



SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 HISTORY OF CAMERON UNIVERSITY

The history of Cameron University corresponds to the history of the area it serves in Southwest Oklahoma. It was founded by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1908 as Cameron State School of Agriculture, one of six agricultural high schools in the state, and placed under jurisdiction of the State Commission of Agriculture and Industrial Education. The institution was named for E. D. Cameron, first State Superintendent of Schools.

Cameron University added junior college work in 1927 when local needs demanded access to higher education. With the changed function came the name Cameron State Agricultural College. In 1941 when the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education was formed, Cameron joined the group of institutions governed by the Board of Regents for Oklahoma A & M Colleges.

Baccalaureate degrees were authorized in 1966 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education ("State Regents"), following action by the Legislature. In May 1970, the first baccalaureate degrees were awarded. The institution's name was changed to Cameron College in 1971 and was further amended to Cameron University in 1974.

In 1988, the State Regents expanded Cameron's functions to include offerings at the master's degree level. The change in function was the first granted to an Oklahoma institution since Cameron was given authority to offer bachelor's degrees more than 20 years earlier. The first master's degrees were awarded in May of 1990.

In recognition that Cameron's mission had become significantly more complex and predominantly urban, on June 1, 1992, the governance of the University was transferred by the Oklahoma Legislature to the governing board for the University of Oklahoma, the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma ("Board of Regents"). With the transfer of governance came new affiliations between Cameron and the University of Oklahoma, which have broadened and strengthened academic offerings by both institutions. Governance of Rogers State University was similarly transferred to the Board of Regents in 1998.

The aim of Cameron is to extend itself into the social, cultural, and economic fiber of the community it serves in Southwest Oklahoma. While instruction remains the primary institutional focus, the faculty and staff increasingly interact with constituencies in response to needs for research, technology transfer, and other educational services. Telecommunications and interactive technology are increasingly important in the delivery of those services, and more instruction is being provided off campus. Technology and automation have also become increasingly important means for the delivery of instructional, administrative, library, and information services both on and off campus. Like their histories, the futures of Cameron University and Southwest Oklahoma are one. The relationship that has brought more than 95 years of progress will continue to prosper well into the 21st century.

1.2 TYPE OF INSTITUTION

Cameron University is a state-supported, regional institution which is assigned Southwest Oklahoma as its primary service area. Oklahoma regional university functions are defined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education as (1) both lower-division and upper-division undergraduate study in several fields leading to the associate degree and the bachelor's degree; (2)



a limited number of programs leading toward the first-professional degree when appropriate to the institution's strengths and the needs of the state; (3) graduate study below the doctoral degree level, primarily in teacher education, business, and behavioral science; (4) extension and public service responsibilities in the geographic regions in which they are located; (5) responsibility for institutional and applied research in those areas related closely to their program assignments; and (6) responsibility for regional programs of economic development. In addition, Cameron is assigned to provide programs of instruction for military personnel, including those stationed at Ft. Sill and at other military installations in the region.

1.3 CAMERON UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Cameron University is a multi-purpose university whose mission is to offer appropriate educational programs to the people living in its service area of the eleven counties of Southwest Oklahoma. One of Oklahoma's eleven regional universities, Cameron is the higher education center of Southwest Oklahoma, offering associate, baccalaureate, and master's degree programs. The University recognizes that the educational process includes the development of the intellectual, cultural, social, physical, moral, and occupational capacities of persons who participate in its programs and activities. The University desires to assist its students and other persons living in its service area in acquiring the skills, knowledge, values, and attitudes that will enable them to lead creative, productive, and fulfilling lives.

1.4 STATEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES

In pursuit of its mission, the University has established three areas of commitment and service:

Education for Effective Living

The University's program of education for effective living is designed to provide common experiences that are needed by all citizens. The program's objectives are to encourage students to think clearly, creatively, and critically about those problems confronting the individual and society; to stimulate students to seek more knowledge, to develop more tolerance, and to acquire greater awareness of the world community; to assist students in making contributions to the groups of which society is composed; and to foster within students the desire to continue the pursuit of knowledge whereby a better understanding of self and society is afforded. The University facilitates these objectives through required general education courses in communications, mathematics, natural sciences, American history and political science, humanities, behavioral science, economics, and physical activities and through a program of student services.

