

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD
to the
OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 25, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.
University of Central Oklahoma, Nigh University Center

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kermit McMurry, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, at 1:00 p.m. Debbie Terlip, Student Relations Liaison, confirmed that the meeting had been posted and filed with the Secretary of State pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

Announcement of Quorum

Members present: Jessica Craig, Charity Penington, Thomas Schneider, Jack Test, and Autumn Wiles. Members absent: Matthew Heggy and Myka Sederis.

Guests Present

Kori Casey, C.J. Cavin, and Van Alston were present.

Overview of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher

Dr. McMurry began the meeting by asking the SAB members, visitors, and other attendees to introduce themselves. Dr. McMurry then swore in Jessica Craig as a member of the SAB. Dr. McMurry then began recognition of various program administrators from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to present overviews.

Mr. Bryce Fair, Associate Vice Chancellor for Scholarships and Grants, discussed the state student financial aid programs. He distributed a handout with the history and current appropriations levels for the various programs, and noted that the biggest program, Oklahoma's Promise, was not required to take reductions in the funding levels this year due to action taken by the legislature and Governor Henry to protect this resource. Mr. Fair described the unique funding priority that Oklahoma's Promise holds in the overall state budget, and pointed out that the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant program would lose federal matching funds if reduced. Following a brief overview of all the programs, the most prominent being the Academic Scholars Program, the Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant for private schools, the Concurrent Enrollment Program, and the National Guard Tuition Waiver Reimbursement, Mr. Fair mentioned the anticipated funding difficulty next year since both the federal stimulus funds and the state "Rainy Day" funds have been depleted. In particular he mentioned that the trust fund originally established for the Academic Scholars Program had been zeroed out this year. Members of the SAB about the Oklahoma Lottery Funding, and Mr. Fair described how the \$65

million certified last year was shared among common education, higher education, and career tech education. Following some discussion of the funding status of Oklahoma's Promise, Thomas Schneider asked about the participation pattern in the program. Mr. Fair replied that proportionately speaking, participation was highest for the rural areas, and by females. In terms of ethnicity, he said participation was in keeping with the general population, except for lower participation by Native Americans.

Ms. Robin McAlister, Coordinator of Workforce and Economic Development, discussed data on employment outcomes, degrees, and workforce needs. She distributed several handouts with information and data, including the 2010 Guide to Business and Economic Development. Ms. McAlister began by describing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) close cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce in the effort to provide a better equipped workforce for the state. She said the OSRHE provide data to companies considering locating in the state on such issues as the number of engineering degrees awarded, the number of graduates remaining in state, the salary offers the graduates report, etc. She mentioned the Governors Cup competition in which students can earn more than \$75,000 for innovative business plans that can be used for start up businesses, then showed a higher education commercial for career planning. Other supports that higher education provides for business include the Small Business Development Centers, currently located on 15 campuses, and the Making Place Matter initiative. She noted that companies provide internships, partner with institutions of higher education, retain faculty advisors, and provide tuition waivers for employees. In terms of strategic planning, Ms. McAlister said that higher education works with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission to match graduation records with unemployment and tax records to assess the brain drain, etc. and publish an Employment Outcomes Report. Analyzes are made of the workforce needs, specifically of fields which require a college degree. Lastly, Ms. McAlister mentioned Oklahoma's participation in the Complete College American Initiative, which receives funding by the Lumina Foundation.

Dr. Erin Taylor, Coordinator for Academic Affairs Projects, then presented information on issues relating to student veterans. She discussed issues in the higher education area of interest to veterans, including mental health and coping, disability, networking, advocacy, and educational needs. She emphasized that student veterans should be represented in all college functions, and participating in all mainstream college events. A current issue is the desire for separate housing to provide support and networking. Dr. Taylor then described the Single Mothers (Parents) Academic Resource Team (SMART) program. She noted that more than 27,000 college students are single parents, which is 13% of the student body overall, rising to 20% on some community college campuses. She concluded her remarks by exhorting the SAB members to ask for a Family-Friendly Evaluation for their campuses.

Dr. Kermit McMurry, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, touched briefly upon his duties with student relations, mentioning some of the key programs such as work with assessment, the student summer academies, the Scholars for Excellence and Child Care

program with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, interfacing with all campuses student affairs officers through the Council on Student Affairs, etc.

Selection of Student Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations for Chair: Autumn Wiles nominated Matt Heggy. Jessica Craig nominated Jack Test. The SAB members present selected Jack Test by a vote of 3-2. Autumn then nominated Matt Heggy for Vice Chair, and he was elected by acclamation.

Agenda for Next Meeting/Future Work

Dr. McMurry discussed a proposal for the August meeting to invite Chancellor Johnson for informal discussions with the student leaders of the SAB and Oklahoma Student Government (OSGA) Board of Directors over food. The SAB members liked the idea and discussed the location and topics for discussion. C. J. Cavin, President of the OSGA asked to be placed on the August SAB agenda for an update on the OSGA.

Adjournment

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.