

3 Senate Bill No. 995

4 SENATE BILL NO. 995 - By: ROBINSON and MORGAN of the Senate and
5 ERICSON of the House.

6 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
7 Section 3201, which relates to institutions comprising The
8 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; modifying name of
9 certain institution; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Sections 3405
10 and 3405.1, which relate to Connors State College of
11 Agriculture and Applied Science; changing name to Connors
12 State College; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3412, which
13 relates to the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma
14 Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges; modifying name of
15 certain institution; providing an effective date; and
16 declaring an emergency.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3201, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 3201. The following state educational institutions
21 shall be members of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education:
22 University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Langston
23 University, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Murray State
24 College, Connors State College ~~of Agriculture and Applied Science,~~
25 Cameron University, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Northeastern
26 Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, University of Central
27 Oklahoma, East Central University, Northeastern State University,
28 Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State
29 University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, University of

1 Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Rogers State University, Carl Albert
2 State College, Redlands Community College, Northern Oklahoma
3 College, Oklahoma City Community College, Rose State College,
4 Seminole State College, Tulsa Community College, and Western
5 Oklahoma State College.

6 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3405, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Section 3405. The state educational institution located at
9 Warner shall continue at the same location and its official name
10 shall be Connors State College ~~of Agriculture and Applied Science~~.

11 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3405.1, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 3405.1 A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
14 Education shall make resident college credit courses and programs
15 available to the people of Muskogee.

16 B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
17 provide lower division classes and programs through a branch of
18 Connors State College ~~of Agriculture and Applied Science~~, which
19 shall be established and located in Muskogee. The branch campus of
20 Connors State College shall be governed by the Board of Regents for
21 the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and administered
22 through Connors State College.

1 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
2 provide upper division classes and programs and graduate classes at
3 the Masters level through a branch of Northeastern State University,
4 which shall be established and located at Muskogee. The branch
5 campus of Northeastern State University shall be governed by the
6 Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges and administered through
7 Northeastern State University.

8 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3412, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 3412. The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma
11 Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges shall have the supervision,
12 management and control of Oklahoma State University, Panhandle State
13 University, Langston University, Connors State College ~~of~~
14 ~~Agriculture and Applied Science~~, and Northeastern Oklahoma
15 Agricultural and Mechanical College; and shall have the following
16 additional powers and duties:

17 1. Adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to
18 govern each of the institutions under its jurisdiction;

19 2. Employ and fix the compensation and duties of such personnel
20 as it deems necessary, including architects, attorneys, engineers,
21 and other professional and technical persons deemed necessary by the
22 Board, for its operation and for the operation of the institutions
23 under its jurisdiction. Any of such personnel having custody of

1 public funds or other public property may be required to furnish
2 corporate surety bonds in such amounts as may be deemed necessary by
3 the Board, payable to the State of Oklahoma and conditioned upon a
4 faithful accounting of all such funds and property;

5 3. Enter into contracts, purchase supplies, materials and
6 equipment, and incur such other expenses as may be necessary to make
7 any of its powers effective;

8 4. Authorize officials at the several institutions under its
9 jurisdiction to act in its behalf in the making of contracts, or in
10 carrying out the powers conferred upon it;

11 5. Receive and make disposition of monies, grants and property
12 from federal agencies, and administer the same in accordance with
13 federal requirements;

14 6. Accept gifts of real and personal property, money and other
15 things, and use or dispose of the same in accordance with the
16 directions of the donors or grantors thereof;

17 7. Direct the disposition of all monies appropriated by the
18 Legislature or by the Congress or derived from the sale of bonds or
19 received from any other source by institutions under its
20 jurisdiction;

21 8. Acquire and take title to real and personal property in its
22 name, on behalf of any of the institutions under its jurisdiction,
23 and convey, exchange or dispose of, or otherwise manage or control,

