

# TUITION

**WHEREAS**, state support for higher education has declined as a share of the state budget since the early 1980's, and;

**WHEREAS**, the lack of a public tuition policy leads to sporadic and unpredictable increases in tuition making it difficult for students and families to plan for college expenses, and;

**WHEREAS**, state and federal financial aid programs have changed dramatically and tuition setting policies need to be reexamined in light of these changes, and;

**WHEREAS**, students do not want a "one-size-fits-all" policy that forces all students in all areas of the state to pay the same rates, and;

**WHEREAS**, there is significant support for decentralizing the current tuition setting policy and allowing institutions and local boards to increase or decrease tuition to fit their markets, and;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for optimal tuition levels that ensure both the access to and the quality of higher education in Oklahoma, and;

**WHEREAS**, 78% of students in a 2000 statewide survey conducted by the Student Advisory Board would support a tuition increase with predefined stipulations, and;

**WHEREAS**, Oklahoma is only one of six states in which the state legislature controls fee and tuition setting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Student Advisory Board and the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education:

1. That support be given to the decentralization of tuition setting authority with appropriate safeguards controlling tuition increases.
2. That the tuition setting authority establish a multi-year tuition plan, based either on a flat percentage rate or annual inflation rates, that allows students and parents to plan for future higher education expenses.
3. That the state legislature, working with the higher education system, should devise a strategic plan that will allow institutions as well as families to better prepare for upcoming school years.
4. That the tuition setting process, goals, and policies be publicly known and that students have opportunities for input into the process, goals, and policies.

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Chris Smith, Chairman  
Student Advisory Board

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Hugh Benson, Chairman  
Faculty Advisory Committee

Meeting in joint session January 21, 2001.