

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE
 The University of Oklahoma (Norman campus)
 Regular session - February 10, 1992 - 3:30 p.m.
 Conoco Auditorium (Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Library)

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Professor Jay C. Smith, Chair.

PRESENT: Barman, Boyd, Breipohl, Carr, Christian, Cornelius, Cozad, Cross, Curtis, Dillon, Harm, Harper, Harris, Havener, Hilliard, Hinson, Hopkins, Jaffe, Johnson, Kuriger, Kutner, Latrobe, Levy, Livesey, Norwood, O'Halloran, Paolino, St. John, J. Smith, Stanhouse, Striz, Sullivan, Swisher, Vehik, Vestal, White, Whitecotton, Whitmore, Willinger

Provost's office representative: Bystrom
 PSA representatives: Bloomgarden, Spencer
 UOSA representatives: Acree, Dietert

ABSENT: Bennett, Fonteneau, Foote, Hill, Kenderdine, Kidd, London, Nelson, Schlegel, Schnell, P. Smith, Swoyer, Zaman

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APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Senate Journal for the regular session of January 13, 1992, was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prof. Fred Carr (Meteorology) was elected to complete the 1991-94 term of Prof. Bret Wallach (Geography) in the Faculty Senate, representing the College of Geosciences.

The following Faculty Senate officers will serve on a University-wide task force to address the issue of improving the faculty/staff work environment: Jay Smith (Educational Psychology), Robert Swisher (Library and Information Studies), and Susan Vehik (Anthropology).

Student Congress approved a resolution in November that requested the Faculty Senate to review the current policies governing attendance and the penalties attached to classroom absences. Chair Smith referred the bill to the Academic Programs Council and the Academic Regulations Committee for a recommendation (see 11/91 Journal, page 2). The recommendation of both committees is that it should be the responsibility of the individual instructors to create a reasonable attendance policy that is clearly specified in writing in their course outlines (see Appendix I and refer to sections 4.19, 4.20, and 4.21 of the 1988 Faculty Handbook).

In April of 1991, the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents approved a fee remission plan that would allow full-time permanent faculty and staff to enroll in courses and be charged fees at 25% of the amount charged to regular students, and a 25% fee waiver for undergraduate courses would be provided to dependent children or spouses of full-time permanent faculty and staff after the employee completed one year of service. That plan was sent to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for approval. On January 13 of this year, President Van Horn sent a letter to Chancellor Brisch asking for an answer to the OU request. In that letter, Dr. Van Horn stated: "Since this policy was approved by the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents in April 1991, we have received numerous inquiries from faculty, staff, and students concerning its status. I understand that State Regents' approval of this request is pending the study of similar policies at peer institutions. I hope this request will be approved by the State Regents -- either as a revised policy for all institutions in the state system of higher education or an exception to current policy for the University of Oklahoma -- no later than the beginning of the Fall 1992 semester." According to Prof. Smith, who has talked with State Regents' staff, this delay is with the State Regents and not the OU administration.

Interim Provost Richard Gipson informed the Faculty Senate Executive Committee that he believed alternative admission students, i.e., special admit students, should make a commitment to make a good faith effort to be successful and to take advantage of the services that can be helpful to them. Starting in fall, 1992, an ADMISSION AGREEMENT (available from the Senate office) will become a part of the admission procedures for special admit students, and the provisions of the Agreement will be administered by and enforced by University College.

REMARKS BY MR. ROBERT WHITE, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Prof. Smith explained that Mr. White had been invited to discuss legislative issues that could impact OU. Mr. White said he had twelve years' experience working in state government. He noted that the legislative session used to be 90 days and held every other year until 1966 or 1967. The legislature would pass two-year budgets, and there were very few special sessions. As a result of the recent amendment adopted by the voters, the legislative session begins the first Monday in February and ends at 5 p.m. the last Friday in May. Mr. White believes that has made the process inaccessible to the citizens because committee chairs do not have enough time to see people.

The deadline for submitting bills was February 6. This year the legislature has broken the record for the number of bills introduced--1186 new bills, in addition to 383 live Senate bills from last year and 529 live House bills from last year. The formalized process of tracking legislation began at the HSC because of its large number of regulated professions. Mr. White began tracking legislation for the Norman campus about four years ago. He publishes a Legislative Update report on the status of bills that could affect OU which he sends to interested individuals. (The Faculty Senate office receives a copy.) He cautioned that bills can change so quickly that they might not be reported accurately in the Legislative Update. He reminded the Senate that funds are not appropriated directly for the University of Oklahoma, which means the University initially has to support an increase in appropriations for all higher education then try to persuade the State Regents that comprehensive universities require more funding. Mr. White distributed a list of the major legislative issues of importance to the University (available from the Senate office). He said the biggest opportunity outside the normal budgeting process is a capital bond issue for higher education to replace and renovate facilities and purchase equipment. In the past three years OU has enjoyed increases in funding and is among the top five states in the country in terms of increases in higher education funding.

