

Joint Resolution No. 6
NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE EDUCATIONAL QUALITY

WHEREAS, the mission of the State Regents is “to build a nationally competitive system of higher education that will provide educational programs and services universally recognized for excellence. . .;” and,

WHEREAS, the State Regents’ Brain Gain 2010 goal is to increase the percentage of Oklahomans with a college degree; and,

WHEREAS, the production of college graduates who can compete in the world market is dependent upon retaining Oklahoma’s current number of faculty positions for Oklahoma’s college students and upon attracting top faculty; and,

WHEREAS, Oklahoma’s average faculty salary is low (87.3 percent of the \$70,357 national average for comprehensive university faculty, 78.9 percent of the \$58,440 national average for regional university faculty, and 76.7 percent of the \$51,824 national average for two-year college faculty); and,

WHEREAS, Oklahoma faculty salaries have become less competitive – the gap between Oklahoma and national salaries has increased with Oklahoma salaries increasing 62.9 percent over the past 15 years compared to a 72.1 percent nationally for faculty; and,

WHEREAS, many campuses are faced with large numbers of faculty retirement in the next three years at a time of decreasing resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Advisory Board and the Faculty Advisory Council to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education:

THAT the State Regents and the State System secure and focus funding at levels sufficient to ensure competitive faculty compensation and a quality higher education system.

THAT state leaders be informed of the urgency of competitive faculty compensation in light of the state’s Brain Gain 2010 goals, the increased higher education demand, and the potential crisis associated with the pending wave of faculty retirements.

Asher Killian, Chairman
Student Advisory Board

Judy Colwell, Chairman
Faculty Advisory Council

Meeting in joint session on January 25, 2004.