

December 3, 2009

Regent Sandy Garrett  
State Department of Education  
2500 Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Regent Garrett,

On behalf of the faculty at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, I write to petition for a faculty voice in the selection of the next University president. While participation in the screening process is at the RUSO Board's discretion, the faculty strongly believes that it has a unique perspective to offer and, accordingly, that it should have a role to play in gauging the suitability of applicants.

Twice in the last three years a presidential search has unilaterally dictated to the University's most important constituencies its top leadership. This, apparently, is also the case at our sister institution, Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Ignoring the faculty's insights not only risks the selection of the best qualified applicant, it sends the message that the faculty is not a valued member of the university community.

National searches with broad participation are the norm in higher education. A presidential search with meaningful faculty representation is in the long-term interest of our students, the regional universities, and the State of Oklahoma.

Respectfully,

Kenneth L. Chinn  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University