Prof. Norwood commented that legislators are unaware of the abysmally low faculty salaries at OU. He claimed that in the last ten years the state legislature has had one of the worst records nationally in terms of appropriations to higher education. He added that the President's figures in the school newspaper for faculty salaries are misleading and undermine efforts with the state legislature. Mr. White agreed that legislators do not understand the inner workings of our institution and need to be educated, but on the other hand, they should be thanked for their help the last three years.

Prof. Smith mentioned that one of the major issues this year is State Question 640. Mr. White explained that the state will vote March 10 on SQ 640, which is a measure that would prohibit a tax increase without a vote of the people unless three-fourths of the House and Senate approved the increase. The University does not have a position on this issue. His personal opinion is if it is approved, "Move over Mississippi." He said it would make it difficult for any new revenue to be approved, and the result would be escalating fees and an inability to respond to any issue. He said Missouri adopted a similar proposal and, "You can see what happened." Prof. Smith explained that the University is not supposed to have an official position on SQ 640, but that he could tell anyone who is interested in working against its passage whom they can contact.

Knowing the interest in the recent retirement document, Mr. White said, "the University is not going to support any retirement issue that the faculty does not support."

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT

"There have been several issues of importance which have occurred since the Senate last met. Three of those issues make up this month's Chair's Report. I hope you will listen to the Report and that you will share this information with your faculty colleagues.

"Item #1: Goddard Health Center

You no doubt have read that there are plans for changes at the Goddard Health Center. Back in September, I received a telephone call from the faculty member who is a member of the present Goddard Health Center Administrative Review Board. He informed me that the Board had not met for over a year and that he had been hearing of major changes to be made at Goddard. He wondered if there should be some faculty involvement in the discussions concerning the changes. I thought that was probably a pretty good idea as faculty are concerned about the health and welfare of students and there are faculty who receive their health care through Goddard. The issue of faculty representation was brought to the attention of President Van Horn in October, in December, and again in January. At those meetings, the President said that considerable study of Goddard was underway, that changes were only at the discussion stage and that faculty would be involved in the decision making process. On Friday of last week, Susan Vehik and I met with Vice President of Student Affairs Roland Smith. He verified what we had been told and further stated that he understood the concerns of faculty. Dr. Smith also told us there was a "new" committee/advisory board being formed and that two faculty members--including the person on the present Board (which has yet to meet)--will be members of that group. He stated nothing was "set in concrete" and all issues were still open for discussion. I believe him. We will keep you informed (as we know any information).

"Item #2: College of Arts and Sciences reorganization

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been hearing persistent rumors that there was going to be a major reorganization and split-up of the College of Arts and Sciences. (It is likely you have also heard those rumors.) Scenarios have included the removal of all sciences and mathematics from the College to a new college, or to be a part of the College of Geosciences or wherever the potential for external funding could be recognized and applauded. There have been reports that the "Formula P-whatever" would be applied to all departments on a rigid and no consideration for mission and programs would be considered basis. There have been rumors that certain chairs and others were working with the administration on details for such a reorganization/split, a dean had been chosen, and that the announcement of those plans would be made very soon.

"On January 30, during the regular meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee with President Van Horn, we asked the President about those rumors. He stated that the rumors were just that--rumors without a basis in actual fact. He said he had long been interested in organizational structures and efficiency of those structures. He said that the College of Arts and Sciences may be too large and have too many diverse components but that his organizational structures concerns--too large, too small, too diverse, too isolated, etc.--could be applied to all of the Colleges--on both the Norman campus and the Health Sciences Center campus. He stated that nothing would be done arbitrarily and without very thorough study involving faculty as well as all others involved. He further stated that even a study should not be done until the Provost search process is completed.

"As to the rigid application of the formula based budget model to departments, he pointed out that no college had lost money as a result of that budget allocation model and that it would be (and I quote him directly) "stupid" to re-allocate the department budgets based only on the allocation model. However, he does think that the model is useful for his belief that colleges should discuss what should be appropriate allocations within the college and to provide a rationale for those allocations.

