

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council 2009 Annual Report

Purpose. The purpose of the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) is to communicate to the Chancellor and the State Regents the views and interests of all Oklahoma college and university faculty on those issues that relate to the constitutional and statutory responsibilities of the State Regents. In representing faculty, the Faculty Advisory Council shall attempt to accurately represent the positions of faculty and develop recommendations to the State Regents.

Creation. In 1990, seven representatives were nominated and held its first meeting. Bylaws were drafted by the first Faculty Advisory Committee and approved by the State Regents on December 17, 1990. In June 2002, the State Regents approved the Faculty Advisory Committee's name change to the Faculty Advisory Council. FAC members serve two-year terms. Until 2008, two members represented the research universities (one from OU and one from OSU); two represent the regional universities; two represent the community colleges; and one represents the independent institutions. In February 2008, the State Regents approved expanding membership to a total of fourteen with the same proportional representation.

2009 MEMBERS

Research Universities

Roger Frech, University of Oklahoma
Frans Currier University of Oklahoma
Birne Binegar, Oklahoma State University
Robert Miller, Oklahoma State University

Regional Universities

Robin Jones, Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Nancy Osborn, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
David H. Hartmann, University of Central Oklahoma
Mary Penick, Cameron University

Community Colleges

Paul Buckelew, Oklahoma City Community College
Paula Reif, Carl Albert State College
Rex Ackerson, Northern Oklahoma College
Tracy Edwards, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City

Independent Colleges

Lamont Lindstrom, University of Tulsa
Beverly Devries, Southern Nazarene University

CHAIRMEN

January - March 2009	Paul Buckelew
April - September 2009	David H. Hartmann
October - December 2009	Nancy Osborn

During the 2009 year, Chancellor Glen D. Johnson worked in partnership with the FAC to serve the interests of higher education faculty and institutions of Oklahoma. Dr. Debra L. Stuart, Vice Chancellor for Educational Partnerships, served as advisor and liaison.

2009 WORKPLAN

In October 2008, the annual statewide survey of higher education faculty leaders was administered. Results were compiled and discussed during the Faculty Assembly held October 25, 2008. The 2009 FAC members used this information to design a workplan that focused on issues of most concern to higher education faculty in Oklahoma.

In 2009, the FAC addressed the following workplan items:

- 1. Concealed weapons on campus**—In response to bills introduced in the legislature, the FAC communicated with other faculty and legislators and were prepared to offer a resolution in opposition if needed.
- 2. Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System (OTRS)**—Met with the new Executive Secretary to discuss status and suggested that similar presentations be offered at every institution.
- 3. Veteran student needs**— Learned about student veteran issues and services from the Program Director for the PTSD Clinical Team at Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center in Muskogee. Represented faculty on a panel at the 2nd Annual Statewide Student Veteran Conference on October 8.
- 4. Teacher certification**—Learned from the OSRHE Director of Teacher Education about the teacher certification process including accreditation requirements of traditional teacher preparation programs, requirements for alternative certification and the process for adding certification areas. H.B. 1333 was signed by the Governor and the FAC was prepared to offer a recommendation to reform alternative certification including a minimum requirement, such as adding a minor in education.
- 5. Adult student needs**—Discussed information from the Council on Adult and Experiential Learning's (CAEL), Southern Nazarene University's adult cohort groups, and ReachHigher.
- 6. Student retention**—Learned from OSRHE staff about the Education Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) and counselor/teacher professional development activities including GEAR UP.
- 7. Curriculum alignment**—Defined curriculum alignment as the transitions between grade levels and college. Received updates on the Governor's Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) initiative.
- 8. Textbook costs**—Learned from Tulsa Community College President about the OSRHE funded Textbook Project including software for students to sell or trade textbooks with each other. Plan to attend a alternative materials conference scheduled for March 5 in Tulsa. Supported H.B. 1882 that was signed by Governor requesting publishers to supply information about content revisions. Shared articles and compiled in the textbook discussion paper.
- 9. Service learning and Campus Compact**—Planned to invite speakers presenting information on service learning.
- 10. Health benefits**—Learned from the Oklahoma State and Educational Employees Group Insurance (OSEEGIB) Administrator and Deputy Administrator the status and issues related to HealthChoice and other insurance options.

2009 ACTIVITIES

The FAC holds monthly meetings to discuss the workplan items and matters affecting all higher education institutions in Oklahoma. Copies of the minutes are on the FAC web site at <http://www.okhighered.org/fac>.

Delivered annual report and introduced incoming and outgoing members at December 2008 State Regents' meeting.

Met with Chancellor to discuss State Regents' legislative agenda on January 12.

Reviewed the report, *Salaries in The Oklahoma State System of higher Education 2007-2008: Faculty and Selected Administrative Positions*, and found that faculty salaries for all ranks at the public institutions is 81.85% of the national salaries.

Participated in Higher Education Day at the State Capitol on February 10.

Provided comments at the Annual Tuition Hearing on April 29.

Presented at the Annual Statewide Student Veteran Conference on October 8.

Conducted Faculty Opinion Survey of faculty leaders at all Oklahoma public and independent colleges and universities.

Hosted annual Faculty Assembly on November 7, 2009 for discussion with faculty leaders at all Oklahoma public and independent colleges and universities. Chancellor Glen D. Johnson presented the higher education legislative agenda.