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BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

(Special Meeting, Wednesday, January 23, 1946.)

A special meeting of the Board of Regents was held in the office of the President of the University of Oklahoma, Norman, at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 23, 1946. The meeting was called by the President of the Board to consider the advisability of approving the proposal by the Navy to maintain the NATTC (South Base) on a permanent peace-time basis.

The following were present at the meeting: E. C. Hopper, President of the Board, presiding; Emery, Deacon, Shepler, McBride, Noble, Wallace.

President Cross asked that the Board consider the following resolution requesting an allocation from the State Regents for Higher Education for the purpose of converting barracks into emergency housing of war veterans attending the University of Oklahoma.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is an acute shortage of living accommodations for married veterans desiring to attend the University of Oklahoma and enjoy the educational benefits of Public Law 346 and Public Law 16, as illustrated by the fact that the University Housing Office on this date has 608 formal applications for apartment-type living units and has no prospect of any material number of such living units becoming available except through conversion of government-owned buildings in this area as emergency housing; and

WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma has applied for financial aid from the Federal Government under provisions of the Meade Bill, and has been notified that the only relief possible through this source will be reimbursement of approximately \$16,000.00 spent in installing 30 trailer house units, because all the institutional funds available in this area under the Meade Bill are already covered by housing quotas; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma, under date of January 18, notified the President of the University that it is his opinion that the State Regents for Higher Education have authority to allocate money from the Revolving Fund set up by H. R. 403 of the 19th Legislature to any institution under its

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jurisdiction for the purpose of converting federal war dormitories or Navy barracks buildings into housing facilities for war veterans attending the institution; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General's opinion further states that the State Regents' Revolving Fund should be reimbursed for money so allocated;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma requests the State Regents for Higher Education to allocate the sum of \$160,000.00 from the State Regents' Revolving Fund to the University of Oklahoma for the purpose of converting government-owned buildings into emergency housing for war veterans attending the University of Oklahoma, the money to be used as follows:

Naval Air Station

<u>Building No.</u>	<u>Type of Building</u>	<u>Possible No. of Apartments</u>	<u>Conversion Cost</u>
802	Cadet Barracks	24	\$21,600.00
803	Cadet Barracks	24	21,600.00
804	Cadet Barracks	24	21,600.00
805	Cadet Barracks	24	21,600.00
806	Cadet Barracks	24	21,600.00
905	Bachelor Officer Quarters	16	7,000.00
906	Bachelor Officer Quarters	16	7,000.00
907	Bachelor Officer Quarters	15	7,000.00
908	Bachelor Officer Quarters	16	7,000.00
Construction of fence around leased buildings			5,000.00

War Dormitories

Other barracks when available	40	19,000.00
Totals	223	\$160,000.00

PROVIDED FURTHER, that the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma pledges that all rental revenues from the emergency housing provided through allocation from the State Regents Revolving Fund, after payment of necessary costs of operation, maintenance and repair, shall be used to reimburse the State Regents' Revolving Fund.

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Following the discussion of this resolution and the general housing situation, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

There was a discussion, also, on the revised plans for the veterans housing project and President Cross asked that Mr. Cate explain the architect's proposal providing for four two-story buildings with twenty four units each instead of the project previously contemplated and for which bonds were issued.

Action on this matter was postponed.

The Board took up discussion on the proposal for the NATTC and the Chair read a letter from George Hann of Ardmore, President of the Alumni Association. Regent Noble moved, and it was voted, that the President of the Board express to Mr. Hann, appreciation of his letter and interest in the matter.

President Cross made a statement giving his views, and called attention to the statement he had given to the Press. Also, that he had had conferences with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and they had requested a hearing with the Board. It was the sense of the Board that the representatives of the Norman Chamber of Commerce be invited to the luncheon at noon in the Union Building.

Prior to recess for luncheon, President Cross recommended that the Board confirm the appointment of James C. Tatum as football coach on a three-year contract, at a salary on the basis of \$8,000.00 for 1946, \$9,000.00 for 1947, and \$10,000.00 for 1948, the appointment to become effective upon the date of his arrival.

On motion by Regent Noble, it was unanimously voted to confirm Mr. Tatum's appointment.

The Board recessed for luncheon and the following representatives from the Norman Chamber of Commerce were present: V. C. Bratton, President of the Chamber of Commerce; Fred Tarman, Editor of the Norman Transcript; Tommy Benedum, Attorney; John Luttrell, Attorney; Neil Johnson, Businessman; and T. Jack Foster, Businessman.

During the luncheon hour, the proposal concerning the NATTC was further discussed. It was announced that Rear Admiral Felix B. Stump, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, would be in Norman during the afternoon for a conference with the Board.

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The meeting was resumed in the President's office at two o'clock and there was further discussion on the matter. Captain A. H. Douglas, Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Technical Training Center, called on the telephone stating that Rear Admiral Stump had arrived and would be available for a conference at 3:30. At 3:30, Admiral Stump and Captain Douglas appeared before the Board and presented the plans for the maintenance of the NATTC. Admiral Stump stated that the maximum number on the base, including all personnel, was contemplated at five thousand, that the training would be entirely on a vocational level, with some graduate engineers and an engineering officers school including aeronautical, mechanical and electrical engineering. Also, that the men under instruction would be living on the base, except those that are married, but that for the most part the men would be single. Admiral Stump stated, also, that he would like to have a decision by the Board of Regents on this date, because it would be necessary for the Navy to complete its plans either for the location at Norman or elsewhere.

Following the discussion, Admiral Stump and Captain Douglas retired from the meeting and the Board considered the matter further. President Cross asked to be excused because he was leaving on the evening train from Oklahoma City to fill an engagement at St. Louis.

The following resolution was proposed.

RESOLUTION

It is the opinion of the Board of Regents that the maintenance of the NATTC near the campus would not be in the best interests of the University of Oklahoma.

On the vote on the motion, all members voted "aye" except Regent McBride who asked that he be recorded as voting "no" with this explanation "because I am not convinced that all information is at hand."

The resolution was declared adopted.

The President of the Board of Regents was authorized to give a copy of the resolution to the Press.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Emil R. Kraettli, Secretary.