Education for Specialized Fields of Endeavor

The purpose of specialized education is to develop the technical and professional competencies of individuals in order that they meet the demands and requirements of modern professions. Cameron University is committed to specialized education in four realms:

Baccalaureate Degree Programs

Baccalaureate degree programs provide for a comprehensive background and concentrated investigation in one or more disciplines. These curricula prepare students for entrance into professions, for further professional training, or for graduate study. Cameron University facilitates such objectives by offering curricula leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Specialty.



Associate Degree Programs

Cameron University recognizes that educational and occupational preparation in post-secondary programs having less than a baccalaureate objective is an essential part of meeting the objectives of the University and the needs of individuals and of society. Cameron University facilitates such objectives by offering curricula culminating in Associate in Applied Science degrees and Associate in Science degrees.

Teacher Education

The purpose of the teacher education program is to assist in the development of effective members of the teaching profession. Cameron University facilitates this objective by offering both course work and practical experiences in professional teacher education curricula and in specialized programs in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Elementary-Secondary Education. Students who have successfully completed these programs may be recommended to the State Department of Education for Oklahoma state teaching credentials at the early childhood, elementary, secondary, or elementary-secondary level.

Graduate Degree Programs

The graduate degree programs are designed to offer opportunities for advanced learning, professional preparation, economic enhancement, and personal development through concentrated and detailed study and research in any of several academic disciplines appropriate to persons living in Southwest Oklahoma. Cameron University facilitates such objectives by offering curricula leading to master's degrees.

Education Through Community Service

The University serves individuals, businesses, industries, and professions in the service area by making available, on campus and in the community, facilities and personnel who organize, promote, and participate in both credit and non-credit conferences, institutes, workshops, and vocational and extension courses. In addition, individual University personnel serve as resource persons for the community. The University also provides facilities and personnel for lectures, musical and dramatic productions, art exhibits, and intercollegiate athletics. The University supports research projects appropriate to the University and outside agencies.

1.5 FUNCTIONS OF CAMERON UNIVERSITY

The following functions are assigned to Cameron University by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education:

- To provide the educational programs of a senior college for the people living in the eleven counties of Southwest Oklahoma.
- To provide a program of general education for all students designed to provide common experiences needed by all citizens if they are to live productively.
- To provide programs of instruction in the liberal arts and sciences culminating in the awarding of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, or Bachelor of Specialty degrees.



- To provide programs involving both course work and practical experiences designed to assist in the development of effective early childhood, elementary, secondary, or elementary-secondary teachers.
- To provide pre-professional course work and advisement for students planning to complete professional programs at other colleges and universities.
- To provide post-secondary programs having less than a baccalaureate objective in technical and occupational education culminating in the awarding of Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees.
- To provide community services including credit and non-credit programs of continuing education, cultural productions, and special events designed to improve the intellectual, cultural, social, physical, moral, economic, and occupational capacities of the people of Southwest Oklahoma.
- To provide programs of instruction for military personnel, including those persons stationed at Fort Sill and other military installations in the region and those who desire to pursue Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs.
- To provide facilities, encouragement, and financial support for faculty development and for faculty, student, and constituent research projects.
- To provide graduate-level programs designed to offer opportunities for advanced learning, professional preparation, economic enhancement, and personal development culminating in master's degrees.

1.6 COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The faculty, the administration, and the Board of Regents are dedicated to the continued development and improvement of programs at Cameron University. The goal of the University is to provide unsurpassed higher education opportunities to the population of Southwest Oklahoma.

Faculty Contributions to Excellence

The faculty of Cameron University recognizes and accepts its obligations and responsibilities to provide quality higher education to its students. The criteria for educational excellence are described in Section 4.2.6.

1.7 UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Cameron University is part of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, which was established in 1941 when the people of the State adopted an amendment to the Constitution of Oklahoma, Article XIII-A. The System is composed of all institutions of higher education supported wholly or in part by direct legislative appropriations.

The amendment also provided for establishment of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education as the coordinating board of control of the system. The State Regents board is composed of nine members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. They serve nine-year overlapping terms.

