

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
to the
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER. The Faculty Advisory Committee to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education met at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2002, in the State Regents' Library/Conference Room. Members present for the meeting were: Marcia Tilley, Al Schwarzkopf, Jim Lambert, Claudia Buckmaster, and Chris Butler.

2. MINUTES. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected.

3. Issues.

a. **Social Security Numbers.** Ned Bastow stated institutional student leaders are concerned about limiting access to student Social Security numbers. They have provided examples of misuses of Social Security numbers and other concerns about privacy issues. The committee discussed both statistical and anecdotal evidence of student privacy issues throughout the institutions. Major concerns centered on institutional computer networks.

b. **Credit Card Issues and Student Health Coverage.** Dr. Kermit McMurry presented resolutions from student government leaders on credit card issues and student health coverage. The Student Advisory Council is planning to speak with state legislators regarding a student survey designed to assess student opinion of credit card companies on campus and student credit card misuse. Pilot surveys will be taken at Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City campus, East Central University, and the University of Oklahoma. Students who have misused credit cards are more likely to drop out of school, which will present limitations to the survey. A copy of the survey will be presented to the Committee upon finalization.

Dr. McMurry also discussed issues with institutional student health coverage. Staff is researching the affordability from one insurance vendor for all state campus compared to separate vendors for each institution. This research is in the initial phase. Updates will be provided as they become available.

c. **Student Preparation.** Dr. Dolores Mize said the State Regents were charged to serve citizens rather than institutions. It is believed that the obligation to the student begins before the students arrive on campus. Over the past 5 years, there has been a broad national policy focus on k-12 education and preparing students for college. Dr. Mize stated a student task force has been organized to focus on report card measurements and impact of policies on higher education. They will also discuss the need to adequately express what is expected of students entering college, as well as high school and middle school students. This task force is expected to present a broad, outcome driven plan to address student preparation issues by the end of the year.

The Committee discussed the impact of teacher quality on student preparation. The Committee also discussed student remediation rates and how it reflects the need for student preparation. Remediation reports should be ready by late spring. It was noted that the State Regents could have a larger impact over K-12 policy by setting higher admission standards to State institutions.

d. **Adult Learner Initiatives proposal.** Dr. Mize presented an update on the Adult Learner Initiatives. She noted reaching out and serving adult students would help achieve the State Regents' Brain Gain 2010 goals. The Committee discussed prior learning assessment (PLA) to award course credit. Policy for PLA testing is in place, but there has not been much focus on it so far. Dr. Mize also noted that PLA would reduce course redundancy saving financial aid and federal funding. Prior Learning Assessment credit is more valid for general education courses rather than upper level specialized courses. Performance and skill-based courses may occur less resistance as opposed to knowledge and concept based courses.

Dr. Mize and Dr. Phil Moss discussed Oklahoma's selection to participate in this initiative. Oklahoma will partner with 3 other states using funding from the Lumina foundation to strengthen adult education. The major focuses will be public engagement and outreach to bring adult learners back to college campuses. Dr. Moss presented academic components of this pilot, which will encourage state institutions to address prior learning as a factor for adult student placement.

e. **Student Assessment Pilot.** Dr. Mize presented preliminary information on a national initiative sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trust to assess adult student learning. Oklahoma will be one of six pilot states.

f. **Faculty Personnel Policies.** Dr. Moss presented an update on institutional faculty personnel policies. The changes to the faculty personnel policies were approved by the Committee and the Council on Instruction over the past summer. Implementation of the policy will be the responsibility of individual institutions and their respective governing boards.

g. **Joint FAC/COI Report on Technology.** Dr. Moss presented a report on technology issues. The Council on Instruction discussed standards and guidelines for distributed learning. The Council also discussed retention issues and implementing limitations for enrollment in distance and distributed learning courses. The Committee also discussed a possible resolution supporting MERLOT. Dr. Moss also presented an update on the new OneNet rate structure and an agreement with University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University regarding how to monitor acceptable network usage.

h. **Fall Course Equivalency Meeting.** Dr. Moss distributed an update on the Course Equivalency project. No discussion was needed.

4. **Annual Faculty Opinion Questionnaire.** The Committee discussed the FY 03 questionnaire presented for review by the Committee. Input from the committee and from Regent's staff will be included.

5. Faculty Assembly. The Committee discussed preparation for the Faculty Assembly. The letter, survey, and informational packets are scheduled to be delivered electronically on September 16, 2002. The Faculty Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, November 17, at 2:30pm.

6. 2002 Committee Meeting Dates. The Committee approved dates for their subsequent meetings. The Faculty Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday, October 15, at 5:30pm (later changed to 5:30pm on October 2nd), Sunday, November 17, at 1pm, and Thursday, December 5, at 9am.

7. 2002 Workplan. The Committee discussed the following workplan topics:

- a. Faculty Salaries.
- b. Retirement/Benefit Issues.
- c. Faculty Load.
- d. Governance Issues.
- e. Technology Issues.
- f. Student Preparation for College.

8. Adjournment. With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.