



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES  
.....  
*State of Oklahoma*

July 28, 2021

President Joe Harroz  
University of Oklahoma  
660 Parrington Oval  
Norman, OK 73019

President Harroz,

As Oklahomans we pride ourselves on a collaborative spirit and banding together for the greatest challenges that face us. It has been a priority of the Oklahoma legislature for state entities of higher education to work together – not just for what’s best for one institution but looking out for what is best for the state as a whole.

We are disappointed to read news reports that over the past few months the University of Oklahoma leadership has disregarded that collaborative spirit. Based on the joint statement released Monday from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Oklahoma you have chosen to advance the interests of the University of Texas as a partner instead of working collaboratively with your in-state partner at Oklahoma State University. We are disappointed in the lack of transparency and making decisions of such magnitude at a time when the Oklahoma Legislature is out of session.

It is our desire to see collaboration and parity for our state’s two comprehensive institutions. Moving forward, we ask that you keep legislators and the public informed as this situation is of great importance to the State of Oklahoma.

Both flagship institutions in our state were founded in December of 1890. Since that time, combined they have achieved 84 Division 1 national championships and countless research and academic designations. California is the only state with two institutions that have more combined titles than Oklahoma. We are committed that this tradition of excellence will continue for both campuses and will do our part to assist where necessary.

We look forward to working together with all higher education institutions towards building a stronger, brighter Oklahoma.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Hilbert, R-Bristow  
State Representative  
OK House District 29

James Leewright, R-Bristow  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 12

Trey Caldwell, R-Lawton  
State Representative  
OK House District 63

Sherrie Conley, R-Newcastle  
State Representative  
OK House District 20

Dean Davis, R-Broken Arrow  
State Representative  
OK House District 98

Eddy Dempsey, R-Valliant  
State Representative  
OK House District 1

Sheila Dills, R-Tulsa  
State Representative  
OK House District 69

Mike Dobrinski, R-Okeene  
State Representative  
OK House District 59

Scott Fetgatter, R-Okmulgee  
State Representative  
OK House District 16

Jim Grego, R-Wilburton  
State Representative  
OK House District 17

David Hardin, R-Stilwell  
State Representative  
OK House District 86

Toni Hasenbeck, R-Elgin  
State Representative  
OK House District 65

Dick Lowe, R-Amber  
State Representative  
OK House District 56

Carl Newton, R-Cherokee  
State Representative  
OK House District 58

Jadine Nollan, R-Sand Springs  
State Representative  
OK House District 66

John Pfeiffer, R-Orlando  
State Representative  
OK House District 38

Logan Phillips, R-Mounds  
State Representative  
OK House District 24

Trish Ranson, D-Stillwater  
State Representative  
OK House District 34

Cindy Roe, R-Lindsay  
State Representative  
OK House District 42

Jay Steagall, R-Yukon  
State Representative  
OK House District 43

Danny Sterling, R-Tecumseh  
State Representative  
OK House District 27

Judd Strom, R-Copan  
State Representative  
OK House District 10

John Talley, R-Stillwater  
State Representative  
OK House District 33

Tammy Townley, R-Ardmore  
State Representative  
OK House District 48

Collin Walke, D-Oklahoma City  
State Representative  
OK House District 87

Bill Coleman, R-Ponca City  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 10

Tom Dugger, R-Stillwater  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 21

John Haste, R-Broken Arrow  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 36

Brent Howard, R-Altus  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 38

Chris Kidd, R-Waurika  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 31

Roland Pederson, R-Burlington  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 19

Marty Quinn, R-Claremore  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 2

Blake Stephens, R-Tahlequah  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 3

Zack Taylor, R-Seminole  
State Senator  
OK Senate District 28

CC:  
Jeffrey Hickman  
Chairman  
State Regents for Higher Education

Michael Cawley  
Chairman  
University of OK Board of Regents