



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

November 19, 2025

Dear Colleagues and Students,

We are pleased to share two important institutional initiatives that will shape the future of library services and the graduate education experience at the University of Oklahoma. In alignment with OU's ["Lead On, University: The Next Phase" Strategic Plan](#) and our commitment to operating as One OU, we are launching a phased integration of University Libraries across all campuses, as well as consolidating the Norman and Health Campus Graduate Colleges.

University Libraries

Library services and leadership across Norman, Tulsa, and the OU Health Campus will be unified, creating a cohesive, responsive, and forward-looking library system that supports the full breadth of OU's academic, research, and clinical missions.

Under the leadership of Dean Denise Stephens, University Libraries will move toward a model of integrated centralization, balancing operational efficiency with local responsiveness, and central leadership with specialized service delivery. This transformation will:

- Leverage shared resources, expertise, and infrastructure to enhance research productivity, student success, and patient care.
- Improve discoverability and access to distinctive collections and archives.
- Coordinate strategic planning, fundraising, and professional development across campuses.
- Support interdisciplinary research and AI literacy through collaborative programming and resource sharing.

The libraries/archives that will be included in this new structure are:

- Bizzell Memorial Library and its existing satellites (Fine Arts Library, National Weather Center Library, Youngblood Energy Library, Western History Collections, and the Library Service Center)
- Robert M. Bird Library, OU Health Campus
- Schusterman Library, OU-Tulsa
- Donald E. Pray Law Library
- Congressional Research Collections & Political Archives (affiliated with the Carl Albert Research Center)

We are grateful to the leadership and staff at these locations for their ongoing support and collaboration during this process.

Our work to create the University Libraries System will be complete by June 30, 2026, with a series of unit-level transitions starting in early 2026. This process will be guided by principles of transparency and a commitment to excellence. It will include stakeholder engagement, audits of services and collections,

and the development of a unified administrative and operational framework. As part of this work, we will also identify and assess entities across campuses that function as libraries to determine the appropriate scope of integration.

Graduate Colleges

Under the direction of Norman Graduate College Dean Randall Hewes, our two Graduate Colleges will transition to one college – the OU Graduate College – at the beginning of the spring semester. This change will combine operations to serve all of OU graduate education and benefit students, faculty and staff. The newly merged college will:

- Spur innovation and better support the student experience by removing administrative barriers to cross-campus engagement.
- Facilitate cross-departmental graduate programs that span OU, allowing students and faculty to collaborate and study on any OU campus.
- Unite postdoctoral training strengths of both campuses to better cultivate future talent.
- Enable administrative improvements to admissions and degree management processes, data sharing and reporting, and communication with students while improving efficiency and institutional support for graduate education.
- Expand signature events, such as the Norman Campus 3-Minute Thesis Competition and the Health Campus GREAT Symposium.

We know a change this substantial will require continuous work by many to succeed. Our next steps include meetings with key stakeholders to obtain input on challenges and opportunities facing graduate education across our campuses, and ways in which the new OU Graduate College can best respond. In the first year, we will establish a cross-campus task force to review graduate education policies, support structures, and procedures to identify areas of alignment and consider updates to harmonize and adopt best practices for each campus.

We would like to recognize and thank Dr. H. Anne Pereira, who has served for over a decade as Dean of the OU Health Campus Graduate College and was instrumental in the success of the College's GREAT Symposium. Her continued support throughout this process ensures a smooth transition. As she returns to the College of Pharmacy to focus her efforts on research, we know she will continue to elevate our university mission and reputation.

We recognize the complexity of these endeavors and the importance of thoughtful collaboration. We are confident that, together, we can build a library and graduate system that reflects the aspirations of One OU – supporting our scholars, students, and communities with the tools and spaces they need to thrive.

Please join us in supporting these important steps forward for the University of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

André-Denis G. Wright
Senior Vice President and Provost, Norman Campus

Gary E. Raskob
Senior Vice President and Provost, OU Health Campus