

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE BILL 167

By: Haste

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
8 2021, Section 3213.1, which relates to the University  
9 Center at Ponca City; removing language granting  
10 Northern Oklahoma College certain exclusive  
11 authority; updating reference; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
12 Section 3405.1, which relates to availability of  
13 courses in Muskogee; allowing certain institution to  
14 offer lower division classes; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
15 Section 4662, which relates to Oklahoma State  
16 University-Tulsa; allowing the institution to offer  
17 certain lower division courses; amending 70 O.S.  
18 2021, Section 4667, which relates to the Langston  
19 University Branch in Tulsa; updating statutory  
20 reference; allowing the institution to offer certain  
21 lower division courses; removing language prohibiting  
22 Oklahoma State University-Tulsa from duplicating  
23 certain programs offered by the Langston University  
24 Branch in Tulsa; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4668,  
which relates to the Northeastern State University  
branch in Broken Arrow; allowing the institution to  
offer certain lower division courses; removing  
language prohibiting Oklahoma State University-Tulsa  
from duplicating certain programs offered by the  
Northeastern State University branch in Broken Arrow;  
clarifying references; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section  
4669, which relates to Rogers State University;  
removing language directing the institution to  
contract specifically with certain institution;  
repealing 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4665, which relates  
to prohibiting duplication of certain courses offered  
by Tulsa Community College; updating statutory  
language; providing an effective date; and declaring  
an emergency.

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

3 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3213.1, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 3213.1. A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
6 Education shall make educational program resources at institutions  
7 in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education available to the  
8 people in the Ponca City area. This program shall be known as the  
9 University Center at Ponca City.

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

21 C. The State Regents may establish appropriate funds and  
22 accounts, including a revolving fund, in the ~~Office of State Finance~~  
23 Office of Management and Enterprise Services for servicing the  
24 fiscal operations of the University Center at Ponca City. The funds

1 and accounts shall be subject to the direct supervision, management,  
2 and control of the board of trustees created by subsection D of this  
3 section. The people locally shall provide suitable physical plant  
4 accommodations for the University Center at Ponca City.

5 D. There is hereby created a board of nine (9) trustees to be  
6 appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate to  
7 serve as the administrative agency for the University Center at  
8 Ponca City. The board shall be a body corporate and shall adopt and  
9 use an official seal. The board so created shall have the authority  
10 to submit a budget annually to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
11 Education, administer monies budgeted by the State Regents, provide  
12 educational facilities, recommend courses and programs to be offered  
13 by participating institutions, select a chief executive officer  
14 whose duties include the general coordination of approved programs  
15 and services, and the selection of other appropriate nonteaching  
16 personnel. The board of trustees is authorized to expend all monies  
17 allocated to the University Center at Ponca City as may be necessary  
18 to perform the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the board by  
19 this section. For purposes of acquiring and taking title to real  
20 and personal property from sources other than state appropriations,  
21 the board is authorized to enter into contracts and to adopt rules  
22 and regulations pertaining to such actions. The initial nine (9)  
23 members shall serve their terms for the period to which originally  
24

1 appointed, in numbered positions having dates of expiration  
2 identical to the dates of expiration of the original appointments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 E. The board of trustees may establish and maintain plans for  
24 tenure and retirement of its employees and for payment of deferred

1 compensation of employees and may provide hospital and medical  
2 benefits, accident, health and life insurance, and annuity contracts  
3 for employees and pay for all or part of the cost with funds  
4 available for payment of its operating expenses.

5 F. The board may establish with the State Treasurer any  
6 accounts as are necessary to operate retirement, deferred  
7 compensation, or benefits plans for its employees. The accounts  
8 shall be revolving funds not subject to fiscal year limitations.  
9 Funds deposited in the accounts may be invested in any of the types  
10 of instruments in which the State Treasurer is authorized by law to  
11 invest.

12 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3405.1, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

7 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4662, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Section 4662. On January 1, 1999, there shall be established as  
10 a successor to Rogers University in Tulsa a branch institution of  
11 Oklahoma State University which shall be known as ~~Oklahoma State~~  
12 ~~University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and shall offer  
13 upper division undergraduate courses and baccalaureate degree  
14 programs and may offer lower division undergraduate courses and  
15 baccalaureate degree programs. No later than July 1, 2001, the  
16 Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical  
17 Colleges, in cooperation with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
18 Education, shall have developed and implemented programs leading to  
19 baccalaureate degrees that can be earned at ~~Oklahoma State~~  
20 ~~University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa. Beginning with  
21 the 2001 - 2002 academic year, degrees earned at ~~Oklahoma State~~  
22 ~~University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa shall be designated  
23 as awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education acting  
24 through Oklahoma State University; provided that dual degree

1 programs may be offered at ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma  
2 State University-Tulsa and dual degrees may be awarded through  
3 Oklahoma State University and other institutions.

4 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4667, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 4667. On July 1, 2001, there shall be established a  
7 branch of Langston University within the Tulsa metropolitan area  
8 consistent with the statewide plan for Langston University as  
9 provided in ~~Section 6 of this act~~ Section 4666 of this title.