"I specifically asked the President if his statements were "for the record" and for public disclosure. He said that they were. Therefore, I think we should believe him and that there is nothing immediately planned and that if anything is to be done, it will happen only after the Provost search is over and only after thorough study involving representatives of all interested groups. Since this Report is a part of the public record, I believe that the President has made a public promise.

"Item #3: "Distinguished Professorships"

You have a copy of a letter from President Van Horn concerning the appointments of "distinguished professors". You also have a copy of the response to that letter from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (available from the Faculty Senate office). We view this issue as a very serious one and one which goes to the very heart of what faculty do as well as to meaningful faculty governance. While there may be a need for a title of some kind to meet competitive situations, there also needs to be considerable thought given to that title, how and when it is given and by whom. The question of peer review of faculty titles is a vital one. My opinion is that expediency should not overrule quality assessment and traditional faculty prerogatives and responsibility.

"We had hoped to be able to discuss this issue with Dr. Van Horn, but I understand from sources, not in Evans Hall, that an appointment such as the one being proposed is going to be made soon. I hope I have been misinformed. It may be that, during new business, this Senate will want to express its feelings about the issue."

FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE: Ecology Seminar Series, Presented by Prof. Susan Vehik, Chair-Elect

"This month's Focus on Excellence is on the Current Topics in Ecology interdisciplinary seminar series organized by Alan Covich (Zoology) and Linda Wallace (Botany/Microbiology). This seminar began with the desire for greater communication among faculty involved in ecologically-oriented research. Ecologically-based research is housed in many departments and colleges across the campus, including Botany/Microbiology, Zoology, Geography, Geology, Landscape Architecture, and Anthropology. Faculty in nonacademic units such as the Natural Heritage Inventory and Oklahoma Museum of Natural History have also participated. Through this forum, participants keep abreast of developments in several different ecological subdisciplines.

"The seminar series began in 1985 with initial presentations by faculty describing their research interests and projects. Students near completion of their degree programs also gave presentations. The following years' seminars were topical and addressed issues that were of interest across the range of ecological subdisciplines. Some of the issues addressed include disturbance theory, pollination ecology, conservation ecology, the role of exotic species, riparian ecology, and food web theory.

"Next year the seminar will return to faculty and student presentations of research interests and projects. Interest in the seminar series, however, is now such that it will require two full semesters to cover all of the interested parties.

"Over the several years of its operation the Current Topics in Ecology seminar has sparked much discussion outside the formal setting and has resulted in collaborative research efforts. It has been and continues to be an excellent example of interdisciplinary communication."

PROPOSED CHILD CARE CENTER

For last month's discussion on the proposed child care center, see 1/92 Journal, page 5. Prof. Trent Gabert, Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare, presented the following motion of the committee:

The Faculty Senate of the University of Oklahoma supports the establishment of a Child Care Center, provided that subsidy funding (if necessary) does not come from Educational and General Funds (E&G) or from Grants and Contracts (Direct or Indirect Costs).

Prof. Whitmore asked whether other sources of funding had been identified. Prof. Gabert answered that other possible sources might be private donations and auxiliary services. The amount of the subsidy is \$60,000, with \$20,000 each funded by students, faculty and staff. Dr. Kristin Alexander, Assistant Vice President for Administrative Affairs, said the President would have to determine whether auxiliary funds would be used.

Prof. Carr asked whether the subsidy would be different for those who are less able to pay than others. Prof. Gabert responded that the subsidy was based on the age group of the child. Dr. Alexander said the child care committee had looked into a sliding scale and that the advisory group could investigate that further. Prof. Cross offered to meet with the committee since he had some experience with a large child care center through the Air Force. Prof. Hopkins asked about the possibility of allocating Sooner Options credits to this. Prof. Gabert said the Welfare Committee was worried that some health or life insurance needs might be reduced in exchange for child care.

Mr. Bloomgarden noted that quality child care can have a very positive effect on productivity. Prof. Vehik asked whether the students and staff had voted on this. Dr. Alexander said the proposal had been approved by the Employee Executive Council and Student Activity Fee Committee.

Prof. Dillon pointed out that a child care center can make a difference in employment decisions. Prof. Cozad questioned whether the proposed subsidized fees were competitive. He said the staff in his department had indicated that even with the subsidy, the fee would be too high. Dr. Alexander explained that the proposed rates would be for next fall; other centers of similar quality expect to charge about the same. Prof. Gabert added that this center would be accredited. Prof. Striz said he had heard the same thing from the staff in his department--that being accredited is probably not enough reason to pay the additional money. Mr. David Schrage, Assistant Vice President for Campus Services, said the Graduate Student Senate Executive Committee found that accredited centers at the next level down cost about \$200 per month. He said, "If you want quality child care, there is a cost." The Financial Aids office estimates the cost of child care to be \$288 per month.

