

Dear RUSO Board of Regents,

Before the hiring of the University of Central Oklahoma's new president, the RUSO board asked for my opinion, and I was clear that I didn't think the university should consider a career politician with no university, leadership or management experience. Over the past 15 years, my foundation, my company and I have committed countless hours and resources to UCO to help put it on better footing.

Yesterday's decision by the Board of Regents, none of whose members attended UCO, prioritizes politics at the expense of the university. Students at UCO should be led by people who are qualified, have higher education experience and who can help them get jobs after graduation because they, too, worked in the private job sector. They deserve a president with credentials that fit the role, not someone who leveraged connections with RUSO board members as a repayment of political favors.

When looking at this and past hires, the board has lacked an understanding of best practices on how to conduct a proper presidential search and set hiring criteria to meet the overarching goals and needs of the university.

As an alumna and someone who hires approximately 15% of UCO graduates every year, I find it disappointing that the board put so little stock in conducting a standard national job search for the most qualified candidate and instead was comfortable risking the prosperity of UCO for years to come.

It's a sad day to be an alum!

Sincerely,



Chad Richison