

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Student Advisory Board

to the

Oklahoma State Regents
for Higher Education

May 2010

ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose. The purpose of the Student Advisory Board is to communicate to the State Regents the views and interests of all Oklahoma college and university students on issues that relate to the constitutional and statutory responsibilities of the State Regents. In representing students, the Student Advisory Board shall combine the opinions of students with good, sound research to develop the best proposals and recommendations for The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

Creation. The creation of this board is consistent with provisions of House Bill 1801 of the 1988 session of the Oklahoma Legislature. Seven members are elected annually by delegates to the Oklahoma Student Government Association. Members represent public tier and independent colleges, and they serve a one-year term (May through April).

MEMBERS

Matthew Heggy, Chair, Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Joshua Maxwell, Vice Chair, Rose State College

Benjamin West, University of Oklahoma

Phyllis McLemore, Oklahoma State University

Daniel Stockton, University of Central Oklahoma (membership discontinued April, 2010)

Autumn Wiles, Seminole State College

Rosie Lynch, University of Tulsa (membership discontinued January, 2010)

Student Advisory Board

***Recommendations and Counsel
to the State Regents***

Concealed Weapons on College Campuses

Recommendation

Faculty Advisory Council and Student Advisory Board

JOINT RESOLUTION

Concealed Weapons on College Campuses

March 2010

WHEREAS, the indefinite and unproven benefits of the carrying of concealed handguns by faculty or college students can be clearly contrasted with the potential risks for accidental and intentional misuse of weapons in the environment of a college campus, and

WHEREAS, the safety and security of an entire campus community outweigh the need of the individual implicit in the definition of self-defense, and

WHEREAS, the policies of the university that provide safety to all of its constituencies, and the specific actions of its security team could be severely compromised by untrained and uncoordinated individual action for which the institution would bear the ultimate responsibility, and

WHEREAS, state statutes currently recognize the need to restrict the carrying of concealed weapons in a number of public places, and

WHEREAS, existing statutes adequately define and protect the rights of faculty and college students to possess firearms for legitimate uses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Faculty Advisory Council and the Student Advisory Board unanimously oppose the carrying of concealed weapons on college campuses and urge that HB 1083 or any bill allowing concealed weapons on campus not be passed.

**Faculty Advisory Council Chair
Dr. Frans Currier**

**Student Advisory Board Chair
Matthew Heggy**

Background / Analysis

Campus safety as it pertained to opposing the presence of concealed handguns was a recurring topic in Student Advisory Board member discussions with students on their campuses and other campuses visited. The Student Advisory Board viewed the video *If I Only Had a Gun*, produced by 20/20 at ABC, in its September meeting and fully endorsed the analysis outlined in the Joint Resolution with the Faculty Advisory Council. Later in this report the Student Advisory Board makes an additional recommendation on campus safety concerning the availability of a resource for guidance for students, faculty, and administration when presented with a shooting incident.

Approval

Unanimous

Academic Scholars Program

Recommendation

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education should increase funding for the Academic Scholars Program to match the costs in tuition and fees each year, and should expand the scholarship to include funding for other direct costs of attendance at the institution of the scholar's choice, including textbooks, room and board.

Background / Analysis

The Academic Scholars Program has not received any increased funding in the past ten years. The current scholarship awards \$5,500 for students who attend the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, or The University of Tulsa; \$4,000 for students who attend any other Oklahoma four-year public or private college or university; and \$3,500 for students who attend Oklahoma two-year colleges. The participation rate in the Academic Scholars Program has grown 40% from 1,523 students in 2000 to 2,136 in 2008. When these factors are coupled with an increase in the tuition rate of 78% and 96% respectively at the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University over the same period of time for undergraduates, a picture of precipitously declining support becomes clear. Apart from this annual cash award, the most additional financial aid all scholars will qualify for is a tuition waiver, which still does not cover all the costs for the students. By contrast, the financial aid office at the University of Oklahoma estimates that the cost of attendance was \$16,131 for tuition, room and board, books, and fees for an Oklahoma resident attending full-time for the 2009-2010 academic year. If the tuition were waived, the student would still have \$12,594 in costs.

In order to retain bright Oklahoma high school students (those who scored at or above the 99.5th percentile on the SAT or ACT), the annual award should be re-evaluated. Oklahoma makes an investment in every student it educates in the K-12 program. When a high school graduate leaves to attend an out-of-state institution, he or she is more likely to exit the state permanently, and Oklahoma is more likely to lose its investment in that individual. Academic Scholar Program graduates who were Oklahoma residents are retained in the state either through employment or graduate enrollment at a rate of 74% (2005-06).

Approval

Unanimous

Support for Research

Recommendation

In the spirit of growing and diversifying Oklahoma's economy through institutions of higher education, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education should continue to fund divisions that facilitate the flow of grant funding into our state. Furthermore, the State Regents should encourage in every way possible the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, i2E, and the Economic Development Generating Excellence plan in their work to provide the downstream infrastructure that allows technology created within the state to be applied in the marketplace and create wealth for the state.