Mr. Herb Spencer commented that at a Professional Staff Association meeting, Dr. Alexander had indicated that low income people would be eligible for some additional subsidy through federal programs. Assistant Provost Dianne Bystrom answered that Children's World will accept children whose parents qualify for Title 20 assistance as determined by the Department of Human Services. Prof. Sullivan noted that Middle Earth is subsidized by the University in that they only pay \$1 per year to rent space. Dr. Alexander responded that they have to pay for other expenses. Prof. Sullivan insisted

that a day care center is at least as worthwhile as other activities that are subsidized by the University. Furthermore, this center would be a research facility. Prof. Loraine Dunn (Instructional Leadership), a member of the child care committee, said a random sample of day care centers taken last year in three counties showed that the proposed fees fall in the upper range of that sample. The people who work at the day care center have to make an income, which averages \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year. She asked, "Do you want an adequate program or do you want a good program?"

Prof. Whitmore moved to amend the motion to have it end at the first comma. Prof. Kutner suggested that such an amendment would leave the motion ambiguous because the reason for striking the last part would not be clear. In other words, did the Senate believe there was not enough subsidy or there should not be a subsidy at all. Prof. Whitmore said his intent was that the subsidy should not be limited to sources other than E&G and Grants and Contracts funds. Prof. O'Halloran moved to substitute the following after the comma: "If possible, subsidy funding should not come from Educational and General funds or from Grants and Contracts." Prof. Latrobe asked whether the Senate could reserve the right to have input later on the funding of the center. Prof. Smith explained that the University has to guarantee Children's World a certain level of funding. Prof. St. John said the assumption was being made that the center could not run without a subsidy. Some people could be willing to pay the price. Prof. Sullivan said that could be true for faculty but not for staff or students. Prof. Hopkins asked whether anyone had looked into the legality of using state funds for this. Dr. Alexander said the Legal Counsel is examining that question. Prof. St. John commented that the amended motion almost says that there has to be subsidy funding. Dr. Alexander reported that a study had shown that the rates would be too high without a subsidy. The amended motion failed 16 to 17. The original motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

RETIREMENT ISSUES - Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System

Prof. Trent Gabert, Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee, presented the following motion of the committee pertaining to the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System section of the retirement document. (For related discussions of retirement options, see 11/91 Journal, page 7; 12/91 Journal, page 6; and 1/92 Journal, page 4.)

The Faculty Senate of the University of Oklahoma recommends no change to the current University of Oklahoma Retirement Plan as related to OTRS contribution/benefits as based on information currently available. In addition, we desire to (1) assist in monitoring pending legislative action related to OTRS, and to (2) proactively participate in the University of Oklahoma's action plan to help the OTRS become actuarially sound.

Prof. O'Halloran observed that the motion was limited just to OTRS and that only the legislature can make changes in OTRS. Prof. Gabert responded that this recommendation is simply in response to the President's request for feedback. Prof. O'Halloran commented that there was no mention of TIAA-CREF. Prof. Gabert explained that next month the age requirement and vesting period for TIAA-CREF would be addressed. The committee has been waiting for further information before making a recommendation on the additional issue of a retirement plan for hourly employees. Prof. O'Halloran expressed her opposition to a vesting requirement for TIAA-CREF.

Prof. Livesey was concerned that handling the retirement issues on a piecemeal basis could result in problems later. He asked why the committee did not provide a unified plan. Prof. Gabert said the Faculty Welfare Committee had addressed the CREF transferability and cashability issues last month because of the feeling that those options would enhance the benefit package and could be separated from the other issues, but the committee had wanted more time and information concerning the OTRS issue and other issues. He pointed out that there are 15 bills in the legislature pertaining to OTRS. The proposed motion merely says we will work with the legislature. Prof. Kutner asked whether this should be interpreted as a recommendation against some issue rather than raising an issue such as making TRS optional. Prof. Gabert said the committee was not making that recommendation at this point but rather a proposal to wait until we have more information. Until the legislature takes some action, we will not know if making OTRS optional for new employees is even a possibility. Prof. Smith said, to his knowledge, no bill had been introduced that would allow that to happen.

The motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote. Prof. Gabert encouraged the senators to forward information and comments on the age and vesting issues to him and to monitor pending legislation.

ADMISSION STANDARDS

As a result of last month's discussion of some statements by President Van Horn in the school newspaper concerning admission to the University (see 1/92 Journal, page 7), a resolution was presented at this meeting (see Appendix II). The resolution was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

STUDENT CONGRESS RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING A FALL BREAK

A representative from UOSA, Ms. Erika Zingg, was present to answer questions about the resolution she authored that would create a two-day fall break on a Thursday and Friday before the second weekend of October (available from the Senate office). Prof. Smith noted that, if possible, the Senate should vote on the recommendation at this meeting because of a timing problem.

Prof. Kuriger noted that some courses meet only once a week. He suggested that a Monday and Tuesday holiday would at least balance out the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday taken off at Thanksgiving. Ms. Zingg responded that the students had suggested a Thursday and Friday rather than a Friday and Monday because fewer classes that meet Monday/Wednesday/Friday would be missed. Prof. Breipohl repeated the question about a Monday and Tuesday holiday. Ms. Zingg said if students are given Monday and Tuesday off, they would probably take off Thursday and Friday also.

Prof. Vehik asked whether additional days would have to be added to the semester. Prof. Smith said the semester would have to begin earlier. According to Dr. Paul Bell, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Programs, the Regents require 800 minutes of instruction per credit hour per semester and a 16-week semester. The present semester is 17 weeks to allow for Thanksgiving and Labor Day. Ms. Zingg said if the Senate approved the recommendation, the students would have a research committee determine whether additional days would have to be added. She believes Thursday would not be in violation, and Friday would just be the same holiday that the students had this academic year.

Prof. Norwood said he was amazed that the University grants a holiday for students to attend a football game. He said it encourages people to be indifferent to academics, it perpetuates sexism and racism, and he could not respect a student government that has no respect for serious holidays. He added that the faculty would be sending the wrong message by going along with this and that he is embarrassed that this is even being discussed. Ms. Zingg agreed that she is in favor of a fall break instead of a football game holiday. Other state schools have a fall break. This is one way to solve the controversy about the OU-Texas holiday.

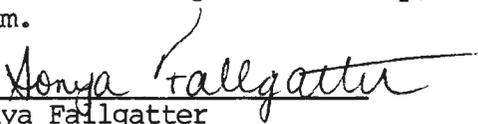
Prof. Paolino remarked that far too much time has been spent on this issue. He asked what effect this would have on the one-day holiday that the students currently can declare. Ms. Zingg said she believes the fall break would replace it. Prof. Dillon asked how this would affect night classes. Ms. Zingg answered that this holiday would be handled the same as other breaks. Prof. St. John pointed out that part of the rationale is that students take Thursday off now anyway. Under this proposal, students will then want to take Wednesday off as well.

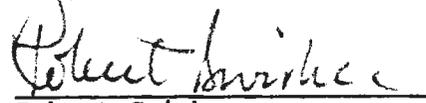
Prof. Striz asked whether students would be willing to add a day at the beginning of the semester to remedy any shortfall. Ms. Zingg said that is something the committee will have to decide. Some possible ideas have been to work out something with the Regents so that the students could still have the holiday, even though it would be in violation of the policy, or to start classes a week earlier so that students could have off the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Prof. Livesey asked whether the students would support a plan to add the two days to the Thanksgiving break in order to have a week long break in the fall. Ms. Zingg said it would probably have the support of some students, but it would not solve the problem of having a break in October. Prof. Livesey contended that it sounds like this is a football holiday under some other name.

Prof. Vestal agreed that students often need a fall break, but given the number of classes that meet once a week, there will be some scheduling difficulties. Prof. Kutner noted that in the past, the holiday did not apply to many graduate units such as law because of accreditation requirements. He asked whether the intent of the motion was to force those units to take those days off. Prof. Smith said that was not the intent. Prof. Breipohl suggested that there were too many unanswered questions to vote now. Ms. Zingg said the students had hoped to have the Regents vote on the proposal in March so that the holiday could be incorporated into the calendar for next fall. Prof. Breipohl said he felt uneasy about voting with so many unanswered questions such as whether night classes and graduate classes would be affected and whether days would have to be added. He moved to table the motion until the next meeting of the Faculty Senate. The motion to table was approved 20 to 4.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m. The next regular session of the Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 1992, in the Conoco Auditorium.


