

# Seminole State College Board of Regents Regular Meeting

JANUARY 16, 2014  
ENOCH KELLY HANEY CENTER  
BOARD ROOM

## President's Report

# Personnel Update

## Retirements

Mona Griffin – Head Cashier



Becky Moreland – Communications Clerk/Switchboard



## Position Changes

Jeanie Nix  
Financial Aid Director



Sara Ledford  
Student Support Services Advisor



Julie Hix  
GEAR UP Director



Holly Newell  
Educational Talent Search Advisor



Mechell Downey  
completes  
bachelor's degree.

Bachelor's Degree  
in Technology  
completed  
December 2013 at  
Rogers State  
University

## Chamber Honors Personnel



Natasha Rodgers  
Administrative Assistant  
Fiscal Affairs



Jamie Mills  
Math Instructor/Student  
Athletic Academic Advisor

Oklahoma President of AT&T  
**Bryan Gonterman**  
visited with members of the  
President's Leadership Class



St. Gregory's University  
and  
Seminole State College  
Form Partnership



St. Gregory's President Gregory Main  
and  
President Dr. Jim Utterback



Cooperative Alliance Issues





Higher Learning Commission  
A Commission of the North Central Association

230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500 | Chicago, IL 60604-1411  
312-293-0456 | 800-621-7440 | Fax: 312-293-7442 | [hlc.org](http://hlc.org)

September 5, 2013

Glen Johnson, Chancellor  
Oklahoma State Board of Regents  
655 Research Parkway, Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-3603

Dear Chancellor Johnson:

I am writing in response to your letter seeking clarification of the Commission's policies in several respects. These policy considerations have arisen relative to Oklahoma's Cooperative Alliances/Agreements between degree-granting colleges accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and non-degree-granting technology centers accredited by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education with regard to postsecondary vocational education.

You have raised questions with regard to Assumed Practice B.1, which requires that a minimum number of credits be earned at the accredited institution and indicates that such credits could be earned "through arrangements with other accredited institutions or through contractual relationships approved by the Commission."

The first question you have asked is whether "other accredited institutions" would typically include non-degree-granting postsecondary institutions accredited by a state entity recognized by the federal government. The answer is that they would not. The Commission anticipated by the phrase "accredited institutions" institutions that are degree-granting colleges and universities accredited by an agency recognized by the federal government for Title IV federal financial aid purposes and including within its scope the accreditation of degree-granting entities. The technology centers as you have described them do not meet these expectations.

The second question you have asked is whether consortial arrangements continue to be permitted as a vehicle through which credit may apply towards degree requirements. The policy on consortial arrangements defines consortial arrangement as between two or more degree-granting colleges or universities accredited by an agency recognized by the federal government for Title IV federal financial aid purposes and including within its scope the accreditation of degree-granting entities. Arrangements between an institution accredited by the Commission and a college or educational entity that does not meet this requirement are contractual rather than consortial arrangements.

Both contractual and consortial arrangements are subject to review and approval by the Commission. Contractual arrangements require approval by the Commission when 25% or more of an academic program is provided by the contractual partner whereas consortial arrangements

Glen Johnson, September 5, 2013 2

do not require approval unless 50% or more of the program is provided by the consortial partner. Because of the nature of the technology centers, as you have described them, a relationship with a technology center is a contractual relationship.

The Commission may approve such contractual relationships; however, they must meet Commission expectations in the Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices regarding appropriate academic quality. In examining the arrangements with regard to the technology centers, the staff liaison for Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology-Oklmulgee, Dr. Jeff Rosen, noted insufficient control by the accredited institution of the faculty, curriculum, assessment of student learning, and other aspects of the program that seemed to be under the control of the technology centers rather than the accredited institution. Without changes in these arrangements, approval of these relationships seems unlikely.

The third question you have asked is under what conditions would the technology center work be able to meet requirements for a consortial arrangement. It does not appear that the relationships with the technology centers could be categorized as consortial relationships. Commission staff suggested in the meeting that the accredited colleges could accept the work of the technology centers in transfer. Accredited institutions are free to accept prior learning and transfer credit towards a degree or certificate provided that they identify a maximum allowable credit, as noted in the Assumed Practices. (See Assumed Practice B.1.b and B.1.g.)

The final question you have asked is what is a "reasonable proportion" of total credit hours required for completion of the student's program at the institution granting the degree. As noted in Assumed Practice B.1.b, the institution will typically require, in the case of an Associate's degree, 15 of the 60 credits be from the institution itself. This would constitute approximately 25% as you have noted.

I hope this additional information has helped to clarify further the Commission's expectations. Please contact Karen Solinski, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, ext. 111 if you have other questions or contact me.

Sincerely,

*Sylvia Manning*

Sylvia Manning  
President

cc: Jeffrey Rosen, Vice President for Accreditation Relations  
Robert Applson, Vice President for Accreditation Relations  
Karen Solinski, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs

**From:** Andrew Lootens-White [<mailto:alootenswhite@hlcommission.org>]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 02, 2014 1:07 PM

**To:** Tom Mills

**Subject:** Inquiry re: letter to Chancellor Johnson

Hi Tom,

Thanks for your patience with the delayed response due to the holidays and needing to obtain additional information.

I've attached an electronic copy of the letter to which I believe you referred in our phone conversation (let me know if this isn't the correct letter).

If Seminole State is in an instructional arrangement with any tech centers -- as described in the attached letter -- then HLC approval is required before any such instructional activity continues.

As the letter states, such relationships are "contractual relationships" and subject to HLC review and approval. It is important to note that such instruction must meet HLC expectations regarding appropriate academic quality at the higher education level.

Let me know if you would like to visit on the phone; now that I have the "background," I can speak in more detail about questions you might have.

-andy

Andrew Lootens-White, Ph.D.  
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association  
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*Serving the common good by assuring and advancing the quality of higher learning.*



## President's Report – *Upcoming Activities*



Regent Donaho to be honored by the  
*Journal Record* as one of  
Oklahoma's Most Admired CEO's  
February 6, 2014 – Skirvin Hotel

## President's Report – *Upcoming Activities*



Trojan Baseball  
Season Kick-off  
Banquet

February 8, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.  
Enoch Kelly Haney Center

President's Report – *Upcoming Activities*



*Higher Education Day  
at the Capitol  
February 11, 2014*

Business Items

## ITEM A

Review and consider approval revision to Policy II-7-9  
concerning tobacco use on campus

## ITEM B

Review and consider approval to streamline fees by  
combining the Hybrid/Online course fee with the  
Outreach/Non-Campus fee to create a Distance  
Education/Outreach Fee of \$25

ITEM C

Review and consider approval to increase the  
Electronic Academic Access Fee

ITEM D

Review and consider approval of AFPlanServ  
guidelines

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: February 20<sup>th</sup>