

**Joint Resolution No. 7**  
**BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

WHEREAS, higher education funding for the current year has been reduced by \$49.5 million (5.9 percent) and funding for the last two years has been reduced a total of 6.8 percent; and,

WHEREAS, funding cuts mean that more than 600 classes and more than 500 faculty and staff positions will be eliminated and that library resources and services will be reduced -- all of which will threaten the quality and the production of college graduates needed to boost Oklahoma's economy; and,

WHEREAS, Oklahoma colleges and universities face a \$25 million increase in mandatory costs such as insurance and utilities and must continue to maintain/increase levels of student financial aid in order to ensure access to higher education.

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 Governor and members of the Oklahoma Legislature be encouraged to protect the investment in Oklahoma higher education and to ensure college access.
2. THAT the State Regents and state colleges and universities maintain or increase student financial aid and focus scarce resources on priorities that contribute to a competitive college program.
3. THAT the State Regents and Oklahoma elected officials continue to explore alternate funding sources for Oklahoma higher education that will enhance the investment in Oklahoma higher education and spur the state's economic competitiveness.

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Asher Killian, Chairman  
Student Advisory Board

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Al Schwarzkopf, Chairman  
Faculty Advisory Council

Meeting in joint session on February 16, 2003.