

Student Advisory Board

to the

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 27, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.

University Center, Carl Albert Room

University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Matthew Heggy at 1:02 p.m.

Announcement of Quorum

Members Present: Matthew Heggy, Josh Maxwell, Phyllis McLemore, Rosie Lynch, and Benjamin West. Furthermore, Ms. Debbie Terlip, Student Relations Liaison, was also present.

Swearing In of New Member Phyllis McLemore

The meeting started with Phyllis McLemore being sworn in by Ms. Debbie Terlip. Phyllis took both the Loyalty Oath and the Oath of Office.

Guests Present

The following members of the Oklahoma Student Government Association Board of Directors were present for the Student Advisory Board (SAB): Nolan Lawless and Timothy Sneed. Nicholas Harrison was also present.

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Chairman Heggy reviewed the previous meeting's minutes. Rosie Lynch made a motion to approve the minutes. This motion was seconded by Benjamin West, who also moved to introduce the guest, Mr. Bryce Fair.

Mr. Bryce Fair's Presentation

Mr. Bryce Fair, the Associate Vice Chancellor for the State Grants & Scholarships, began by discussing the current financial condition of Oklahoma. Mr. Fair explained that most departments in Oklahoma received a 25% budget cut due to the current recession. However, due to the state's commitment to higher education, the State Regents Student Financial Aid Programs were saved from such budget cuts. Ms. Debbie Terlip provided some background for the

unprecedented bill passed in 2007 to protect funding for the Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship.

Mr. Fair then had an in-depth discussion on the Oklahoma Promise Scholarship, which is designed to increase the proportion of college graduates in the state by providing monetary assistance for higher education to lower and middle class families who make less than \$50,000 a year. In order for the student to qualify for the Promise Scholarship, he/she must apply for it during his/her eighth to tenth grade years of school. Furthermore, the student must have a clean record and maintain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA throughout high school. This scholarship covers tuition expense for any four year university and can be used in conjunction with other grants and scholarships. Recently, this scholarship opened participation to those educated at home. However, they must score a 22 on the ACT in order to qualify. Finally, Mr. Fair discussed possible changes the State Regents were looking into regarding the Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship. One of the changes consisted of raising the income limit to \$75,000 or adjusting the income limit for bigger families. Other potential changes involved simplifying the structure of the Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship or having it focus more on foster children.

After discussing the Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship, Mr. Fair then talked about the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG) and the Academic Scholars Program. OTAG is strictly for the poorest of college students who will get the least amount in family contributions. 50% of OTAG students are adults. The Academic Scholars Program is designed to target the highest academic performing students. To qualify for this full ride scholarship, one must score within the upper half of the top one percentile in ACT/SAT test scores. This scholarship is also available for nonresident students.

The Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Scholarship (OTEG) is for students who go to private universities whose parents or guardians make below \$50,000 a year. The Concurrent Enrollment Tuition Waiver is for high school students who enroll in college classes. The National Guard Tuition Waiver Reimbursement is for members of the National Guard. Finally, Mr. Fair concluded by talking about the other scholarships offered by the State Regents, The Regional University Baccalaureate Scholarship, the Future Teachers Scholarship, the Nigh Scholarship, the Tulsa Reconciliation Scholarship, and finally the Chiropractic Education Scholarship.

Discussion of Financial Literacy Task Force Meeting and COSA Meeting

Due to Daniel Stockton's absence, the update of the Financial Literacy Task Force Meeting was postponed. Matthew Heggy then spoke about the COSA Meeting. He said that the COSA members wanted more information about the issue of guns on campus.

Assignment of Duties for the Student Leadership Retreat

Ms. Debbie Terlip informed the SAB that they would help the speakers set up their equipment for their presentations and be available for any assistance the speaker required. Furthermore, the SAB would publicly thank the speaker at the conclusion of their presentation and give them a small gift.

Discussion of Members Activities

Matthew Heggy expressed interest in visiting universities without any student government representation. Rosie Lynch said she was planning on visiting Northeastern State University.

Finally, Phyllis McLemore said she was planning on visiting Connors State College and Bacone College.

Discussion of Issues for Research

Matthew Heggy is currently researching veteran's affairs issues. Rosie Lynch said she is interested in researching scholarships for graduate students and financial aid. Benjamin West is looking into research grant funding. Finally, Josh Maxwell said he is researching guns on campus issues as well as rising textbook costs.

Viewing of ABC Video *If I Only Had a Gun*

The ABC video *If I Only Had a Gun* showed how armed students reacted in a crisis situation. Even students who were experienced in firearms were unable to properly act when put in a Columbine situation.

Discussion of and Vote on Addition to Student Advisory Board Special Rules of Order

Ms. Debbie Terlip started by discussing the phone conference which all members of the SAB participated in with State Regent's General Counsel Bob Anthony about the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act. In the phone conference, Mr. Anthony explained that according to the law guests are allowed to speak only when the chair grants permission. He noted that if the SAB wants to allow a regular time for guests to speak, it needs to be included in the Meeting Agenda.

Rosie Lynch did not see guest participation as an issue. Matthew Heggy, Benjamin West, and Josh Maxwell indicated favor for a policy on guest participation at the end of a meeting with a time limitation. It was decided to consider a policy in the next SAB meeting.

Determining of Agenda for Next Meeting

Matthew Heggy noted our next speaker will be Dr. Linda Mason and that the October 24th Oklahoma Student Government Association Fall Congress would be covered in the next meeting. Furthermore, Daniel Stockton will discuss the Financial Literacy Task Force Meeting during the next SAB meeting. The next meeting was scheduled on October 25th at 1:00 p.m. in the University Center, Carl Albert Room at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.