

Email sent to Sheridan McCaffree, Executive Director of the Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) on September 12, 2019.

Dear Ms. McCaffree,

The Southeastern Oklahoma State University community on Friday, September 6, 2019, learned that President Sean Burrage is leaving to accept a position at the University of Oklahoma. On behalf of the Faculty Senate at Southeastern, I am writing to request that faculty from the University are included on the presidential search committee.

The Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the faculty of Southeastern. The Senate is charged with ensuring appropriate considerations are given to faculty concerns during the revision of departmental, school, or university mission statements and goals or modification of university policies. In addition, the Senate is empowered to present the position of the faculty concerning policies affecting the faculty and university to the appropriate committee, administrative office, or board. Based on the aforementioned role of the Faculty Senate and the upcoming search for a new president to replace our outgoing president, we request that faculty are actively engaged in the selection of the next president of Southeastern.

Our request is also based upon the principles of shared governance at the University of which the faculty, administration and staff embrace. Due to the complexity of institutions of higher education, there is an inescapable interdependence among the governing board, administration, faculty, students, and others. The relationship among these entities requires that there be adequate communication among the entities/components in order to provide full opportunity for appropriate joint planning and effort. The search for a new president at this unstable time in higher education is of the utmost importance and a joint effort is called for in this kind of situation.

Again, based on the two ideas presented here, the Faculty Senate requests that faculty from Southeastern are included on the presidential search committee. Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing from you concerning this matter. Please feel free to forward this communicate to all interested parties not withstanding all Regents, Board members, interested parties, etc.

Respectfully,
F. Randy Clark, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Chair

RUSO Executive Director McCaffree's email response on September 12, 2019.

Dr. Clark:

We always include faculty on the search committee when we do a presidential search. The regents really wouldn't dream of moving forward without faculty input. I see that our policy on this point leaves much to be desired, but please rest assured that faculty input is very much valued and will be included.

Sheridan McCaffree
Executive Director
Regional University System of Oklahoma