

ADJOURNED MEETING (January 8, 1947)
BOARD OF REGENTS
Friday, January 17, 1947

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Regents (from January 8, 1947) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 17, 1947, in the office of the President of the University to discuss further matters dealing with the Oklahoma Memorial Union which has been before the Board for some time.

The following were present: W. R. Wallace, President of the Board, presiding; Regents Noble, Deacon, Emery, Shepler, McBride, Dr. White. Absent: None.

President Cross reported that Jim Tatum, head football coach, had submitted his written resignation effective February 1, 1947, and had requested to be released from his contract which expires January 1, 1949. President Cross stated further that Mr. Tatum had been sent an official notice of the action of the Board at the meeting on January 8 fixing his salary at the annual rate of \$12,000.00 for the two remaining years of his contract. He said Mr. Tatum had indicated verbally that he would remain at the University of Oklahoma during a conference held earlier in the week, but apparently after receiving a written offer from Maryland had changed his mind. President Cross said that the Athletic Council had met on Wednesday afternoon and recommended to the President that Mr. Tatum be offered a five-year contract at \$12,000.00 a year. President Cross said that this information had been given to Mr. Tatum, but that Mr. Tatum had indicated that he would not accept the offer because of commitments he had made to Maryland officials.

Regent Deacon moved that the resignation of Jim Tatum be accepted and that he be released from his contract.

During the discussion which followed, Regents Wallace and Noble reported that they had been informed from what they regarded as reliable sources that Mr. Tatum would be willing to remain at the University of Oklahoma with a five-year contract. President Cross said he did not believe this to be the case and suggested that Mr. Tatum be invited to confer with the Board of Regents. It was the sense of the Board that Mr. Tatum be called, and President Cross asked him to appear.

Mr. Tatum told the Board that he would not be willing to accept a five-year contract at \$12,000.00 a year. He said that he would accept a ten-year contract at \$12,000.00 a year, providing coaches Driskill and Wilkinson could be raised to \$6,500.00 each annually and that Coach Fehring should have a \$400.00 raise. He said that it would be necessary for him to have a replacement for Coach Radman and one additional coach on a part-time basis at a salary of \$2400.00. He expressed general satisfaction with the administration of the Athletic Department, but said he thought it would be a good idea to combine inter-collegiate athletics, intramural sports and physical education for men under one director who would thus be in a position to coordinate use of the personnel and equipment of these three divisions. He said that if the ten-year contract were given he would not resign to accept another position for monetary gain.

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Regent Noble then inquired in regard to the difficulties concerning publicity and sports reporting. Mr. Tatum said that he did not think Mr. Keith would do as the publicity man for the football team and he described several instances in which Mr. Keith had failed to handle the work effectively.

At 1:30 the Board recessed for lunch in the Union, Mr. Tatum was guest at the luncheon.

The Board reconvened in the President's office at 2:15 p.m.

President Cross presented preliminary plans and perspective drawings for the addition to the Engineering Building and recommended approval.

On motion by Regent White the recommendation was approved.

President Cross recommended that the wives of nonresident veterans who are students in the University under the Veterans' program be permitted to enroll in the University without the payment of the nonresident fee. He stated the total number of such applicants will be small, and very few can afford to pay the \$50.00 each semester in addition to other fees; that inquiries have been made by four wives who wish to enroll in from one course to full enrollment.

On motion by Regent McBride it was unanimously voted to approve the recommendation.

President Cross presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

"Resolved that the President of the University be, and he is hereby authorized to make application for the acquisition of the Noble Air Field, more particularly described as:

Five contiguous tracts of land aggregating 441.05 acres, owned by the government in fee, located in the county of Cleveland, Oklahoma as shown by a map entitled "Outlying Field No. 137.06 (Noble Field) Cleveland County, Oklahoma" dated August 24, 1942, a copy of said map being on file and available for public inspection in the Regional Office, War Assets Administration, Tulsa, Oklahoma, more commonly known as Noble Field, Outlying Field to Naval Air Station, Norman, Oklahoma, together with the Navy Department's interest in the fencing and all other improvements thereon; and

Resolved further that the acquisition of the above property is convenient and necessary for carrying out the University's aviation program in connection with facilities now in the possession, and under the operation of the University at the Naval Air Station, Norman, Oklahoma."

Moved by McBride, seconded by Shepler, that the resolution be adopted. A voted was taken and the resolution adopted unanimously by the Board.

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President Cross presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Resolved, that a lease of rooms 102E, 102F, 104 and 160 in Woodrow Wilson Center on the campus, by the University to the United States of America, for use and occupancy by a branch of the Veterans Administration is hereby approved as being convenient and necessary to advance the educational program of the University for veterans of World War II.

The President of the University is hereby authorized to execute said lease on behalf of the Board of Regents.

