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The report shows the amount of the agency request and the amount awarded by the legislature.

The $250,000,000 funds will not be available until June 2026. General construction work can begin because of the $79,000,000 already awarded.

b. Discussion and possible vote for the approval of the FY2025-2026 budget, including authorization for the transfer of funds to the College of Veterinary Medicine and/or University as outlined in budget.

The total appropriation for FY26 is $23,301,532, which includes $3,950,000 for debt service and $17,055,532 for year 3 of hospital operations. It also includes The Lee Denney Scholarship amount, which was increased to $1,000,000 and $1,296,000 to offset the costs of increasing the number of in-state students. Approval to transfer and execute any agreements with the University to allow the transfer.

c. Report and possible action on architectural expenses paid since April 29, 2025.

i. Payment of $28,188.48 on 5/29/25 to GH2 Architects

Dr. Stroup reported that one payment of $28,188.48 was made for architectural expenses. That brings our current balance to $78,741,162.06.

ii. Total payments made (8/6/24 to 7/1/25) total $258,837.94. 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. Stroup requested a motion to ratify the payments made and for approval of interim payments until ratified at our next meeting. A motion to approve payments made and for the CEO to approve additional payments for expenses that may occur prior to the next Authority meeting was made by Jerry Ritchey and seconded by L. D. Barker.

AYES: Arthur, Barker, Ritchey, Prather, Harrel and Shelby

NAYS: None

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

Dr. Stroup shared the report showing that the Authority has met obligations for debt payments.

d. Report on the recapitalization of the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostics Laboratory (OADDL)

Dr. Stroup presented the timeline from the architects of completed and upcoming tasks for the OADDL renovation. The toxicology plan is moving forward and should be functioning by September 2025.

e. Financial Report for the Animal Teaching Hospital including accruals for Authority funding – Kristi Howey

Dr. Stroup introduced Kristi Howey for the presentation of the financial report for the Animal Teaching Hospital. Kristi reported that the report looks a little different due to an adjustment in the way Internal Audit would like for funds to be reported. Funding and expenses are now reported separately. She explained that the percentage of revenue is the same percentage applied against expenditures to figure the amount that can be carried forward. The carry forward amounts have some encumbered expenses that will be taken out. The balance after expenses will be built into the budget to avoid excess.

f. **Financial Report of the Authority as of June 30, 2025 – Kristi Howey**

Kristi presented the Financial Report of the Authority. This report shows how capital appropriations are transferred to OSU and used for debt repayment, scholarships, and operational support. The appropriations are distributed in 1/12 increments throughout the fiscal year.

Adjournment

Chair Arthur asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Richard Prather seconded by Troy Shelby. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY VETERINARY MEDICINE AUTHORITY

Richard Prather, Secretary