Background and Analysis

Funding organizations, Oklahoma's universities, and commercialization institutions constitute a vital infrastructure that will move our state forward. Oklahoma's status as a state not previously well regarded for its ability to draw competitive research grants lends itself to a special ability to draw in out-of-state funds through programs like Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). While no funding has been appropriated to the EPSCoR program for the fiscal year of 2010, Oklahoma's higher education system must remain on the offensive and pursue opportunities to fund scientific research within our state.

Economic development in our state in the next 100 years is most significantly dependent on our ability to innovate and create things of value. More specifically, value creation will depend on our ability to retain the best and brightest, and establish an environment that encourages technical innovation and its commercialization.

The method of accomplishing this should have two funding approaches. On one hand, research must be directly funded at the state level and the university level. Furthermore, the state must fund organizations that bring exponentially more federal research dollars to Oklahoma research institutions.

Approval

Unanimous

Student Financial Literacy Task Force

Recommendation

The Student Advisory Board endorses the efforts of the task force on Student Financial Literacy, comprised of members of the Council on Student Affairs and the Council on Instruction, to study the issue of financial literacy for students, and supports its recommendations to ensure that a maximum number of students are educated on debt management and financial literacy concepts. At the time of the determination the recommendations made by the Student Advisory Board to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Student Advisory Board had access to the third draft of the *Task Force Recommendations on Educating College Students about Financial Management*, dated March 26, 2010.

Background / Analysis

The draft of recommendations employs a broad based approach to strategies designed to reach the maximum number of students enrolling in institutions in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, including first-time entering freshman, full- and part-time students, and nontraditional students. These approaches include: a requirement for some financial literacy education when first enrolled; the provision of webinars and other online resources by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in consultation with the private financial sector; an assessment of existing financial literacy programs along with an evaluation of their effectiveness; institutional plans to assure that a majority of all students will participate in the financial literacy programs; alignment of programs on student debt management with mandated Oklahoma high school curriculum; and taking advantage of services offered by Oklahoma Money Matters, with emphasis on its elements of financial planning.

Check on final report changes

Approval

Unanimous

Student Financial Literacy

Recommendation

The State Regents should allow Oklahoma's universities autonomy in determining the structure, duration, and depth of their financial literacy education requirements.

Background & Analysis

Financial literacy has become an increasingly important topic for college students as of late. If every student had the ability to create a personal budget and the knowledge of how to amortize debt obligations it would certainly have a positive impact. However, students' schedules are adequately burdened with classes that apply to their course of study, and will contribute directly to their ability to secure a job or gain admittance to graduate school. Addressing the issue through a mandate of one-size fits all instructional strategy, such as a certain course, required for every Oklahoma student constitutes an inefficient approach to solving the problem, and impinges on institutional autonomy. Allowing each campus the ability to pursue its preferred delivery of the necessary instruction is the most effective strategy to achieve the desired results.

Approval

Unanimous

Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force

Recommendation

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education should continue to support and pursue fulfillment of unrealized recommendations of the Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force. Matters involving safety and security were commonly raised by students at Student Advisory Board member campuses and by students at campuses which SAB members visited.

Background / Analysis

The Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force was established by Executive Order 2007-17 following the Virginia Tech shootings, and extended by Executive Order 2008-8. The purpose of the Task Force is to review and evaluate safety and security plans in place for higher education and career and technology institutions, and to determine what modifications, if any, are necessary to prevent crisis and enhance crisis response on higher education and career and technology campuses. The Task Force is also charged to research methods for recognizing students in need and delivering to them appropriate services, such as counseling, substance abuse, and mental health treatment. The Task Force is directed to work with campus personnel on measures to better protect campuses, improve emergency response, prevent crises, and enhance crisis response. Although many of the Task Force's subsequent recommendations have been implemented, many remain unrealized, often due to a lack of necessary funding.

Approval

Unanimous

Shots Fired, When Lightning Strikes Video

Recommendation

The *Shots Fired, When Lightning Strikes* video produced by The Center for Personal Protection and Safety and viewed by the Campus Life and Safety and Security (CLASS) Task Force this year should be provided or made available to every campus as a resource for training and security of students and institutional personnel.

Background / Analysis

The video provides useful guidance for the safest behavior and reactions when such crises occur on campus, and would be a useful tool in advancing security for students, faculty, and administration. The website for the video is: <http://www.shotsfiredvd.com/>.

Approval

Unanimous

Student Advisory Board / State Regents Relationship

Matthew Heggy
Chairman - Student Advisory Board
720 Chateau Ave.
Yukon, OK 73099
T 405 9223403
mheggy10@me.com

June 4, 2010

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
655 Research Parkway, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

To the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education:

First, thank you for the opportunity to serve the Students of the State of Oklahoma. Over the past year the members of the Student Advisory Board have been afforded the opportunity to learn about the mission of the State Regents, and many of the departments, initiatives, and personnel employed under the offices of Higher Education. It has allowed me and the other members of the board the faculties to truly engage state wide issues on the behalf of all Students. The resources provided for our research are unparalleled on the student level.

