STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 32 By: Williams

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recognizing the contributions of Chancellor Hans Brisch; thanking him for his 15 years of service; honoring Dr. Brisch upon the occasion of his retirement as Chancellor for The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Hans Brisch was born in 1940 in Kaiserslautern, Germany. He immigrated to the United States in 1957 and supported himself through work, scholarships, and loans to earn a high school diploma and college degrees. Hans Brisch became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1964. These events shaped his personal philosophy that "America does not guarantee jobs or a higher standard of living, but it does guarantee opportunity." For Hans Brisch, higher education helped open those doors of opportunity, leaving him with the commitment to keep open those doors for others; and

WHEREAS, Hans Brisch earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with Honors from Park College, as well as a Master's degree and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Kansas. Dr. Brisch was a member of the faculty at Nebraska Wesleyan University, the University of Kansas, the University of Alabama, and the University of Nebraska where he was tenured. His professional background includes higher education administrative positions at the University of Nebraska, the Illinois Board of Regents, and the University of Kansas. Dr. Hans Brisch was on leave from the University of Nebraska, serving as Chief of Staff to Governor Kay Orr of Nebraska when approached for the Chancellor position. He

accepted the position because preeminence of academics rather than athletics was emphasized; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, after a year-long national search, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education named Dr. Hans Brisch Chancellor for The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. As Chief Executive Officer of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, he led an educational system comprised of 25 state colleges and universities, nine constituent agencies, two higher education centers, and independent colleges and universities coordinated with the state system. Chancellor Brisch reported to a constitutional board whose nine members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate; and

WHEREAS, as Chancellor, Dr. Hans Brisch provided leadership on matters relating to standards for Oklahoma higher education, courses and programs of study, budget allocations for institutions, fees and tuition, and strategic planning. He was responsible for an annual higher education budget in excess of a billion dollars, as well as the State Endowment Fund with a market value in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. His scope of authority included OneNet, the state's telecommunications network, as well as the Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program, which has guaranteed more than one million student loans in excess of two billion dollars. Chancellor Brisch also directed 20 statewide programs for scholarships and summer academies. He represented the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education statewide, nationally, and internationally; and

WHEREAS, academic honors for Chancellor Hans Brisch include various fellowships and scholarships, including the Fulbright-Hays Fellow National Humanity Award. Among recognitions Chancellor Brisch has received are the Jewish National Fund's Tree of Life Award (1995), the Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalist's First Amendment Award (1997), the National Humanity Award from the National Institute on Developmental Delays (1999), the Administrator

of the Year Award from the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (1999), and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's Chief Executive Leadership Award (1999); and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Hans Brisch has served on numerous state and national education boards and committees. Recent leadership positions include serving as a member of the Steering Committee (1996-99) and as Chair of the Investment Committee (1999-2000) for the Education Commission of the States, President of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (1999-2000), Chair of the Board of Directors for ACT (2000-2001), and Chair of the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (2001-2002); and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Hans Brisch's accomplishments include striving for improvement of the competitiveness of Oklahoma higher education with higher education in the rest of the nation. He has consistently and aggressively implemented an agenda focused on student success, program quality, first-rate faculty, excellence, and efficiency. Chancellor Brisch has also cooperated with the K-12 sector and initiatives to strengthen student preparation, teaching, curriculum, and especially student success; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Legislature honored Chancellor Hans Brisch in 1997 upon the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his coming to America by passing Senate Resolution No. 27 and House Resolution No. 1016; and

WHEREAS, after a decade and a half of dedicated service to the State of Oklahoma and its higher education system, Dr. Hans Brisch has retired as Chancellor for The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes Chancellor Hans Brisch's many contributions to Oklahoma higher education and the entire State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate thanks Dr. Hans Brisch for his 15 years of invaluable, dedicated service to Oklahoma higher education as Chancellor for The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate honors Chancellor Hans Brisch upon the occasion of his retirement as Chancellor for The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and wishes him well on future endeavors.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Chancellor Hans Brisch; his wife, Dr. Margaret Gatton Brisch; and the members of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

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