OU Board of Regents Approves Engineering Dean Appointment and More

NORMAN, OKLA. – The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents met this week to approve the appointment of a new dean for the Gaylord College of Engineering, expansion of OU’s Professional MBA program – pending approval from the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education – and other items.

During the meeting, held at Bizzell Memorial Library in Norman, the board considered the expansion of the Professional Master of Business Administration program to also offer the degree at the OU-Tulsa campus. The Professional MBA provides management education to prepare students for careers in managerial and leadership positions. The proposed program will now go before the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for final approval.

“Expanding our high caliber Professional MBA program to Tulsa means that an exceptional graduate-level OU education will be even more accessible to northeastern Oklahoma business leaders,” said OU Interim President Joseph Harroz Jr. “Serving this population broadens the University’s commitment to strengthening the global competitiveness of Oklahoma and the nation.”

Also during the meeting, the Regents approved the appointment of John Klier, Ph.D., as dean of the Gaylord College of Engineering. Klier will join OU from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he serves as professor and head of the Department of Chemical Engineering. Before serving on the faculty at UMass Amherst in 2015, Klier worked for more than 25 years in the private sector with Dow Chemical Co.

“Dr. Klier’s deep expertise in research and the pathways from discovery to commercialization will help forge strategic relationships between the University and state and industry leaders,” Harroz said. “He is an ideal choice to continue the trajectory of the College of Engineering as a world-changing leader in innovation, research and collaboration.”
For the first time, the Regents received an initial draft of the University’s strategic plan. Noting the iterative process that lies ahead to refine the plan, Harroz requested the Board take time to consider the proposed draft and issue feedback.

“With the support and direction of the board, all three of our campuses engaged in a highly collaborative effort the last ten months,” Harroz said. “The development of a strategic plan creates a historic opportunity for us to chart a unique path for OU’s future. It was rewarding to deliver a first draft to the board, and we are eager for their feedback.”

###

**About the University of Oklahoma**

Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a public research university located in Norman, Oklahoma. OU serves the educational, cultural, economic and health care needs of the state, region and nation. For more information visit [www.ou.edu](http://www.ou.edu).