

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council 2008 Annual Report

Purpose. The purpose of the Faculty Advisory Council is to communicate to the Chancellor and the State Regents the views and interests of all Oklahoma college and university faculty on those issues that relate to the constitutional and statutory responsibilities of the State Regents. In representing faculty, the Faculty Advisory Council shall attempt to accurately represent the positions of faculty and develop recommendations to the State Regents.

Creation. Seven representatives were nominated on June 26, 1990, by a statewide assembly of faculty convened by the Chancellor. The group held its first meeting on October 6, 1990, and bylaws drafted by the first Faculty Advisory Committee were approved by the State Regents on December 17, 1990. In June of 2002, the State Regents approved the Faculty Advisory Committee's name change to the Faculty Advisory Council. FAC members serve two-year terms. Two members represent the research universities (one from OU and one from OSU); two represent the regional universities; two represent the community colleges; and one represents the independent institutions. In February 2008, the State Regents approved expanding membership to a total of fourteen with the same proportional representation.

2008 MEMBERS

Research Universities

Roger Frech, University of Oklahoma
Jean Van Delinder, Oklahoma State University

Regional Universities

Jim Lambert, Cameron University
Robin Jones, Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Community Colleges

Tracy Jacomo, Seminole State College
Paul Buckelew, Oklahoma City Community College

Independent Colleges

Steve Betts, Southern Nazarene University

CHAIRS

January - March 2008	Jean Van Delinder
April - September 2008	Roger Frech
October - December 2008	Robin Jones

During the 2008 year, Chancellor Glen D. Johnson worked in partnership with the FAC to serve the interests of higher education faculty and institutions of Oklahoma. Dr. Debra L. Stuart, Vice Chancellor for Educational Partnerships, served as advisor and liaison.

2008 WORKPLAN

In October 2007, the annual statewide survey of higher education faculty leaders was administered. Results were compiled and discussed during the Faculty Assembly held October 27, 2007. The 2008 FAC members used this information to design a workplan that focused on issues of most concern to higher education faculty in Oklahoma.

In 2008, the following issues were in the FAC workplan. The workplan also is posted on the FAC web site at <http://www.okhighered.org/fac>.

- 1. Student preparation for college and study skills:** Study issues related to high school curricular requirements; educational pipeline; number and length of school days; teacher preparation, certification and retention; number and success of home schooled students; and status of the Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) initiative;
- 2. Student retention in and graduation from college:** Study issues and methods to improve college graduation rates in Oklahoma by type of institutions and including career counseling;
- 3. Textbook costs:** Study issues related to cost of textbooks by continuing to collect information on strategies for reducing cost to students, reviewing institutional policies in response to legislation, and discussing with the Student Advisory Board;
- 4. Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System (OTRS):** Review the status of OTRS;
- 5. Health insurance:** Review health insurance issues and share information about institutional plans; and
- 6. Salaries:** Review issues related to salary such as impact on recruitment and retention of faculty.

2008 ACTIVITIES

The FAC holds monthly meetings to discuss the workplan items and matters affecting all higher education institutions in Oklahoma. Copies of the minutes are on the FAC web site at <http://www.okhighered.org/fac>.

Met with Chancellor to discuss State Regents' priorities and higher education legislative issues

Student preparation for college

- Met with State Regents' Student Preparation Field Coordinators
- Met with State Regents' Director of Teacher Education
- Discussed Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) information
- Discussed teacher professional development
- Discussed teacher certification
- Discussed the national initiative, *Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count*

Textbook costs

- Reviewed literature
- Discussed with Student Advisory Board (SAB) and co-sponsored resolution

Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System (OTRS)

- Met with Tommy Beavers, Executive Secretary of OTRS
- Reviewed funding situation and discussed outreach to all faculty

Health insurance

- Met with representatives of the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board (OSEEGIB) administrator to discuss questions of concern to faculty:
 - Setting rates
 - Containing costs
 - Pharmacy reimbursements
 - New claims processor

Salaries

- Reviewed report on 2006-2007 Faculty and administrative salaries
- Found faculty salaries for all ranks at the public institutions is 81.85% of the national salaries

ADDITIONAL 2008 ACTIVITIES

Tuition

- Represented faculty at the annual tuition hearing

Legal Issues in Higher Education Conference

- Contributed suggestions for conference planning

FAC policy revisions

- Recommended to State Regents policy revisions to expand membership and allow designees

Participated in Higher Education Day at the State Capitol

Delivered annual report and introduced incoming and outgoing member in December 2007

FACULTY ASSEMBLY

- Conducted Faculty Opinion Survey of faculty leaders at all Oklahoma public and independent colleges and universities.
- Hosted annual Faculty Assembly on October 27, 2008 for discussion with faculty leaders at all Oklahoma public and independent colleges and universities. Dr. Houston Davis, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented legislative and academic issues.