

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE BILL 267

By: Daniels

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; establishing the
8 School of American Civic Thought and Leadership at
9 the University of Oklahoma; providing purpose;
10 authorizing the school to take certain actions to
11 carry out its purpose; providing for location of the
12 school; directing the school to operate as certain
13 academic unit; creating an advisory board; providing
14 for membership; providing for chair of advisory
15 board; directing members to be appointed by certain
16 date; directing the advisory board or its appointed
17 committee to conduct certain search by certain date;
18 directing the Provost of the University of Oklahoma
19 to appoint certain director from certain list;
20 providing for filling of vacancy; allowing for
21 appointment of interim director; providing for
22 removal of director; providing duties of director;
23 allowing award of tenure to certain faculty;
24 authorizing use of certain funds for school;
25 requiring submission of certain annual report by
26 certain date; providing contents of report; making an
27 appropriation; providing for codification; providing
28 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

31 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
32 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3319 of Title 70, unless there
33 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
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1 A. There is hereby established the School of American Civic
2 Thought and Leadership at the University of Oklahoma. The purpose
3 of the school shall be to:

4 1. Educate students in the principles, ideals, and institutions
5 of the American political order including the character traits and
6 durable habits necessary to sustain that order;

7 2. Educate students in the philosophical foundations of
8 responsible leadership and informed citizenship;

9 3. Promote and provide programming related to civic education,
10 engagement, and discourse;

11 4. Enhance education in the fields of political thought and
12 science, American history and government, free market economics, and
13 other related fields as appropriate, with a focus on the foundations
14 of Western and American civilization including its great books, the
15 rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, fundamental
16 democratic principles and mores, and the ways in which those
17 principles and mores are expressed in and through mediating
18 institutions at the federal, state, and local levels;

19 5. Provide viewpoint and ideologically diverse resources to
20 students, faculty, state government agencies and actors, educators,
21 and the general public regarding civic affairs; and

22 6. Assist in ensuring that the University of Oklahoma serve as
23 a robust marketplace of ideas for all students and faculty.
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1 B. To carry out the purposes set forth in subsection A of this
2 section, the school is authorized to:

3 1. Enroll students;

4 2. Hire tenure-track and non-tenured faculty and supporting
5 staff;

6 3. Develop and offer in-person courses and online instruction
7 in new graduate and undergraduate major and minor programs;

8 4. Develop an undergraduate American institutions and civic
9 knowledge course in anticipation of a future mandate requiring all
10 University of Oklahoma students to complete such a course to
11 graduate;

12 5. Offer general education and honors courses including courses
13 intended for incoming freshman students;

14 6. Offer concurrent enrollment;

15 7. Provide and facilitate internships and other relevant
16 experiences for students and the general public;

17 8. Hold events; and

18 9. Take other actions as appropriate subject to the supervision
19 of the school's director and the general supervision of the Provost
20 of the University of Oklahoma.

21 C. Upon its establishment, the School of American Civic Thought
22 and Leadership may be physically housed on the University of
23 Oklahoma's Norman campus.

1 D. The School of American Civic Thought and Leadership shall
2 operate as an academic unit within the University of Oklahoma.

3 E. The School of American Civic Thought and Leadership and its
4 director shall be advised by an advisory board on matters related to
5 the school including, but not limited to, staffing, curriculum,
6 policy, and programming in accordance with the policies and
7 procedures of the University of Oklahoma. The advisory board shall
8 be comprised of six (6) members of the Board of Regents of the
9 University of Oklahoma, to be appointed by the chair of the Board of
10 Regents. The Provost of the University of Oklahoma shall serve as
11 chair of the advisory board. Members shall be appointed by December
12 31, 2025.

13 F. By March 31, 2026, the advisory board, or a committee
14 appointed by the board, shall conduct a national search and transmit
15 to the Provost of the University of Oklahoma a list of finalists for
16 the position of director of the school. The Provost of the
17 University of Oklahoma shall provide all necessary administrative
18 support for the search. The Provost of the University of Oklahoma
19 shall appoint the director from the list of finalists provided by
20 the advisory board. If the position of director becomes vacant, the
21 provisions of this subsection shall govern appointment of a new
22 director. During the term of the vacancy, the Provost of the
23 University of Oklahoma may designate a member of the school's
24 faculty to serve as interim director until the vacancy is filled.

1 The Provost of the University of Oklahoma may remove the director of
2 the school in accordance with policies and procedures of the
3 University of Oklahoma. The director shall:

4 1. Report to the Provost of the University of Oklahoma;

5 2. Except for his or her own appointment, make all faculty and
6 staff hiring decisions for the school;

7 3. Operate the school in accordance with policies and
8 procedures of the University of Oklahoma; and

9 4. By March 1, 2027, and by each March 1 thereafter, develop
10 and provide an annual strategic plan for the school to the Provost
11 of the University of Oklahoma and the advisory board.

12 G. Faculty of the school may be awarded tenure subject to the
13 tenure policies of the University of Oklahoma as adopted by the
14 Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and shall not be
15 required to gain joint appointment in another division of the
16 University of Oklahoma. If a faculty member is awarded tenure and
17 the school later dissolves, the faculty member shall be relocated
18 within another academic unit of the University of Oklahoma.

19 H. The Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma may use
20 funds allocated to it by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
21 Education and charitable donations to fund the school. Allocated
22 and donated funds shall only be used for the direct operation of the
23 school.

1 I. By September 1, 2027, and by each September 1 thereafter,
2 the Provost of the University of Oklahoma, in consultation with the
3 director of the school and the school's advisory board, shall
4 electronically submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro
5 Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
6 and the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House
7 of Representatives Appropriations and Budget Committee.

8 SECTION 2. There is hereby appropriated to the Oklahoma State
9 Regents for Higher Education from any monies not otherwise
10 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for
11 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the sum of Five Million
12 Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary for
13 the purpose of implementing the provisions of Section 1 of this act.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

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