1 such property in the interest of such institutions, including the
2 granting of leases, permits, easements and licenses over or upon any
3 such real property. The Board shall have the power to institute any
4 legal action in the name of the Board before any court having
5 jurisdiction of such actions. The Board shall have the custody and
6 control of abstracts of title and instruments affecting the
7 ownership of or title to real property belonging to the Board, and
8 being held by the Board on behalf of a particular state educational
9 institution;

10 9. Have supervision and charge of the construction of all
11 buildings at the institutions under its jurisdiction;

12 10. Determine the need for and cause to be constructed,
13 dormitories and other buildings, on a self-liquidating basis, at any
14 institution under its jurisdiction;

15 11. Establish and maintain plans for tenure and retirement of
16 employees of the Board and of the institutions under its
17 jurisdiction, and for payment of deferred compensation of such
18 employees; and provide hospital and medical benefits, accident,
19 health and life insurance, and annuity contracts, for such employees
20 and their dependents. The Board may pay for all or a part of the
21 cost for employees thereof with funds available for the operation of
22 the institution. Amounts payable by an employee for such insurance

1 or annuity contracts may, with the consent of the employee, be
2 deducted from ~~his~~ the employee's salary;

3 12. The ~~said~~ Board shall cause a complete inventory to be made
4 of all properties belonging to each of the ~~said~~ agricultural
5 colleges or universities within the State of Oklahoma before the
6 last Monday in December, next preceding each biennial session of the
7 State Legislature, and accompanying ~~said~~ the inventories shall be a
8 financial statement showing in detail the condition of all funds
9 appropriated for the use of said agricultural colleges and
10 experimental stations, also the money expended and the purposes for
11 which the same were expended and the condition of the institution;
12 and, the results of experiments carried on, together with their
13 recommendations concerning remedial legislation or rules for the
14 betterment of ~~said~~ the institution;

15 13. The Board shall audit all accounts against the funds
16 appropriated for the use and maintenance of the Oklahoma State
17 University and the other state agricultural colleges, including
18 experimental stations, and the State Treasurer shall issue ~~his~~ a
19 warrant for the amount of all accounts, including salaries and
20 expenses;

21 14. Provide penalties and forfeitures by way of damages and
22 otherwise for the violation of rules of the Board, which may be sued

1 for and collected in the name of the Board before any court having
2 jurisdiction of such actions; and

3 15. The Legislature further recognizes and confirms, that the
4 Oklahoma State University is an institution corporate under the
5 constitution and statutes of Oklahoma with full power and authority,
6 acting through its constitutional Board of Regents, to do all things
7 necessary or convenient to accomplish the corporate objects of ~~said~~
8 the institution, and ~~said the~~ institution, acting through its ~~said~~
9 constitutional Board of Regents, is hereby recognized to be such
10 public corporation and to have such powers.

11 Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the powers of
12 ~~said the~~ board of regents to control and use monies accruing to the
13 institutions under their jurisdiction and control, from nontax
14 sources, including institutional earnings, and proceeds of sales of
15 surplus properties heretofore authorized to be sold, and revenues
16 derived by way of bonuses and rentals from oil and gas leases, for
17 any lawful institutional purpose, is hereby specifically confirmed.

18 The enumeration herein of certain powers and immunities of the
19 Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical
20 Colleges shall not be construed as in derogation or as a limitation
21 of other powers and immunities properly belonging to ~~said the~~ Board
22 by virtue of any provisions of the Constitution of Oklahoma or of
23 any provision of law. ~~Said The~~ Board, is hereby, expressly granted

1 every power necessary or convenient to make institutions under its
2 jurisdiction effective for the purposes for which they were created
3 and are maintained and operated.

4 Nothing in this section shall be construed as in derogation of
5 the constitutional powers and responsibilities of ~~said~~ the Board of
6 Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges,
7 acting as the Board of Regents for Connors State College ~~of~~
8 ~~Agriculture and Applied Science~~, Northeastern Oklahoma Agricultural
9 and Mechanical College, Panhandle State University, and Langston
10 University.

11 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2002.

12 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
13 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 2-18-02 - DO
17 PASS, As Coauthored.