STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2443 By: DeWitt

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to higher education; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to make educational resources available in Ponca City; naming the program the University Center at Ponca City; requiring the State Regents to set educational programs and standards; granting Northern Oklahoma College exclusive authority to offer certain courses and programs; providing for establishment of funds and accounts; requiring physical plant to be provided locally; creating a board of trustees; stating authority of the board; providing for membership; providing for election of officers; authorizing the board to provide and pay the costs of certain employee benefits; authorizing the board to establish accounts with the State Treasurer; making accounts revolving funds; providing for investment of funds; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3213.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall make educational program resources at institutions in The Oklahoma State

System of Higher Education available to the people in the Ponca City area. This program shall be known as the University Center at Ponca City.

B. The State Regents shall draw upon the educational programs of institutions best suited to provide the kind of educational programs needed and shall, in pursuance of Article XIII-A of the Constitution of Oklahoma and appropriate statutes, set the standards of education as they relate to the programs operated to assure that credits earned by students will be fully accepted at institutions of higher education to which the students may transfer the credit to apply toward an educational study objective. Northern Oklahoma College shall have exclusive authority to offer all lower division courses and programs at the University Center at Ponca City as listed in the current college catalog of Northern Oklahoma College.

C. The State Regents may establish appropriate funds and accounts, including a revolving fund, in the Office of State Finance for servicing the fiscal operations of the University Center at Ponca City. The funds and accounts shall be subject to the direct supervision, management, and control of the board of trustees created by subsection D of this section. The people locally shall provide suitable physical plant accommodations for the University Center at Ponca City.

D. There is hereby created a board of nine (9) trustees to be appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate to

serve as the administrative agency for the University Center at Ponca City. The board shall be a body corporate and shall adopt and use an official seal. The board so created shall have the authority to submit a budget annually to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, administer monies budgeted by the State Regents, provide educational facilities, recommend courses and programs to be offered by participating institutions, select a chief executive officer whose duties include the general coordination of approved programs and services and the selection of other appropriate nonteaching personnel. The board of trustees is authorized to expend all monies allocated to the University Center at Ponca City as may be necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the board by this section. For purposes of acquiring and taking title to real and personal property from sources other than state appropriations, the board is authorized to enter into contracts and to adopt rules and regulations pertaining to such actions. The initial nine (9) members shall serve their terms for the period to which originally appointed, in numbered positions having dates of expiration identical to the dates of expiration of the original appointments:

Position No. 1. The term of office of one member shall expire on June 30, 2013, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

Position No. 2. The term of office of one member shall expire on June 30, 2014, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

Position No. 3. The term of office of one member shall expire on June 30, 2015, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

Position No. 4. The term of office of one member shall expire on June 30, 2016, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

Position No. 5. The term of office of one member shall expire on June 30, 2017, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

Position No. 6. The term of office of one member shall expire on June 30, 2018, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

Position No. 7. The term of office of one member shall expire on June 30, 2019, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

Position No. 8. The term of office of one member shall expire on June 30, 2020, and each nine (9) years thereafter; and

Position No. 9. The term of office of one member shall expire on June 30, 2021, and each nine (9) years thereafter.

The board shall organize and elect a chair, vice-chair and secretary annually.

E. The board of trustees may establish and maintain plans for tenure and retirement of its employees and for payment of deferred compensation of employees and may provide hospital and medical benefits, accident, health and life insurance and annuity contracts for employees and pay for all or part of the cost with funds available for payment of its operating expenses.

F. The board may establish with the State Treasurer any accounts as are necessary to operate retirement, deferred

compensation or benefits plans for its employees. The accounts shall be revolving funds not subject to fiscal year limitations. Funds deposited in the accounts may be invested in any of the types of instruments in which the State Treasurer is authorized by law to invest.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2012.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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