

Sooner Scene

STATE REGENTS ARE DOING LONG RANGE STUDIES OF EDUCATION'S PROBLEM AREAS

OKLAHOMA colleges and universities are giving serious attention to three critical problem areas in preparing for the future. The State Regents for Higher Education are conducting a comprehensive study of the entire system to learn more about these areas of higher education: enrolments; obtaining, retaining and utilizing facilities, and financing operating costs. Additional problems will be considered in future studies.

Dr. E. T. Dunlap, chancellor for the Regents for Higher Education, has already released studies on faculties and students, and the final draft of the study of finances is expected within the next few days.

The first study reveals that college enrolment in Oklahoma will increase by 31,000 students in the next 12 years, raising the total enrolment Oklahoma colleges and universities from 60,000 to 91,000 students. This means that Oklahoma must provide for a new student enrolment increase more than six times the present enrolment of Central State College, since the increase alone will be enough to fill an institution the size of Central State College every two years.

Here are a few of the more interesting conclusions from the State Regents' study:

"In the past two decades the number of Oklahoma high school graduates going to college has doubled. In the fall of 1962, 60 per cent of the state's high school graduates enrolled in college. This rate is considerably above the national average which is estimated to be less than 50 per cent.

"It is estimated that about 1,725 individuals who graduated from Oklahoma high schools in the spring of 1961 enrolled in colleges and universities in other states the following fall. This compares with 2,418 out-of-state freshman students admitted to all Oklahoma institutions of higher learning for the same semester. Of this 1,870 out-of-state freshman students were admitted to colleges and universities of the state system in the same term.

"In the fall of 1961, 80 per cent of the students in Oklahoma higher education were enrolled in state-supported colleges. By 1975 it is expected that 85 out of every 100 students enrolling in Oklahoma higher education will be entering institutions of the state system."

The retention of college students has been a real concern to the colleges for some time as it is to the parents. Between the fall semester of 1961 and the spring semester of 1962 freshman drop-out rates were as follows: State-owned institutions, 18.8 per cent; private institutions, 24.1 percent; municipal institutions, 23.3.

"The state-supported four-year colleges had a drop-out rate at the freshman level almost twice that of the state universities between the fall and spring semesters of the 1961-62 year. The four-year colleges lost 25.1 per cent of their students as compared with 13.1 per cent for the two universities."

1961-62 Comparative Salary Averages for Oklahoma Public Colleges and Universities and Proposed Oklahoma Budget Averages for the 1963-65 Biennium

Type of Institution	1961-62 Salary Averages			Proposed Budget Averages for Oklahoma	
	Okla.	Region	U.S.	1963-64	1964-65
Universities	\$7,283	\$7,900	\$8,343	\$8,200	\$8,500
State Colleges (4-Year)	6,544	6,840	7,615	7,300	7,600
State Colleges (2-Year)	5,885	6,324	6,730	6,600	6,900

A summary of the State Regents recommendations on enrolment problems can be stated in six points:

1) "It is recommended that long range plans be developed which will insure that every Oklahoma resident who wants to enrol in college and who can meet admission standards will have access to an institution of the state system.

2) "It is recommended that as enrolments rise and facilities become more crowded, state-supported colleges and universities give priority to the admission of qualified Oklahoma residents.

3) "It is recommended that Oklahoma colleges and universities direct greater attention toward youth who are dropping out of college in an effort to identify and retain promising students who may be discontinuing their college education.

4) "It is recommended that college officials institute a systematic administrative procedure to make certain that all regularly admitted college freshmen have participated in the American College Testing program.

5) "It is recommended that uniform policies be adopted with respect to the transfer of students among colleges and universities in the Oklahoma state system of higher education.

6) "It is recommended that the State Regents continue to compile annual statistics of higher education enrolments similar to those presented in this report so that up-to-date and reliable information may be available for continuous long-range planning."

The second report from the State Regents, containing certain information about college faculties, indicates that 1,550 new teachers will be needed in the Oklahoma system by 1975. Oklahoma institutions must replace 350 faculty members who are over 60 years of age and who will retire during this period. It is estimated that 3,860 present faculty members will leave Oklahoma in the next 12 years for better-paying teaching jobs in other states or join business and industry. Recruiting, retaining and utilizing faculty members is already a major problem confronting the colleges and universities of Oklahoma.

The State Regents have presented an \$85 million budget to the legislature representing the operational needs of the colleges and universities for the coming biennium. The increases represented in the new budget are based on actual needs as reflected in the study of the system.

The tables below, taken from the State Regents' budget, summarize the faculty salary situation and the totals necessary to provide adequate increases: —RBG

State Regents Recommendations to the Legislature Summary of Educational and General Operations Budget Proposed for 1963-65 Biennium

	Amount	Per Cent
18 Institutions:		
Total Budget	\$86,691,360	100.0
Other Funds (student fees and services)	22,360,663	25.7
State Funds	64,330,697	74.3
7 Agencies:		
Total Budget	\$33,687,194	100.0
Other	12,830,454	38.0
State Funds	20,856,740	62.0
State System		
Total Budget	\$120,378,554	100.0
Other Funds	35,159,525	29.2
State Funds	85,219,029	70.8

Percentage of Biennial Budget of 18 Institutions Going to the Six Budget Functions

Administration and General Expense	11%
Resident Instruction	62
Organized Research	4
Extension and Public Services	6
Library	5
Operation and Maintenance of Physical Plant	12
Total	100%