10 Langston University shall continue to meet the missions and programs  
11 of the Langston Urban Center in Tulsa. The Oklahoma State Regents  
12 for Higher Education are authorized to make lower division and upper  
13 division undergraduate and graduate course offerings at the Langston  
14 University Branch in Tulsa available as the State Regents shall  
15 determine are appropriate. ~~Undergraduate degree programs offered~~  
16 ~~through Oklahoma State University/Tulsa shall not duplicate those~~  
17 ~~undergraduate degree programs offered by Langston University Branch~~  
18 ~~in Tulsa, as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher~~  
19 ~~Education and shall be consistent with and in furthering~~  
20 ~~implementation of the statewide plan for Langston University as~~  
21 ~~developed by the State Regents pursuant to Section 6 of this act and~~  
22 ~~filed with the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of~~  
23 ~~Education.~~

1           The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall fund  
2 Langston University at a level not less than its fiscal year 1998  
3 level, and its Education and General Budget shall be held harmless  
4 from reductions in succeeding years. The Oklahoma State Regents for  
5 Higher Education shall allocate funds to Langston University  
6 sufficient to fund full time faculty in Tulsa at a level equal to  
7 seventy percent (70%) of its faculty level that existed in Tulsa in  
8 fiscal year 1998 and adequate building and classroom space which  
9 were funded in fiscal year 1998 in order to carry out all functions  
10 in Tulsa. The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and  
11 Mechanical Colleges shall allocate space for Langston University in  
12 Tulsa.

13           It is the intent of the Legislature that Langston University be  
14 funded at a level consistent with the average allocation and  
15 allotment of the institutions in the regional funding tier as  
16 established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

17           Beginning with the 2001 - 2002 academic year, degrees earned at  
18 Langston University Branch in Tulsa shall be designated as awarded  
19 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education acting through  
20 Langston University.

21           SECTION 5.        AMENDATORY        70 O.S. 2021, Section 4668, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23           Section 4668. On July 1, 2001, there may be established a  
24 branch of Northeastern State University within the Tulsa

1 metropolitan area. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
2 are authorized to make lower division and upper division  
3 undergraduate and graduate course offerings at the Northeastern  
4 State University branch in Broken Arrow available as the State  
5 Regents shall determine are appropriate. ~~Undergraduate degree~~  
6 ~~programs offered through Oklahoma State University/Tulsa shall not~~  
7 ~~duplicate those undergraduate degree programs offered by~~  
8 ~~Northeastern State University in Tulsa, as determined by the~~  
9 ~~Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.~~

10 The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall fund  
11 Northeastern State University at a level not less than its fiscal  
12 year 1998 level, and its Education and General Budget shall be held  
13 harmless from reductions in succeeding years.

14 It is the intent of the Legislature that Northeastern State  
15 University in Broken Arrow be funded at a level consistent with the  
16 average allocation and allotment of the institutions in the regional  
17 funding tier as established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
18 Education.

19 Beginning with the 2001 - 2002 academic year, degrees earned at  
20 the Northeastern State University ~~Branch~~ branch in ~~Tulsa~~ Broken  
21 Arrow shall be designated as awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents  
22 for Higher Education acting through Northeastern State University.

23 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4669, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 4669. A. On January 1, 1999, there shall be created in  
2 Claremore, Oklahoma, and its other regionally accredited sites, as a  
3 successor to the Claremore campus of Rogers University, an  
4 institution of higher education to be known as Rogers State  
5 University. Rogers State University shall programmatically and  
6 budgetarily function as a regional institution within The Oklahoma  
7 State System of Higher Education, yet with a community college  
8 component. It shall be authorized to offer no less than the average  
9 number of programs and courses of study at other regional  
10 institutions of similar size and enrollment.

11 B. Rogers State University shall operate as an institution  
12 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and shall be  
13 governed by the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma. The  
14 president of Rogers State University shall report directly to the  
15 Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

16 C. It is the intent of the Legislature that Rogers State  
17 University be funded initially at a level consistent with the  
18 average allocation and allotment of the institutions in the regional  
19 funding tier as established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
20 Education.

21 D. The Legislature recognizes the decision of the State  
22 Regents, pursuant to the powers vested in the State Regents by  
23 Section 2 of Article XIII-A of the Oklahoma Constitution, to change  
24 the function of Rogers State University, formerly known as the  
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1 Claremore campus of Rogers University, to include a four-year  
2 baccalaureate and graduate degree granting function, as quickly as  
3 that can be done, giving due consideration to the protection of the  
4 institution's regional accreditation status. The State Regents will  
5 provide an annual report on the transition in Rogers State  
6 University function to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
7 Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,  
8 beginning on January 1, 2000, and continuing until Rogers State  
9 University is regionally accredited as a four-year baccalaureate and  
10 graduate degree granting institution.

11 E. Rogers State University shall maintain a community college  
12 component within the university and shall maintain admission  
13 standards, academic policies, and practices for the community  
14 college component consistent with those approved for associate  
15 degree granting institutions by the Oklahoma State Regents for  
16 Higher Education.

17 F. Rogers State University is hereby authorized to contract  
18 with other regionally accredited institutions of higher education,  
19 ~~specifically including Northeastern State University,~~ for the  
20 delivery of courses and programs at any location where Rogers State  
21 University is authorized to deliver courses or programs. This  
22 authorization shall still remain in force after Rogers State  
23 University gains regional accreditation for upper division programs.

1 SECTION 7. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4665, is  
2 hereby repealed.

3 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

4 SECTION 9. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
5 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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