Their responsibilities include prescribing standards of higher education (including those concerning the admission of students) at each institution, determining the functions and courses of study at each institution, granting degrees and other forms of academic recognition for completion of the prescribed courses of study, recommending to the Legislature the budget needs of each institution, allocating to institutions funds appropriated by the Legislature, and determining the fees for all institutions of the system. (Article XIII-A, Sections 2 and 3, Constitution of Oklahoma)

Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, Cameron University, and Rogers State University

By statutory enactment, the governance of Cameron University is vested in the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma. The Board of Regents is composed of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Each member is appointed to serve for seven years, except when appointed to fill an unexpired term. Meetings of the Board of Regents are open to the public. The powers and duties of the Board of Regents are set out in the Oklahoma Statutes (Article XIII, Section 8, Constitution of Oklahoma; Title 70, Section 1241; et seq., Oklahoma Statutes, 1961). The Board of Regents appoints the University President, charges him/her with the administration of the institution, employs personnel based on the recommendation of the President, determines policies for operation, and administers the budget.

University Administration

As the chief executive officer of the University, the President is responsible to the governing Board of Regents for the administration of the University. All authority delegated by the Board of Regents is administered through the President, who formulates an administrative structure appropriate for the management of the University and recommends its adoption to the Board of Regents. Generally, management responsibilities of the University are grouped according to function, with a vice president or equivalent University officer having administrative responsibility for such functions as academics, business and finance, student services, and development. There are many activities that overlap, requiring constant communication and coordination among administrative units. These functions are accomplished in a collegial manner through informal interaction among affected administrators, either individually or in the Executive Council, and through the operation of the University's formal governance structure. Management of the University is dynamic; thus, the administrative structure is subject to frequent change. The administrative structure is reflected in the University's organizational charts, which are revised and updated as necessary, but not less than once annually when submitted with the budget for approval by the Board of Regents.

1.8 ACCREDITATION

Cameron University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Teacher education programs at the University are accredited by the Oklahoma State Board of Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education; and the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. Undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered by the Department of Business are accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The Computer Aided Design Drafting curriculum is certified by the American Institute for Design and Drafting at the Design Drafter level. The Medical Technology curriculum is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.



1.9 PHYSICAL PLANT

Cameron University is located in the city of Lawton, Oklahoma, and occupies 333 acres. The physical plant consists of facilities that vary in age from relatively new to 75 years old. The core facilities consisting of the Library, Student Union, and administrative buildings are centrally located with easy access for pedestrians or vehicular traffic. The academic facilities surround the core facilities, and all classrooms and laboratories are within five minutes' walking time, excluding the agriculture laboratory complex. Parking lots are available to accommodate commuter students.

The outer ring of facilities consists of living accommodations, the stadium, tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, and maintenance support areas. The maximum walking time from the dormitory to the classroom is less than 10 minutes. All facilities are within 10 minutes of the core area. The Fine Arts Complex includes a 500-seat theater and smaller performance venues. The gymnasium seats 1,800 and contains limited physical education facilities. The Fitness Center includes a swimming pool, basketball courts, racquetball courts, indoor track, and various other exercise and recreational facilities. The residence halls have a cafeteria, dining room, conference rooms, meeting rooms, and capacity for approximately 400 students.

The landscape for Cameron has been designed to unify campus space, enhance the aesthetic quality of each area, and establish a convenient pedestrian and vehicular circulation pattern. The University makes ongoing efforts towards continued expansion, modernization, and renovation of the Cameron facilities to assure proper support for the students and faculty.

1.10 CONSTITUENCIES

The constituencies of Cameron University are diverse and heterogeneous. Lawton-Fort Sill is a metropolitan area with a population of 110,000 and has the educational needs of most metropolitan areas. The area surrounding Lawton is primarily rural, with farms and ranches that create demands for agriculture-oriented education. Approximately one-half of Cameron's students pursue full-time education while the other one-half are part-time students. The University fulfills both senior college and community college roles. While the diverse needs of the students create unusual demands on Cameron, the heterogeneous aspects of the student body enhance and stimulate the academic atmosphere in the classroom.