Moved by Regent Shepler, seconded by Regent Deacon, that the resolution be adopted. A vote was taken and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Regent Emery presented the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the enlargement of the Student Union Building is imperatively necessary, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Memorial Union is attempting to procure a ruling that the Board of Governors can issue tax exempt bonds to acquire funds for the enlargement of the Student Union Building, and

WHEREAS, the issuance of bonds that are not tax exempt will necessarily create a larger indebtedness requiring a larger levy of substantially larger student fees to provide revenue to retire said bonds, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has the legal power to issue tax exempt bonds to provide revenue to enlarge the Student Union Building provided the Board has and acquires the title, possession, and operating control of the enlarged building required under the provisions of Sections 2071 and 2079 inclusive, Oklahoma Annotated Statutes, and

WHEREAS, there has been no response by the Board of Governors of the Student Union to the plan for enlargement proposed in the resolution adopted by the Board of Regents at their regular meeting on December 18, 1946, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents cannot lawfully issue bonds for the enlargement under the plan proposed by the Board of Governors at the meeting of the Board of Regents on September 11, 1946, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has exhausted every means of negotiation and conciliation in an effort to plan such enlargement through joint action with the Board of Governors, and

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WHEREAS, the dire need for the enlargement of the Student Union Building makes it necessary that the Board of Regents proceed forthwith to formulate fiscal, architectural, and construction plans for a separate Student Union Building in the event satisfactory plans cannot be formulated by the Board of Governors (a) to enlarge the Student Union Building, or (b) to cooperate with the Board of Regents in enlarging the building under the plan proposed in the resolution adopted by the Board of Regents at its regular meeting on December 18, 1946, and

WHEREAS, the large congregation of students on the south end of the campus due to the large congregation of housing units in that area, may render the location of a Student Union Building in that area necessary and desirable under the circumstances heretofore mentioned,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of the University be authorized and directed to prepare and submit to the Board of Regents at its next regular meeting:

- A. Plans for the construction and operating of a separate Student Union Building on the south end of the campus.
- B. The description of a proposed location on the south end of the campus.
- C. Cost estimates for the building construction.
- D. Cost estimates for equipment, furnishings and operating supplies.
- E. Estimate of operating expenses, proposal for the levy, collection and application of student fees.
- F. Procedural plan for the issuance of bonds under the Provisions of Sections 2071 and 2079 inclusive, Oklahoma Annotated Statutes.
- G. Similar plans and estimates covering the construction and operation of an enlarged Student Union Building at its present site.

There was a discussion on the resolution and Regent Wallace read the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on Friday, January 10. That part of the minutes which concerns the Union matter follows:

"MEMBERS PRESENT: Menter Baker, Jr.; T. M. Beard; A. N. Boatman, President, Board of Governors; Norman Brillhart; Frank S. Cleckler; Major William V. Cox, President, Alumni Association; Dr. George L. Cross, President, University of Oklahoma; R. W. Hutto; Dr. E. D. Meacham; O. F. Muldrow; Lee B. Thompson; Raymond A. Tolbert; Owen Townsend; W. R. Wallace, President, Board of Regents.

OTHERS PRESENT: J. H. Edwards of R. J. Edwards, Incorporated; Hillyer Freeland; Paul MacMinn, Director of Student Affairs; Jim McNeeley, President, Student Senate.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Reed; Jack Luttrell; Hicks Epton.

The meeting was opened by President A. N. Boatman, Okmulgee, calling for the first item of business.

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A discussion was opened concerning the possibilities of an issue of tax-exempt bonds for the building of the extensions and additions of the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building. Mr. Edwards, representative of the R. J. Edwards, Incorporated, was called upon to present his proposal for the sale of the proposed tax-exempt bonds.

Mr. Lee Thompson moved and seconded by Mr. Owen Townsend, that proper officers (namely President, Treasurer and Secretary) of this Board of Governors make contract with R. J. Edwards, Incorporated to sell sufficient tax-exempt bonds to construct, furnish, and equip an addition or additions, alterations and modifications to the Student Union Building at the University of Oklahoma in the amount to be determined by this Board as being necessary, but not to exceed \$1,500,000, with rate of interest at the lowest rate obtainable, not to exceed $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum. That the Board of Governors obligate themselves to proceed diligently and that R. J. Edwards, Incorporated obligates itself to accept the bonds and pay for the bonds any time within twelve months from date. That R. J. Edwards, Incorporated to assume all expense and the preparation, printing and issuing of said bonds. Unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Owen Townsend, seconded by E. D. Meacham, that a new building committee be appointed by the President with instructions to the Committee to proceed immediately with plans. Unanimously carried.

President Boatman appointed the following Building Committee of the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Memorial Union; E. D. Meacham, Chairman; Jack Luttrell; Frank Cleckler; and O. F. Muldrow."

On vote on the motion for adoption all members voted AYE except Regent Wallace who voted NO, with the statement: "I feel it is premature; we should await word from the Board of Governors."

