

Joint Resolution No. 3
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS, responsibility for indifference to civic engagement belongs to both individuals and society as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, college students are among the least politically engaged by traditional standards of political participation (only 28 percent of 18-24 year olds voted in the 2000 election), but participate in volunteer activities more than any other generation; and,

WHEREAS, college students know less about formal government and politics than their predecessors did at the same age and this lack of knowledge serves as a barrier to student involvement in civic activities; and,

WHEREAS, college students must take advantage of formal and informal civic education opportunities as a way to develop their opinions and translate them into political action; and,

WHEREAS, civic engagement can generate social consciousness, cohesiveness, and responsiveness to issues important to students and society; and,

WHEREAS, VOICE—Vocal Oklahomans in Civic Engagement—is a \$107,000 grant from the Pew Charitable Trust and is a part of a national effort involving 600 campuses to increase student involvement in public life and create solutions for the challenges facing our democracy; and,

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is a member of the Campus Compact, in which campuses in 49 states participate for the purpose of increasing volunteerism, service, student civic and political engagement; and,

WHEREAS, students are the future of our nation which is better served by active, vocal citizens than skeptical apathetic spectators.

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

1. THAT the State Regents encourage Oklahoma colleges and universities to make opportunities available to their students and to highlight the importance of civic engagement.
2. THAT the Chancellor and Oklahoma college and university presidents continue their leadership in the Oklahoma Campus Compact and its focus on increasing student civic engagement.

Asher Killian, Chairman
Student Advisory Board

Al Schwarzkopf, Chairman
Faculty Advisory Council

Meeting in joint session on February 16, 2003.