

# OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES Executive Committee

Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics  
1141 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

February 8, 2022  
11:00 a.m.

Present: Dan Little, Ron Mashore, Geoff Simpson, David Drennan, Lance Benham (via Zoom), Jack Coffman and Donna Windel.

OSSM Staff: Elizabeth Jacoby, Shannon Gorbet, Pam Felactu, Brent Richards, Frank Wang, and Linda Waters

Absent: Bill Kuehl

Guests: Katie Altshuler

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics held a meeting at 11:00 a.m., February 8, 2022 at 1141 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Board conducted the meeting in accordance with the agenda, a copy of which is attached.

Little called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

**Take Action on Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting January 18, 2022:** Little asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of the January. Windel moved approval of the minutes. Simpson seconded. Vote as follows: Little, yes; Mashore, yes; Coffman, yes, Windel, yes; Drennan, yes; and Benham abstain.

**Report from the Chief Academic Officer.** Dr. Richards reported that OSSM currently has 56 seniors and 52 juniors enrolled. The OSSM Board Academic Committee met with the mathematics department on January 6 and will meet with the Physics department on March 3. Students have filled our course feedback forms for the fall 2021 semester. Faculty will receive comments from students in their classes. OSSM will participate in the Challenge Success Survey. The survey was developed by researchers at Stanford University to assess student engagement and well-being. Questions from the Board were answered by Dr. Richards.

**Report from the Dean of Admissions.** Mr. Kuehl was absent and Dr. Wang reported on his behalf. Dr. Wang reported that the first 6-week academic grading period will end on February 25. The application deadline to apply to OSSM is March 1. Mr. Kuehl reported that he has received 50 applications to date. Application screening will be held March 14-18<sup>th</sup>. Sneak Peek will be hosted on the OSSM campus on April 2, followed by interview day on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Middle School Math Contest is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>. The student shadow program will continue through April with 15 students scheduled to shadow during February. Questions from the Board were answered by Dr. Wang.

**Report from the Director of Development:** Ms. Felactu reported that OSSM Foundation has recovered significantly in 2021 over 2020 financially. Many grants are being worked on, and many events coming up for fundraising. The OSSM Quantum Experience will take place on a date to be determined in the fall of 2022. The Penny William Lecture Series will resume with an assembly on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Gerard Parkin serving as the guest speaker. Questions from the Board were answered by Ms. Felactu and Dr. Wang.

**Report from the Director of Public Information:** Ms. Waters reported that in February, she continues efforts on activity that promotes and supports OSSM's application season. This includes boosting social media posts, distributing news and pitching feature stories to targeted media. Ms. Waters will also support the admission coffees and pizza nights. Ms. Waters reported on the series of articles that has been authored by i2e's CEO Scott Meacham. Geoffrey Simpson recently spoke with representatives from the organization to generate an article on OSSM's presidential search. We are now working on four additional columns, all of which will appear in the digital version of the *Oklahoman* newspaper. The subjects are: OSSM's virtual/regional programs, student life at OSSM, 30th anniversary and creation of OSSM, and mentorships. They will appear throughout the months of February and March. Questions from the Board were answered by Ms. Waters.

**Report from Chief Fiscal Officer:** Ms. Gorbet reported that there will be a significant increase in utilities, food service, and maintenance over 2021 numbers, due to OSSM being remote in the fall of 2021. Ms. Gorbet did receive a proposal for a new campus wide access control system and she will thoroughly review the proposal to see if there are any campus doors to remove from the system, which will reduce the number of control panels needed on campus (to save money). Ms. Gorbet is still currently working on getting a proposal for replacing the fire alarm systems in the Residence Hall. Ms. Gorbet is soliciting bids for a new HVAC unit for the Manning Academic Center. This will be the final year for many of our contractors such as food services, foreign languages, janitorial services and Ms. Gorbet will be soliciting bids on those services as well. OSSM welcomed Hunter Tiffie as an on campus IT person. He is employed by OMES but will serve on the OSSM campus. Questions from the Board were answered by Ms. Gorbet.

**Report from the President:** Dr. Wang reported that the Governor recommended all state agencies including OSSM for a flat budget in his State of State address. Dr. Wang presented the budget request for OSSM to the House Appropriations and Budget Sub-Committee and was well received. Dr. Wang will be meeting with Katie Boren, CEO of OKC Innovation District, to help build support from other entities nearby for OSSM's ARPA proposal for a new academic auditorium. Dr. Wang reported that he is doing COVID tests on students nearly every day. Dr. Wang reported that STEM schools like OSSM, will be able to host international students for 2 years, instead of the 1 year previously allowed under new Department of Homeland Security rules. Dr. Wang and Mr. Kuehl are working with alum, Ingrid Gao, to help with student recruitment from China. Questions from the Board were answered by Dr. Wang and Dr. Richards.

**Report from Geoff Simpson, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee:** Mr. Simpson reported that the OSSM Foundation would fund the cost of employing a professional search firm for the Presidential Search Committee. The Presidential Search committee has employed the services of Shnake Turnbo Frank to assist with the search. OSSM is accepting applications for the President position until February 28<sup>th</sup>. The search committee will present 3-5 candidates, ideally, to the Governing Board of OSSM after interviews have taken place. Questions from the Board were answered by Geoffrey Simpson.

**Report from Katie Altshuler, Chairperson of the OSSM Foundation Board:** Ms. Altshuler reported that the OSSM Foundation would send a list of dates for upcoming events once those dates have been determined. Quantum Experience is being tentatively set for October 22, 2022. Ms. Altshuler reported that the Foundation voted and has increased its fundraising goal for the faculty-staff endowment to \$18M. The OSSM Foundation Board held a special executive meeting to fund the engagement with a professional recruiting firm for the OSSM Presidential Search. Questions from the Board were answered by Ms. Altshuler.

**New Business:** No new business was discussed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:06p.m.

