

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, May 2, 2002, in the State Regents' Library/Conference Room. Members present for the meeting were: Al Schwarzkopf, Gayle Kearns, Jim Lambert, Chris Butler, and Claudia Buckmaster. Chairman Gayle Kearns presided.

2. **MINUTES.** Minutes from the April meeting were approved with corrections.

3. **STATE INSURANCE.** Bryce Fair introduced officials from the State Education Employees Group Insurance office: Bill Crain, Administrator; Frank Wilson, Deputy Administrator; and Paul King, Deputy Administrator. AFC has requested an opportunity to visit on health insurance issues of concern to faculty. Bryce Fair stated that the current plan, HealthChoice, is a hybrid between a PPO and a 'point-of-service' indemnity plan. This plan also offers a few HMO services from those companies having a contract with the state. There are currently three HMOs that have contracts with the state, but only one of those HMOs has agreed to take HealthChoice members. The Committee also discussed the HealthChoice pharmacy component, employee and dependant eligibility, and other policy benefits.

Bill Crain with the Oklahoma State Education Employees Group Insurance Board presented the improvements made over the last year. To improve customer service, the OSEEGIB is switching from primarily paper documents to electronic documents through a document imaging process. They have also increased staffing on the call centers. They have also taken over responsibility for the management of the provider network, which had previously been outsourced to a third party administrator.

Among questions asked by FAC were the issue of notification to faculty and other customers of changes in coverage. The information sessions were discussed, and it was suggested that OneNet could provide an electronic means of information dissemination. FAC requested that a similar briefing be provided for Faculty Senate Presidents at the Fall Faculty Assembly

4 **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Bryce Fair presented the status on the request for supplemental funds for FY02. He stated the Senate Appropriations Sub-committee discussed allocating Rainy Day funds to higher education to keep budget cuts at a comparable level with other state agencies. The Rainy Day appropriations are estimated at \$14 million, which will offset the \$18 million cut in the higher education budget. Most institutions are also taking advantage of the 7 percent allowable increase in tuition to offset this year's reduced budget. Bryce stated there was no other pending legislation to discuss at this time.

5. **ONENET.** Kurt Snodgrass presented the progression of OneNet services to campuses around the state. He discussed network stability, noting that network downtime is less than 4 minutes each month on average. Higher education accounts for a very large portion of bandwidth used although OneNet provides services to most state agencies, public libraries across the state, K-12 institutions, and other state funded organizations. Funds allocated to OneNet provide upgraded technology to the system in order to keep OneNet services at a comparable level to commercial internet services. The new rate structure will allow OneNet to broker the bandwidth to each institution for the amount of access needed. Institutions will only pay for what they need and must decide individually what services to subscribe to.

. FAC probed for more information on the prioritization of OneNet traffic to ensure bandwidth availability and priority for academic purposes. FAC requested that the joint COI/FAC technology committee add to its agenda the development of a recommended Quality of Service policy for OneNet traffic prioritization.

6. **FAC PARTICIPATION/ACTIONS.** FAC discussed the status of the FAC/COI committee work regarding proposed legislation on providing faculty termination reasons. FAC noted that a meeting of the joint COI/FAC technology committee is planned for 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2002. The Quality of Service item will be added to the agenda for that meeting. The discussion of the CAEL recommendations was postponed.

FAC asked for an updated list of Faculty Senate Presidents so that FAC assignments could be made. The group also agreed to some early work on the 2002 faculty opinion survey to be sent out in the fall. Members provided some updates.

Chairman Kearns indicated that a decision regarding the next FAC meeting would be made and communicated soon.

7. **2002 WORKPLAN.**

8. **ADJOURNMENT.** With the agenda accomplished, the meeting adjourned.