

**STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD TO
THE OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

MINUTES

Sunday, December 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Student Advisory Board to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education was held on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room of the Presbyterian Health Foundation Research Park at 655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, OK 73104.

The meeting was called to order at 1:23 p.m. by the Chair. Islam Abdul-Moneim, Nicholas Harrison, Rosie Lynch, Evan Schwenk, and Alexandra Wilkes were in attendance. A quorum was deemed to be present.

Nicholas Harrison asked the Chair if the Student Advisory Board could take a moment to recognize the guests from the OSGA Board of Directors and the Council of Student Presidents. The motion was posed by the Chair by unanimous consent and it passed. There were no guests from the OSGA Board of Directors or the Council of Student Presidents.

The minutes for the previous meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008 were approved with no changes by unanimous consent.

The Chair raised the question of sending thank you notes to the staff members who had presented to the Student Advisory Board. Debbie Terlip agreed that it was appropriate for the chair to do so. The Student Advisory Board then discussed future issues for research.

Islam Abdul-Moneim discussed the possibility of excluding general education requirements from the formula used to calculate a student's cumulative GPA – so that all general education requirements would only be pass / fail and the final figure would reflect a student's competency in his or her chosen field of specialization. There was some discussion regarding whether faculty would be willing to accept this idea. Nicholas Harrison noted that there were two schools of thought – one which wanted to preserve all academic performance as part of one's permanent record, the other which had gradually pushed for retake and forgiveness policies. He also noted that many graduate schools now only considered the last sixty credit hours (which were usually in a student's chosen field of specialization). So, the idea might not be so far off.

Nicholas Harrison updated the Board on three resolutions that he had presented to the OSGA Fall Congress – regarding the establishment of a professional misconduct system, the inclusion of sexual orientation in institution's non-discrimination clauses, and restrictions on the sale of student information and on-campus credit card solicitation. All three resolutions passed by considerable margins and the Student Advisory Board could now begin working with other elements of the higher education system.

Alexandra Wilkes discussed green initiatives and the prospects of forming a committee on the OCCC campus to help facilitate the idea.

The Student Advisory Board discussed its visits to other campuses. Although there had been several informal discussions with other student government associations, no member had scheduled an official visit. Debbie Terlip encouraged its members to visit two campuses in the spring.

The Chair discussed the agenda for the next meeting. The Student Advisory Board expressed interest working in coordination with the Council of Student Affairs. Kermit McMurray said that the Council of Student Affairs was busy in January with professional development. However, the Student Advisory Board could try to coordinate with them to get on their agenda for a later meeting. He noted that the Council of Student Affairs usually meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

The Student Advisory Board reconvened at 3:00 p.m. in the State Regents Conference Room for a joint meeting with the OSGA Board of Directors and the Council of Student Presidents.

Islam Abdul-Moneim, Nicholas Harrison, Evan Schwenk, and Alexandra Wilkes were in attendance. A quorum was deemed to be present. Rosie Lynch could not attend the joint meeting. So, Nicholas Harrison co-chaired the meeting with OSGA President Daniel McClure.

Chancellor Glen Johnson presented the State Regents 2009 Legislative Agenda. The Chancellor discussed four performance indicators used to evaluate the state's higher education system: enrollment, degrees conferred, employment outcomes, and economic impact.

Over the past six years, enrollment in public colleges and universities has increased. However, over the past two to three years, The Chancellor said that enrollment had started to level off. The Chancellor noted that the number of degrees conferred by public colleges and universities had continuously increased – with the state system setting a record last year with the most degrees awarded in a single year in the state's history. The Chancellor discussed significant increases in the percentage of graduates staying in Oklahoma after one year and after five years – comparing 2002-2003 data to 2005-2006 data for employment outcomes after one year and 1998-1999 data to 2001-2002 data for employment outcomes after five years. The Chancellor also described the economic impact of higher education in extensive detail.

After discussing the system's performance indicators, the Chancellor went on to describe the state higher education system's \$80.4 million budget request. He noted that the higher education system had gone to great lengths to cut the budget down and that \$80.4 million was the minimum that State Regents would need to avoid increasing tuition and fees. He called the plan "Putting Families First" and he expressed hope that the State Legislature would be supportive of the idea – noting that \$80.4 million was significantly less than the requests made by higher education in previous years – using data since 2002.

There were several questions for the Chancellor from members of the OSGA Board of Directors and the Council of Student Presidents. Nicholas Harrison asked several questions on behalf of the Student Advisory Board.

Nicholas Harrison expressed support for the idea of a tuition freeze, but he questioned whether \$80.4 million was really the minimum that State Regents would need to avoid increasing tuition and fees. He noted that mandatory costs for items like utilities, health insurance, and retirement only amounted to \$22 - \$23 million and that figure was considerably less than the \$80.4 million which was being requested. The Chancellor responded that he thought mandatory costs were approximately \$37 million, and said further information was available for anyone who wanted any details beyond the figures for items like utilities, health insurance, and retirement.

Nicholas Harrison asked whether the other institutional priorities included in the \$80.4 million budget request were really prudent – specifically whether the colleges and universities should be increasing faculty pay during a recession when people in the private sector are afraid of losing their jobs and whether so many new faculty were really needed when enrollment was declining. The Chancellor disputed that enrollment was declining. He said that it was steady. Nicholas Harrison responded that, although headcount was steady, FTE enrollment was declining and that this was the true measure used in evaluating the system. The Chancellor said that these increases were necessary to ensure that the higher education system remained competitive and that they were adding new programs which required new faculty.

Nicholas Harrison expressed confusion about why some things were included and other things were excluded from the minimum \$80.4 million budget request – specifically whether any more money for scholarships or for debt servicing was in the \$80.4 million request. He was concerned that the State Regents were asking for more than \$80.4 million. The Chancellor responded that these items were not in the budget request and he clarified that the State Regents were requesting a minimum of \$80.4 for operating needs.

The joint meeting adjourned at approximately 4:28 p.m.