

July 9, 2007

To the OSU Campus:

In late June the Oklahoma State University FY08 budget was finalized and approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The nearly \$7 million increase in formula funding for the OSU System included \$3.7 million of new monies for the general university. In addition, OSU received \$2.9 million dollars for support of the agricultural experiment stations and the cooperative extension division, \$820,000 dollars for fire service training, \$995,000 dollars for the Helmerich Advanced Technology building in Tulsa, and \$4.5 million dollars in capital project monies which were distributed to the OSU System campuses.

The State Regents approved an increase in tuition and mandatory fees of 9.9 percent. Our tuition and mandatory fees increase was similar to that of the other Oklahoma colleges and universities and necessary in order to cover our mandatory costs and provide a modest salary increase to OSU faculty and staff. We continue to examine ways by which we might decrease our expenditures as well as increase revenues for the university.

Those of you on the campus this summer are already aware of the start of various construction projects, with work under way on the multimodal facility, Murray Hall, and the Architecture building.

In the coming months, formal ceremonies will be held on the campus to recognize the start of these important projects. The first will be July 26 when Governor Henry, members of our Board of Regents and others will be present to help break ground on the new \$70 million interdisciplinary research building, the largest of the state bond projects.

In addition to our campus projects, work has begun on the first of three phases in the reconstruction of Hall of Fame Avenue and work has also been initiated on University Avenue near the Student Union to make significant repairs to an area with major deterioration. The work will mean inconveniences over the next few months and your patience and personal adjustments are very much appreciated.

At its June meeting, the OSU Board of Regents honored five new Regents Professors for their nationally and internationally recognized scholarship. Receiving this honor are Charles I. Abramson, psychology; Riley Dunlap, sociology; Carey N. Pope, physiological sciences, Dan S. Rickman, economics and legal studies; and Peter M. Sherwood, surface science. These individuals join 40 other active Regents professors on the OSU campus.

Each has demonstrated extraordinary accomplishments and OSU is indeed fortunate to have them as part of our university community. Our congratulations to each of these outstanding faculty members.

I sincerely hope all members of our university community have had some time in these past few months to enjoy friends and family. May each of you know Oklahoma State University is a better university because of your contributions. Thank You!

Marlene Strathe