

**UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA  
BOARD OF REGENTS, SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
April 22, 2020**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 via Zoom conferencing. Before the meeting was called to order, President John Feaver stated that advance public notice of this meeting was properly filed and displayed in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

**1. Call to Order** – Chairman David Ferrell called the meeting to order at 10:09am.

**2. Roll Call** – Members remotely present via video conference: Tom Cordell, Bill Lance, David McLaughlin, Diane Ming, Chris Mosley, and Cale Walker. Members physically present on campus: David Ferrell.

Also, physically present on campus were President John Feaver and Secretary to the Board of Regents Vanessa McNabb.

**3. Introductions** – President Feaver introduced Vice President for Business and Finance Mike Coponiti, Vice President for Academic Affairs Donna Gower, Assistant Attorney General Matt Stangl, Dr. Lee Hester, and Director of Communications and Marketing Amy Goddard.

**4. Discussion and Possible Vote to Enter Executive Session** – Because the Faculty Handbook is silent as to such process, Mr. Stangl requested on behalf of the Board that Dr. Hester confirm his agreement with the Process for Appeal previously presented to the parties on April 16, 2020, for purposes of his appeal hearing. Dr. Hester agreed but reserved any legal rights to further proceedings. Due to his video not being activated, Mr. Stangl also confirmed that Dr. Hester was alone and did not have an advisor or other person present with him before entering executive session.

In response to Dr. Hester's request that the meeting be recorded and the minutes provided to him, Mr. Stangl advised that the Open Meetings Act does not require that executive sessions be recorded, only that minutes be taken, and that those minutes remain confidential under most circumstances; but, that Dr. Hester could request and receive the recording of the open session portion of the meeting.

With no further discussion, on a motion from Regent Lance, seconded by Regent Mosley the Board voted unanimously to move into Executive Session at 10:15am in order to address the agenda item:

- a. Dr. Lee Hester – Appeal of termination pursuant to "Procedures for Appeal", page 28 of *USAO Faculty Handbook*.

**4. Return to Open Session** – On a motion from Regent Cordell and seconded by Regent Lance, the Board voted unanimously to return to Open Session at 11:13am.

**5. Discussion and Possible Vote on the Appeal of Dr. Lee Hester** – There was no discussion. A motion was made by Regent Lance to not overturn the Board's previous decision to terminate. The motion was seconded by Regent Cordell. The Board's vote was unanimous.

Before adjournment, Dr. Hester requested the opportunity to share final thoughts/opinion to the Board.

**6. Adjournment** – On a motion by Regent Lance, seconded by Regent Ming, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Chairman Ferrell declared the meeting adjourned at 11:17am.

Advance public notice of this meeting was properly filed and displayed in compliance with Title 25, O.S. 1981, Section 311.