

**Resolution of the Campus Life and Safety & Security Task Force
March 31, 2008**

WHEREAS, Governor Brad Henry issued Executive Order 2007-17 within days of the April 16, 2007, tragedy on the Virginia Tech campus, creating the Campus Life and Safety & Security (CLASS) Task Force for the purpose of making recommendations that would improve security and safety on Oklahoma's higher education and career technology campuses; and,

WHEREAS, The final report, presented to the governor, House speaker, and Senate co-presidents pro tempore on Jan. 15, 2008, was based on the findings of surveys of Oklahoma post-secondary institutions conducted by the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security and the deliberations of the task force and its sub-committees; and,

WHEREAS, Priority recommendations of the final report included the adoption of a statewide standard for campus policy and practices; a complete assessment and improvement plan for campus notification needs and development of a prioritized communication plan utilizing multiple appropriate methods; continuous training of staff, faculty and students in awareness, preparedness and response; and assuring the availability of trained professional counselors who play an important role in the prevention of incidents; and,

WHEREAS, A multi-year implementation process of the task force's recommendations is currently underway to improve campus notification and response procedures. This includes the purchase, installation and testing of emergency notification systems; the review of response plans with local law enforcement and conducting trainings and "live shooter" exercises. The Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security is also arranging for technical assistance for our campuses to develop emergency planning templates that will become models for use across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, The governor, at the request of the Task Force, issued Executive Order 2008-8 on February 12, 2008, extending the activities of the Campus Life and Safety and Security (CLASS) Task Force; and,

WHEREAS, HB 2513 has been approved in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and is now pending action in the Oklahoma Senate. The

legislation allows for students, faculty and other employees who are CLEET certified, honorably discharged from the military, or active military to carry a handgun onto college property with a valid concealed handgun license. Additionally, the individual must notify the university if they plan on carrying a handgun. And finally, an individual will be prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun if they enter an access controlled area and are subject to a security checkpoint (i.e. sporting events); and,

WHEREAS, HB 2513 is being vigorously opposed by a cross-section of the state including higher education officials, law enforcement, students, parents, veterans groups, and the business community who have expressed deep concerns about the proposed changes; and,

WHEREAS, These concerns include the likelihood that, in the event of an incident, police will not be able to sort out a dangerous gunman from others with guns and the potential for accidental discharge or misuse of firearms. Many have concluded that the bill will lead to a less safe environment for our students, faculty and visitors; and,

WHEREAS, These concerns have been expressed in many letters, phone calls and e-mails to legislators; resolutions of opposition by the Council of Presidents and numerous faculty and student groups; letters to the editor and editorials from state newspapers; and,

WHEREAS, The CLASS Task Force has heard testimony from University presidents, law enforcement officials, representatives of faculty members, students, parents, veterans, and the business community. The task force also engaged in a discussion of the legislation and concluded that its implementation would create a potentially dangerous environment on our campuses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CLASS Task Force respectfully requests that all necessary actions be taken by the Oklahoma Legislature to keep HB 2513 from becoming law in the state of Oklahoma and prevent potentially tragic unforeseen circumstances from occurring as a result of this bill.