

FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
to the
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The Faculty Advisory Council to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education met at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2003, in the State Regents' Library Conference Room. Members present for the meeting were: Al Schwarzkopf, Chuck Edgley, Jim Lambert, Claudia Buckmaster, Judy Colwell, and Hal Cauthron. Chairman Schwarzkopf called the meeting to order and presided.
2. **MINUTES.** The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented.
3. **DISCUSSION.** Faculty Advisory Council discussed current legislation concerning funding for Oklahoma Higher Education. The Council also discussed scholarship programs in other states which are funded by a state lottery, particularly the Hope Scholarship Program in Georgia. The Council expressed concern about the requirement to maintain a 3.0 GPA in order for students to keep the scholarship. It was agreed that such a high requirement might discourage students from taking more challenging courses, which might be avoided by changing the requirement to a 2.5 GPA. There was concern regarding the continuation of need based student financial aid if a state funded scholarship program is established based off the proposed lottery. With the implementation of the Hope Scholarship Program, Georgia discontinued all need based financial aid, which may discourage low income students who fail to meet the scholarship requirements from going on to a higher education institution. The Council also discussed the requirements high school students must meet in order to be eligible for the Hope Scholarship and noted that the eligibility requirements may exclude minorities and other underserved students from receiving the full award.

The Council discussed the tuition equalization initiative, noting that the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant award had increased from \$1,000 to \$1,300 for students attending an independent institution. The Council also discussed a bill allowing new employees of the comprehensive universities to come under a defined contribution plan, which would serve as an alternative to the current teacher's retirement plan.

The Faculty Advisory Council also discussed the affordability index from the 2002 report card. Oklahoma received an average grade (C) in 2002 which was a decline from the previous report. Dr. Debra Stuart indicated that this decline was attributed to a skew in the measurement because of California's superior rating in affordability. She also noted that the grade in affordability depends largely on state funded financial aid when compared to federal aid.

4. **FORMER FAC MEMBER.** The Faculty Advisory Council approved a resolution of recognition and condolence for former FAC member Bruce Henson who passed away in early March.
5. **POLICY.** The FAC reviewed a draft policy on academic integrity. The Council agreed to work in conjunction with the Student Advisory Board and the Council on Instruction to develop a model policy for student academic integrity.

The FAC also discussed policy issues concerning faculty termination. Dr. Ruth Ann Dreyer provided an update on recent events concerning faculty termination. The Council reviewed the model faculty termination policy and agreed to request information about institutional termination policies for comparison.

6. **WORKPLAN FOR 2003.** The FAC discussed the following workplan topics:
 - a. Faculty Compensation Issues
 - b. Faculty Benefits
 - c. Governance/Faculty Voice at Capitol
 - d. Student Performance
 - e. Technology
7. **Other.** No other issues were brought to the Council's attention.
8. **Adjournment.** With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.