

Dr. Paul G. Risser

Dr. Paul G. Risser has been the executive director of the EDGE Fund Policy Board since its creation in 2003. He also serves as the chair and chief operating officer of the University of Oklahoma Research Cabinet and coordinates and facilitates research across the University's three campuses.

A native Oklahoman, Dr. Risser began his career at the University of Oklahoma where he served as a faculty member from 1967-81. His professional background also includes serving as the chief executive officer for The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; president of Oregon State University; president of Miami University; provost and vice president for academic affairs and vice president for research at the University of New Mexico; and chief of the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Academic and research success has led Dr. Risser to serve in leadership positions on international and national boards and committees, including the National Association of State Colleges and Universities, the National Academy of Sciences, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Kellogg Commission, and the World Forestry Institute.. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Previously, Dr. Risser was chair of the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the National Academy of Science, secretary-general of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) in Paris, France, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in New York and chair of the Board for the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. He has served as program director of Ecosystem Studies for the National Science Foundation and as president of three professional organizations: the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the Ecological Society of America and the Association of Southwestern Naturalists.

Dr. Risser has a doctorate in botany and soils and a master's degree in botany from the University of Wisconsin and a bachelor's degree in biology from Grinnell College. His research has been widely published in over 100 refereed journal articles and he has authored or co-authored six books.