

2007 Annual Report

of the Faculty Advisory Council to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Purpose. The purpose of the Faculty Advisory Council is to communicate to the Chancellor and the State Regents the views and interests of all Oklahoma college and university faculty on those issues that relate to the constitutional and statutory responsibilities of the State Regents. In representing faculty, the Faculty Advisory Council shall attempt to accurately represent the positions of faculty and develop the best proposals and recommendations to the State Regents.

Creation. Seven representatives were nominated on June 26, 1990, by a statewide assembly of faculty convened by the Chancellor. The group held its first meeting on October 6, 1990, and bylaws drafted by the first Faculty Advisory Committee were approved by the State Regents on December 17, 1990. In June of 2002, the State Regents approved the Faculty Advisory Committee's name change to the Faculty Advisory Council. FAC members serve two-year terms. Two members represent the research tier (one from OU and one from OSU); two represent the regional tier; two represent the community colleges; and one represents the independent institutions.

2007 MEMBERS

Research Universities

Roy Knapp, University of Oklahoma
Jean Van Delinder, Oklahoma State University

Regional Universities

Yvonne Montgomery, Langston University
Jim Lambert, Cameron University

Community Colleges

Russ Calhoun, Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City
Tracy Jacomo—Seminole State College

Independent Colleges

Steve Betts, Southern Nazarene University

CHAIRMEN

January - March 2007
April - June 2007
July - September 2007
October - December 2007

Roy Knapp
Yvonne Montgomery
Tracy Jacomo
Jim Lambert

During the 2007 year, Chancellor Glen D. Johnson worked in partnership with the FAC to serve the interests of higher education faculty and institutions of Oklahoma. Dr. Debra L. Stuart, Vice Chancellor for Educational Partnerships, served as advisor and liaison.

2007 WORKPLAN

In October 2006, the annual statewide survey of higher education faculty leaders was administered. Results were compiled and discussed during the Faculty Assembly held November 4, 2006. The 2007 FAC members used this information to design a workplan that focused on issues of most concern to higher education faculty in Oklahoma.

In 2007, the following issues were in the FAC workplan:

- 1. Health insurance:** Review health insurance issues and share information about institutional plans.
- 2. Salaries:** Review issues related to salary such as impact on recruitment and retention of faculty.
- 3. Textbook costs:** Study issues related to cost of textbooks.
- 4. Adjunct faculty:** Study issues related to the hiring, retention and responsibilities of part-time faculty.
- 5. Transfer GPA:** Study calculation of GPA using transferred courses.
- 6. Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System (OTRS):** Review the status of OTRS.
- 7. Student preparation for college:** Study issues related to the preparation of high school and transfer students.

2007 ACTIVITIES

The FAC holds monthly meetings to discuss the workplan items and matters affecting all higher education institutions in Oklahoma. Copies of the minutes are on the FAC web site at <http://www.okhighered.org/fac>.

Health insurance

- Met with representatives of the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board (OSEEGIB) administrator to discuss questions of concern to faculty:
 - Setting rates
 - Containing costs
 - Pharmacy reimbursements
 - New claims processor

Salaries

- Reviewed report on 2006-2007 Faculty and administrative salaries
- Found faculty salaries for all ranks at the public institutions is 81.85% of the national salaries
- Testified at the Tuition Hearing for the need to retain faculty

Textbook costs

- Participated in State Regents' Symposium on Textbook Policies
- Reviewed literature
- Conducted survey
- Discussed with Student Advisory Board

Adjunct faculty

- Reviewed literature
- Surveyed public institutions on handbooks and responsibilities
- Discussed with Student Advisory Board

Transfer GPA

- Studied results of 2005 survey regarding use of various GPA calculations

Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System

- Met with Tommy Beavers, Executive Secretary of OTRS
- Discussed Education Employees Service Incentive Plan (EESIP)
- Reviewed funding situation

Student preparation for college

- Reviewed remediation studies
- Consider ways to assess rigor of courses in course equivalency matrix
- Discussed with Student Advisory Board
- Discussed Governor's Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) initiative

ADDITIONAL 2007 ACTIVITIES

Campus security

- Represented faculty at meeting with US Attorney General and Lt. Governor
- Participated in Governor's Campus Life and Safety and Security (CLASS) Task Force

FAC policy revisions

- Explored possible revision to expand membership and allow designees

Participated in Higher Education Day at the State Capitol

Delivered annual report and introduced incoming and outgoing member in December 2006

FACULTY ASSEMBLY

- Conducted Faculty Opinion Survey of faculty leaders at all Oklahoma public and independent colleges and universities.
- Hosted annual Faculty Assembly on October 27, 2007 for discussion with faculty leaders at all Oklahoma public and independent colleges and universities. Dr. Houston Davis, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented legislative and academic issues.