

Joint Resolution No. 1
TUITION

WHEREAS, Oklahoma higher education is facing budget cuts at a time of increased demand and enrollment; and,

WHEREAS, additional resources are needed to meet the increased demand and avoid the elimination of critical student services and classes needed for timely graduation; and,

WHEREAS, taxpayers in Oklahoma shoulder a bigger share of the tax burden than citizens in other states to subsidize colleges and universities; and,

WHEREAS, tuition and fees at Oklahoma colleges and universities are substantially below the rates at similar institutions in other states, including states that border Oklahoma; and,

WHEREAS, each 1 percent increase in resident tuition provides \$1.9 million in new revenue for Oklahoma colleges and universities, and the revenue stays on the campus and directly benefits students.

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 support be given to the Governor and Oklahoma Legislature to change the tuition laws in a way that will a) make local boards responsible for determining rates that balance quality and availability of higher education offerings and services with students' ability to pay and that b) help provide funding to ensure academic competitiveness.
2. THAT the State Regents and local governing boards be requested to set tuition and fees in a way that will maintain affordability and access as well as the quality and availability of academic services and offerings.
3. THAT tuition legislation and policies establish safeguards that will maintain higher education access and that will improve awareness, communication, and involvement of students, parents, citizens, and elected officials in the tuition-setting process.

Asher Killian, Chairman
Student Advisory Board

Al Schwarzkopf, Chairman
Faculty Advisory Council

Meeting in joint session on February 16, 2003.