Regent Emery stated: "The reason that the resolution is proposed at this time is in the light of the following situation: (1) There has already been a great delay in the effort to promulgate plans to either enlarge the student union building and facilities or to build a separate building. (2) The preparation made under the authority of the resolution will permit the University administration to proceed immediately under plans formulated by the Board of Regents in case the Board of Governors are unable to issue tax-exempt bonds, or are unable for any other reason to properly support the issue."

After the passage of the resolutions, President Cross asked that action be taken concerning Coach Tatum. Regent Shepler asked if the President had a recommendation. President Cross said that he would like to have the Board determine what he considered to be a matter of basic policy before he made his recommendation. His statement which was dictated later for the benefit of the secretary of the Board, follows:

"Before I care to make a recommendation, I should like to hear the members of the Board discuss the role of football at the University, and, if possible, come to a decision in regard to what I consider a matter of basic policy.

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If our objective is to be that of winning games regardless of all other considerations, I am ready to make what I consider to be an appropriate recommendation. If, on the other hand, we are to regard football as an activity of the University subordinate in importance to the welfare of the University as a whole, I have another recommendation. It may be the feeling of some members of the Board that it is possible to achieve both of these objectives at the same time. In my opinion, this is impossible.

If the objective is to be the winning of football games at any cost, the only factor to be considered in selecting or retaining a head coach is his ability to win games. His methods of winning are not to be scrutinized too closely. His relations to his associates in other sports, and to the members of the faculty, will not be of great concern as long as he is winning. Therefore the amount of his salary and other features of his contract need not be considered in the light of what can be done for others. The impact of his personality on the members of his squad may be ignored. He will, in actual practice, be responsible to no one on the campus—only to the Board of Regents.

If, on the other hand, football in the University is to be a part of an educational and public relations program in a more genuine sense, many factors must be considered in the selection or retention of a head coach. His integrity, loyalty, and personality must be taken into consideration in addition to his ability to win football games. His relations to his associates and the faculty become of paramount importance. Therefore his salary and the other features of his contract must be considered in the light of the University's general problem. His influence as a man upon the members of his squad becomes of importance. His ability to view the sport in its proper perspective must be considered.

I should like to request that the Board determine this issue before I make my recommendation today."

After hearing the President's statement, Regent Wallace offered the following as a substitute for the motion made by Regent Deacon during the morning session (accept resignation and release of contract): "I move that we employ Jim Tatum for a period of ten years on the basis he said he would stay this morning, and as outlined in his proposal."

Following the motion by Mr. Wallace, Regent Emery inquired whether this motion is a recommendation of the President. Regent Wallace replied that his substitute motion had been made in the absence of a recommendation by the President. He said that the record shows that the President did not make a recommendation. He said further that the determination of policy of the Board with reference to athletics that the President mentioned was inconsequential insofar as he was concerned in the determination of the disposition of the Board in regard to the football coach. He expressed appreciation of the President's intellectual and academic qualifications and stressed that he was not antagonistic to the President in any way.

Regent Deacon withdrew his motion of the morning session.

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Regent Emery then inquired, "Does the record show that the motion is made prior to the determination of policy requested by President Cross?" to which Regent Wallace answered, "Yes".

The question was called for and the following voted AYE: McBride, Wallace. NO: Shepler, White, Deacon, Noble, Emery.
The motion was declared lost.

Regent McBride then moved that the Board offer Mr. Tatum a seven-year contract at \$12,000.00 annually. Regents McBride and Wallace voted AYE; Regents Shepler, White, Deacon, Noble and Emery voted NO.

The motion was declared lost.

Regent Noble then moved that the Board offer Mr. Tatum a five-year contract at \$12,000.00 annually, and in event that Mr. Tatum will not accept the offer, the Board accept his resignation.

Regent Emery inquired if this motion reflects the recommendation of the President. President Cross said that this is his recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

The Regents asked the President to call Mr. Tatum and inform him of the action that had been taken.

Prior to the arrival of Mr. Tatum, Regent McBride moved that, "We make it six years instead of five. If he does not accept, then accept his resignation." Regent Emery asked if there was a recommendation by the President on the pending motion. President Cross replied that he could see no basis for making a change in his original recommendation; but in response to the question, said that he had no objection to offering Mr. Tatum a six-year contract if the Board saw fit. The motion carried.


President Cross met Mr. Tatum in the outer office and offered him a six-year contract at \$12,000.00 a year, which Mr. Tatum did not accept.

Inasmuch as Mr. McBride's motion had included a provision for acceptance of Mr. Tatum's resignation, his resignation was declared accepted.

President Cross then recommended that Charles (Bud) Wilkinson, assistant football coach, be named head coach with the four-year contract providing for a contract of \$10,000.00 annually for the first two years and \$11,000.00 annually for the third and fourth years.

Mr. Wilkinson was asked to appear before the Board, and following a brief conference, the Board approved his appointment and gave him the privilege of selecting his own staff of assistant coaches.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.


Secretary, Board of Regents

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