

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

to the

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, April 1, 2012, 1:00 PM

University of Central Oklahoma, Nigh University Center

Call to Order

Ms. Cook called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. with a quorum.

Announcement of Quorum

Dr. McMurry, Saluke, Schneider, Cary, Gomez, and Cook were present. Ms. Terlip and Sichterman were absent.

A quorum was present to proceed.

Vice Chair Schneider filled the position as chair. Chair Sichterman will be present at the next meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Ms. Cook moved to approve the minutes for the February 26, 2012 meeting. The minutes were seconded by Mr. Cary and approved.

Update on OSGA/Council of Student Presidents Activities, Mr. Matt Sitton, Vice President of OSGA

Mr. Matt Sitton was not present

Recap on Higher Education Legislation at the State Capitol

Dr. McMurry would have more information on it at the next meeting.

Discussion of Issues for Possible Recommendation

The six recommendations that follow were open for discussion:

- Emphasis on Improved Teaching Methods for Faculty by Ms. Gomez. Dr. McMurry gave suggestions. Mr. Cary added that this recommendation is more specific than the Tenure

recommendation. Mr. Saluke commented on how modern teaching technology is quite important. Ms. Cook made comments and gave advice on the recommendation. Dr. McMurry said that all recommendations will be revised before being addressed to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

- Academic Advisors by Mr. Saluke. Mr. Schneider read the recommendation to the board. Dr. McMurry mentioned that the recommendation had already been brought up by last year's board, but that it was still a good idea to have it in this year's recommendations. Ms. Cook suggested that the words "as recommended previously." Mr. Schneider suggested that footnotes that cite the work in the recommendation should be added. Dr. McMurry made known that these recommendation should be taken seriously because the State Regents and staff take it seriously.
- Encouraging Teaching Development of Faculty concerning education by Ms. Cook. Mr. Schneider read the recommendation to the board. Ms. Cook commented that the process in writing the recommendation was quite difficult because it was not easy to find statistics. Dr. McMurry gave suggestions to the Higher Learning Commission on accreditation to address that topic. Mr. Schneider suggested that at the end of the recommendation be tied back to the students. Dr. McMurry will send out last year's report. Mr. Saluke talked about how professors are very busy. Ms. Cook states that she is aware of the professor's teaching load. Mr. Schneider mentioned that some teachers are not up to date and asked if we are expecting too much from them. Ms. Cook stated that the recommendation is not telling, just advising. Dr. McMurry stated that not all institutions state expectations for the teachers in the handbook.
- Veterans Affairs Benefits by Mr. Cary. Mr. Cary is getting more information on this topic and said that Rose State College is eager and willing to help veterans because the college is so closely located to the Tinker Air Force Base. Dr. McMurry stated the focus should be on the troops that are returning to the states. Mr. Schneider stated that the GI Bill was established to help veterans go to school. Mr. Cary said that the ability to help is there but the drive is not. Mr. Schneider said that it is difficult for nontraditional students to fit in because they have more experience and we have to make a bridge to help them in school. Ms. Cook commented that the veterans find the process to get funded by the GI Bill is very difficult and therefore discourages veterans to attend school. Mr. Schneider restates the difficulties and states that Oklahoma State University has a representative that advertises the department to help veterans. It provides counseling and housing services that are much needed by the veterans. Mr. Saluke says that veterans at his institution have a better connection with professors rather than students. Mr. Schneider states that the problems that traditional students and veterans have are very different.
- Review Board for Tenure by Mr. Cary. Mr. Schneider addresses a question to Dr. McMurry about the contents of the tenure for faculty. Dr. McMurry answers the question

addressed to him by saying that the requirements are stated in the handbook and are different at every institution. Mr. Saluke says that it is established every three years at his institution. Mr. Schneider comments on the extensive time period. Mr. Saluke agrees to the comment and he has heard many complaints. Dr. McMurry restates that the requirements are in the handbook and says that librarians are in the tenure in some institutions. Mr. Schneider states that if a professor is terrible it is very difficult to remove them from the tenure. Mr. Cary says that the institution helps professors on tenure by helping them improve but not necessarily removing them. Mr. Schneider and Mr. Saluke both gave their experiences with disorganized teachers and their notes. Ms. Cook states that she believes the tenure should no longer be in effect and that technology would not better the situation; however, not all professors that are on tenure are bad. Mr. Cary believes that the professors should be brought up to date and states that the problem may not all be the material but also mentally. Ms. Cook says that some process is better than no process. Mr. Saluke restates the lack of reviews or evaluations that the institutions are giving. Mr. Schneider asked the board if the topic had ever been brought about at a different time during the year. Mr. Cary said that Dr. Luis Montes had spoken about the issue. Mr. Schneider asked Ms. Gomez how Seminole State College made their evaluations. Ms. Gomez said that evaluations are made over each professor in each class taught by the students at the end of the semester and by the Division Chair in the middle of the semester. Mr. Schneider said that it was a good technique and then asked if anyone had any more suggestions.

- Common Core State Standards by Mr. Schneider. Mr. Schneider read the recommendation to the board and asked for suggestions. Ms. Cook asked if the high schools have standards. Mr. Schneider responded that kindergarten through twelfth grade do and it is established to educate students to be career and college ready. Ms. Cook suggests that the importance of the issue be more clearly stated. Mr. Cary asks if this issue affects the public or private schools. Mr. Schneider says that it is directed more to public schools and that Oklahoma State did so in 2010; more information is on the website www.commoncorestandards.org. Dr. McMurry says that the website states the standards and the meaning behind the Common Core Standards. Mr. Schneider restates the issues in the recommendation. Mr. Saluke asks if they are higher education related. Dr. McMurry says they are and that they are established to prepare students for college. Ms. Cook states that Oklahoma City University offers May-mesters to help students catch up and sometimes prepare the students for college.
- One Net by Chairman Sichterman and brought up by Mr. Schneider. Mr. Schneider spoke about his experience with One Net and said that it was cheaper but it does not totally serve for the benefit of the students. Dr. McMurry says that One Net is a way to reduce expenses but the State Regents are fighting so that higher education will not get involved. Mr. Saluke asks about the size of the company and the quality. Mr. Schneider states that

is huge and that it will backfire. The pros and cons of One Net were considered, and Chairman Sichterman will be asked to research the topic and will better inform the members on this topic.

- Tuition Setting Authority by Chairman Sichterman and brought up by Mr. Schneider. Mr. Schneider summarized the recommendation. Neither comments nor questions were proposed.

Voting on recommendations will be on April 22, 2012.

Discussion of Collaboration with Faculty Advisory Council on Recommendations

The following recommendations will be directed to the Faculty Advisory Council: Review Board for Tenure by Mr. Cary, Emphasis on Improved Teaching Methods for Faculty by Ms. Gomez, and Common Core State Standards by Mr. Schneider.

Discussion of Campus Visits and Research Topics

Ms. Gomez went to Murray State College and spoke with Jessica Hayes, SGA President. No major issues were of a concern except for lack of member representation at the SGA meetings.

New Business

No new business to discuss.

Determination of Agenda for Next Meeting

Voting/approval of recommendations and legislative update will present at the next meeting. The next Student Advisory Board meeting will be on Sunday, April 22, 2012, at the Nigh University Center on the University of Central Oklahoma campus.

Adjournment

Ms. Cook motioned the Board to adjourn. Mr. Saluke seconds the motion. The Board adjourned at 2:27 PM.