

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD
to the
OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 30, 2011, 1:00 PM
University of Central Oklahoma, Nigh University Center

Call to Order

Chairman Sichterman called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM with a quorum.

Announcement of Quorum

Ms. Terlip confirmed that the meeting had been posted and filed with the Secretary of State pursuant to the Oklahoma State Statutes.

Board members Cook, Gomez, Saluke, Schneider, and Sichterman were present; absent were Cary and Tracy.

A quorum was present to proceed.

Guests Present

Mr. Dave Wattenburger, Oklahoma State Department of Health
Mr. Yvon Fils-Aime, Oklahoma State University, Health Services

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Ms. Cook moved to approve the minutes. The minutes of the Previous meeting were seconded and approved.

Guest Speaker's Presentation on Campus Tobacco Free Policies and Issues

Chairman Sichterman yielded privilege to Mr. Wattenburger and Mr. Fils-Aime. The gentlemen introduced themselves to the board, and proceeded to discuss the purpose for meeting with the Board.

Mr. Wattenburger quickly began his presentation by introducing the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust ("TSET"). Ms. Terlip interjected to provide us with some background information on TSET. After the brief interjection, Mr. Wattenburger resumed and discussed the website established by the TSET Board. It features information including which Oklahoma counties receiving funding from the trust. Furthermore, Mr. Wattenburger overviewed the proposal process and work plan to receive funds from the trust. He pointed out that all submissions are independently reviewed out of state to ensure integrity.

After discussing TSET, Mr. Wattenburger proceeded to talk about the application of a Best Practices manual from CDC, October 2007. The State Department of Health began implementing strategies of this manual. The department's research has identified 100,000 fewer smokers in the state in ten years. Oklahoma was once in the top three of youngest smokers in the United States, and now it's out of the top ten. **(A handout for the Campus Wellness Seminar was distributed.)**

Mr. Wattenburger finally introduced the progress in instituting campus tobacco policies. Changing the social norms associated with tobacco use has contributed to the successful institution of tobacco policies. Oklahoma State University is a model for the nation. OSU, SWOSU, UCO, and others have instituted tobacco free policies. In fact, nineteen of Oklahoma's public and private higher education institutions have tobacco free policies in place. OU is soon to go tobacco free; ECU has signed a petition; and the State Department of Health is working with Oklahoma Panhandle State University. The majority of tobacco users are okay with tobacco free policies. Opposition to policies is mostly coming from libertarian people. **(A handout with sample resolutions for Collegiate Campus Tobacco Free Policies was distributed.)**

Chairman Sichterman asked about how policies are enforced. Mr. Fils-Aime answered by indicating that OSU started with education and an interactive, information-based dialogue. Free medication was offered to those students wanting to go tobacco free. For students whose insurance coverage did not include cessation medication, they lobbied the company to cover it.

Mr. Schneider asked if there has been any movement to take out the language pertaining to misdemeanor charges found in Subsection N of the Smoking in Public Places and Indoor Places Act. Mr. Wattenburger and Mr. Fils-Aime were not aware of any proposed or potential changes. The number of people violating the policy is very few. They both stated that state law has really helped.

Ms. Cook indicated that Oklahoma City University had issues with policy enforcement among staff and specifically international students. Mr. Wattenburger and Mr. Fils-Aime identified signage in laundry facilities and public spaces they use as places for posting information. Furthermore, the policy can be incorporated in the housing contract.

Ms. Terlip asked about policy enforcement on gameday to which Mr. Fils-Aime said the use of Jumbotron and Breathe Easy signage on buildings have been essential. Alumni Associations and athletic donor clubs have also been instrumental. Statistics between education attainment and smoking were also discussed. Mr. Wattenburger indicated evidence suggests that most smokers are lower on the socioeconomic ladder. Native Americans have a high rate of usage. Cultural ties are also important.

Update on Oklahoma Student Government Association

Due to OSGA Fall Congress having occurred the weekend prior, representatives from OSGA were not available for an update.

Discussion of Campus Visits and Research Topics

Mr. Saluke visited the Sayre campus of Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He identified it as a commuter campus. It is very small with four organizations, one of which is SGA. SGA has seven members, and they were planning a fall fest. Furthermore, they were planning a food drive for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Mr. Saluke concluded his presentation by underscoring a lack of a full time resident student population as key barrier to campus involvement.

Ms. Cook indicated that she would be visiting Oklahoma City Community College this week on Wednesday, November 3, 2011.

Mr. Schneider discussed his visit to Northeastern State University. He met with NSU SGA President Chuck Philpy. President Philpy addressed a number of concerns, but he primarily was concerned with student to faculty grievances, academic advising, and student conduct appeals.

Chairman Sichterman visited with East Central University student leaders, who expressed concerns with the military veteran issues and the bureaucratic process.

New Business

There was no new business for consideration by the Board.

Determination of Agenda for Next Meeting & Adjournment

Board members expressed interest in discussing Higher Education Day participation and student veterans' issues at the next meeting. The next meeting will be on Sunday, December 4, 2011, at the Nigh University Center on the University of Central Oklahoma campus. The Board adjourned at 2:35 PM.