The Oklahoma Student Government Association (OSGA) Board of Directors, the Student Advisory Board (SAB), and the Council of Student Presidents (COSP) have all committed to improving communication between themselves and all the Student Bodies within the State. We hope, also, to commit to improving our communication with Council on Student Affairs and the State Regents. We hope that Chancellor Johnson will meet with us to help and make this goal a reality, and that we succeed in becoming a presence at the regular regents meetings.

We are a resource. A true voice of the Students and I have personally been shocked and pleased at the out pouring of concern and understanding by the members of these institutions for all Students within the State. When we come together we cease to be from different schools, different regions, and different backgrounds. We forget our prejudices and our personal vendettas and do our best to represent our constituencies. It is the Student Advisory Board's recommendation that the State Regents take more of an active role with the SAB, OSGA, and COSP and utilize them fully as a resource.

We are also part of the answer to the question that is at the heart of the State Regents mission. Since I have joined the Board I have continually heard that prevention of "Brain Drain" within the state is a high priority. We are the Brains that you are trying to prevent from leaving. Supporting these three organizations can help keep many more students within this state. Involving and empowering them, and us, to become involved and

concerned citizens is the best way to keep them within this state. In this we would request your help. I can say authoritatively that this works. My own concern and commitment to this state only occurred after I joined my Student Government Association. Perhaps it is a unique quality of Southeastern to expect and involve representatives of their Students, but I doubt it. My experiences have been the driving force behind my new personal commitment to this state.

The OSGA, COSP, and SAB have all, in recent years, seen an unfortunate fall in attendance at semester sessions of congress and service in directorship positions. It is our pleasure to announce that every spot on the OSGA Board of Directors is filled, and it is our intention to facilitate the fullest attendance at congress possible.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew E. Heggy
Chairman
Student Advisory Board
State Regents for Higher Education

Approval
Unanimous

Textbook Costs

Recommendation

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education should be aware of students' ongoing concern for the prohibitive costs of college textbooks and of the threat posed to student accessibility to and persistence in higher education, especially for those in the low-income sector. The State Regents should support strategies which ensure that students have more choices for and access to affordable textbooks.

Background / Analysis

The increased cost of college textbooks has grown at twice the rate of inflation in the last two decades. Much like the situation for patients in the United States with prescribed medicines today, students are captive consumers. Students recognize that this issue holds a high level of awareness, which is coupled with a great deal of research. As an example, the Student Advisory Board wishes to commend the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for cosponsoring the event *Textbooks in the 21st Century: Evolution of the Textbook*, with Tulsa Community College in March, 2010. The Student Advisory Board additionally recognizes legislative efforts at the state and federal levels, which have culminated in new laws addressing alternative strategies to provide maximum cost savings to students. However, the exorbitant costs of college textbooks continue to pose a barrier to entrance and completion in postsecondary education, and it is incumbent on the State Regents in their leadership role to continue to address this critical issue.

Approval

Unanimous

2009-2010 Student Advisory Board Activities

Monthly Meetings. Beginning in May, 2009, members of the Board met monthly, with the exception of July and January, to receive orientation, discuss issues, campus visits, and work plans, and prepare and vote on recommendations.

COSA Meetings. Chairperson Matt Heggy and other Student Advisory Board members often attended meetings of the Council on Student Affairs to report on progress and discuss issues.

State Regents Tuition Hearing. Chairperson Matt Heggy and Member Daniel Stockton attended and participated in the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Tuition Hearing in Oklahoma City on April 27, 2010. Chairperson Heggy consulted with numerous student government association presidents on various campuses prior to the hearing.

CLASS Task Force. Member Autumn Wiles and Chairperson Matt Heggy attended meetings of the Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force.

Student Financial Literacy Task Force. Member Daniel Stockton attended a meeting of the Student Financial Literacy Task Force.

Student Veterans Conference. Member Autumn Wiles attended the Student Veterans Conference in October.

Higher Education Day at the State Capitol. Members of the Board traveled to the State Capitol on February 16, 2010, to work with the state higher education community in representing The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education's concerns to state legislators and Governor Henry.

Student Leadership Retreat. Four members of the Board worked in conjunction with the State Regents Council on Student Affairs and the Oklahoma Student Government Association to host the Ninth Annual Oklahoma Student Leadership Retreat that took place October 1-2, 2009 in Tulsa. As Chair of the Board, Matt Heggy served on the Planning Committee for the 2009 Student Leadership Retreat.

Oklahoma Student Government Association Conferences. Members of the Board attended the annual OSGA fall and spring conferences at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City and at Oklahoma State University.

Campus Visits. In addition to representing the students at the institutions in their tier, Members of the Student Advisory Board visited about student interests at the following campuses:

East Central University
Murray State College
Oklahoma City Community College
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma State University-Tulsa
Oral Roberts University
Rogers State University
Tulsa Community College