 Sonya Fallgatter
 Administrative Coordinator


 Robert Swisher
 Secretary

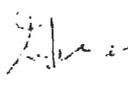
Norman Campus Faculty Senate
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2/92 (Appendix I)

**Academic Programs Council
The University of Oklahoma
Norman Campus**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jay Smith, Chair
Norman Campus Faculty Senate

FROM: Gus Friedrich, Chair 
Academic Programs Council

DATE: December 10, 1991

SUBJECT: Student Congress Resolution on class attendance policies

After careful discussion of the Student Congress Resolution concerning current classroom attendance policies, the Academic Programs Council recommends a reaffirmation of the policy stated in section 4.19 of the Faculty Handbook:

Students are responsible for the content of courses in which they are enrolled. Specific policy concerning attendance requirements and announced and unannounced examinations is the responsibility of the individual instructor.

When absences seriously affect a student's class work, the instructor will report this fact to the Admissions and Records Office, where the information will be directed to the dean concerned. (Faculty Senate, 2-26-68; Presidential approval, 3-5-68)

Classes are not to be dismissed or rescheduled for any extracurricular function. (1962 Faculty Handbook)

In the view of the members of the Academic Programs Council, classroom attendance policies need to be formulated to acknowledge differences in course content, course level, and course objectives. We believe it is, and should be, the responsibility of the individual instructor to create a reasonable attendance policy for the course, to be sure students understand this policy and the rationale for it, and to include a description of this attendance policy in the syllabus for the course.



The
University of Oklahoma

2/92 (Appendix I Continued)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
820 Van Vleet Oval
Norman, Oklahoma 73019-0260

TO: Professor Jay Smith - Chair Faculty Senate
FROM: Avraham Scherman, Chair *A.S.*
Academic Regulations Committee
SUBJECT: Attendance Policies
DATE: January 2, 1991

The following comments concerning attendance were forwarded to me by members of the Academic Regulation Committee.

- * Attendance in large freshmen courses is a major problem. Since there is no university wide attendance policy, every professor establishes their own. This phenomenon creates a sense of confusion among students. There is a need for a general attendance policy which could be enforced through administrative procedures.
- * Recommend that each faculty member spells out their attendance policy in their course outline.
- * Special considerations should be given to populations with specific needs such as single mothers.
- * There is a need to spell out what constitutes an excused absence. This should be done either at a college level or at the university level.
- * There is a need to establish procedures of due process.
- * Since this issue falls within the realm of "academic freedom" guidelines should be only general in nature so that faculty members could take into consideration the specific needs of their courses.

It seems to me that members of the Academic Regulation Committee feel strongly that rules applied by professors should be clearly specified in writing in their course outlines and that a method be established to arbitrate instances where students feel they were treated unjustly.

It is our hope that these comments were helpful. If we can be of additional help do not hesitate to call on us.

cc: Professor Paul Bell, Associate Provost
Professor Ron Ratliff
Professor Stewart Ryan
Professor Mary Scott
Professor Jerry Smith
Ms. Tuyet Pham
Mr. Eric Schultz

FACULTY SENATE
The University of Oklahoma (Norman Campus)
February 10, 1992

RESOLUTION ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION STANDARDS

In November 1988 the Faculty Senate of the University of Oklahoma (Norman Campus) endorsed a proposal of the University Administration that admission standards for first-time entering freshmen be gradually raised so that those qualified for admission be among the top one-third of Oklahoma high school graduates, as determined either by standard examination (ACT or SAT) or by high school performance (GPA and rank in class). The proposal was endorsed by the University Regents as a recommendation to the State Regents for Higher Education. The State Regents have accepted the proposal: it is a part of their policy authorizing admission to the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. The policy also allows for alternate admission for a small percentage of freshmen who do not meet these standards, for special admission of adults, and for admission by transfer.

The Faculty Senate at this time reiterates its support for the State Regents' policy and urges the President of the University to support it publicly. The higher standards will not be fully in effect until Fall of 1992. Already, early indications are that the quality of students is increasing, that retention is improving, and that the number of well-prepared transfer students is growing. There is no convincing evidence that the higher standards will have an adverse effect on the enrollment of the University.

On the contrary, the new policy of the State Regents, which sets new standards of admission, retention, and transfer for the entire State system, represents an historic attempt to improve the quality of higher education in Oklahoma. Surely it deserves the public support of the leadership of the State's flagship universities.

Furthermore, because academic standards are a primary responsibility of the faculty of the University, we urge the President in the future to seek the advice of the Faculty Senate before advocating changes in admissions policy to the general public.