

SUBJECT: Legislative Update – December 2025 Council of Presidents Meeting

The following provides a summary of the legislative landscape and key fiscal policy discussions presented at the Council of Presidents (COP) meeting held on December 10, 2025. Several items discussed require immediate attention from business and finance offices to prepare for the upcoming legislative session.

1. Action Item: Potential Housing and Dining Legislation

Priority: High | Status: Possible Filing

Legislation seeking to "decouple" student housing and dining contracts may be re-introduced, similar to bills filed in the previous session. To effectively advocate for the financial stability of our auxiliary services, OSRHE is requesting institutions begin aggregating data regarding the potential impact of such a mandate.

Data points business officers should begin assessing:

- Financial Impact: How would separating these contracts impact baseline revenue for auxiliary services?
- Student Cost: Would the loss of bundled efficiency force an increase in costs for students who choose to utilize both services?
- Contractual Obligations: How would this affect existing contracts with third-party vendors (e.g., Sodexo, Chartwells) and debt service obligations?

2. Upcoming Data Request: International Student Financial Support

Legislators have requested data regarding the number of international students in the system and, specifically, the amount of state-appropriated financial support they receive.

- Context: This inquiry stems from broader discussions regarding undocumented students and recent national policy changes regarding Chinese student visas.
- Clarification of Funds: It is critical to distinguish between state-appropriated dollars (of which there are few to no programs for international students) versus institutional aid, private foundations, or donor funds. The State Regents will issue a centralized survey to aggregate this response efficiently.

3. Filed and Anticipated Legislation

- 90-Hour Degree Mandates: There have been early discussions regarding legislation that would have mandated 3-year/90-hour degrees (similar to recent Ohio

legislation). A structure for “compact bachelors degrees” is moving forward with the hope to prevent a statutory mandate.

- Oklahoma Promise & Teacher Promise:
 - Expansion: There is legislation to increase the family income threshold for Oklahoma Promise to \$100,000, aligning Oklahoma with the baseline recently set by Texas.
- Heart of the Heartland Scholarship: Legislation will be filed to redirect funds from this expiring scholarship program (originally created following the Murrah Building bombing).

4. State Question Monitoring

Three state questions are currently being monitored for potential fiscal and operational impacts:

- SQ 841 (Property Tax): This newly filed petition regarding property tax is of significant interest to K-12 and CareerTech due to revenue implications. Preliminary county-level data suggests a potential revenue impact ranging from 20% to over 35% in some areas.
- SQ 832 (Minimum Wage): Currently facing legal challenges; a vote date has not been set.
- SQ 836 (Primary System): Organizers are currently collecting signatures to restructure the state's primary election system.

5. Legislative Engagement & Timeline

- Legislative Tours: Recent regional tours in Northeast Oklahoma were successful. Visits to Southeast Oklahoma and the Metro area (UCO) are upcoming.
- Bill Tracking: We expect the first comprehensive list of filed bills to be distributed in mid-to-late January.
- Key Dates:
 - House Leadership Dinner / Senate Leadership Breakfast: Tentatively targeted for March 3rd and 4th (Tuesday/Wednesday).