

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

A special meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma was held on Friday, April 5, 1935, in the Skirvin Hotel, Oklahoma City. The meeting was called at 10:00 o'clock a. m., with the following members present.

Regent Bowman, President of the Board presided; others present, Hatchett, Kerr, Rosser, Looney, Noble, and Ledbetter.

The reading of the minutes of the special meeting held on February 12, 1935, was omitted.

Regent Bowman called attention to the fact that election of officers of the Board for the ensuing year was regularly held at the annual meeting in March. Since this meeting had been postponed, because the legislature was still in session, and the University appropriations had not been determined, the election would be held at this meeting.

Regent Bowman stated that he had served as President of the Board during the last four years, and requested that the office be passed on to someone else. He expressed appreciation for the honor of serving as President of the Board during this period, and for the cooperation of the other members.

Nominations were called for for the office of President of the Board. Regent C. C. Hatchett was nominated. There being no other nominations the motion was made, seconded and carried, that Regent Hatchett be elected by acclamation. On the vote, all members voted "aye". Regent Hatchett was declared elected President of the Board.

Nominations were called for for the office of Vice-president of the Board. Regent Kerr was nominated. There being no other nominations the motion was made, seconded, and carried, that Regent Kerr be elected by acclamation. On the vote, all members voted "aye". Regent Kerr was declared elected Vice-president of the Board.

Nominations were called for for Secretary of the Board. E. R. Kraettli was nominated. There being no other nominations the motion was made, seconded, and carried, that E. R. Kraettli be elected Secretary of the Board. Mr. Kraettli was declared elected Secretary of the Board.

Regent Bowman congratulated Regent Hatchett on his election as President of the Board, and stated, "I hope you have as much work, and as much pleasure as I have had in serving as President of this Board."

Regent Hatchett replied, "I accept the office and appreciate your consideration." He stated, that on account of the fact that his daughter, Miss Elwyn, is graduating with a M. A. degree at the close of the Summer School 1935, there was some sentiment attached to his being President of the Board, and as such, would sign her diploma.

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President Bizzell expressed appreciation to Mr. Bowman, stating that the four years past had been very difficult ones, and that Mr. Bowman had given him great encouragement during this time, and that he appreciated his helpfulness.

Other members of the Board expressed appreciation to Regent Bowman.

Regent Hatchett took the chair as President of the Board, and stated that the meeting had been called to consider the athletic situation at the University. President Bizzell asked the Secretary to read the recommendation of the Athletic Council, as submitted by Guy Y. Williams, President of the Council, which was as follows:

"The Athletic Council of the University of Oklahoma is submitting through you to the Board of Regents the following recommendations:

1. That a vacancy be declared immediately in the Head Football and Assistant Football Coaching positions and that the present coaches be paid their salaries to May 31, 1935.

2. That Captain L. M. "Biff" Jones be employed as Head Football Coach and that not more than \$5,000.00 of his salary be paid by the Athletic Council. Captain Jones is to select his own assistants subject to approval of the Athletic Council.

3. The Athletic Council also recommends that the Board of Regents be looking forward to the employing of a permanent Athletic Director. The Council feels that the Athletic Director should not attempt to coach any sport but should devote his entire time to the organization and planning of the entire sports program. He should also devote a considerable portion of his time to outside contact work with the alumni, civic organizations and people interested in the athletics of the State. He should be a man who has a wide athletic acquaintance and have such contact that he could secure the proper kind of competition in football and other sports so that through this competition the athletic finances would be such as to pay off present debts and keep the organization out of debt. The Council feels that the salary of a permanent Athletic Director should be paid by the University.

Respectfully submitted,

Guy Y. Williams,
President, Athletic Council"

Regent Noble made a statement explaining in detail what had happened in connection with the athletic situation during the last four weeks, mentioning in particular the conference held in Oklahoma City, attended by President Bizzell, Mr. Kraettli, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Ledbetter, Mr. Rosser, alumni members of the Athletic Council, other alumni, and himself. That the meeting was called primarily to discuss House Bill #330, that had been introduced in the legislature, and which was designed to remove the control of athletics from the faculty at

the University. He stated that there was some discussion with reference to the coaching situation, but that no conclusions were reached.

He stated that at a later date, he had talked with Regents Ledbetter and Rosser about the desirability of securing Captain "Biff" Jones as coach. He stated further, that he was willing to take all of the blame or criticism for his going to Baton Rouge; that he went on his own initiative, and paid his own expenses. He stated that Regent Rosser and King Price, of Norman, accompanied him. That in conference with Captain Jones he found him to be in a receptive attitude, but skeptical about harmony at the University. It was suggested that he visit the University and look the situation over. Captain Jones requested that no publicity be given on his proposed visit to the campus. Regent Noble stated that Captain Jones is a man of fine character and dynamic personality, and that he felt confident no one would regret his coming.

President Bizzell stated, that on a recent trip to Texas, he had had a conference with Captain Jones, and that he was all that Regent Noble had described. Also, that Captain Jones was pleased with the Athletic Council, and the outlook at the University.

President Bizzell explained with reference to the telegram that had been sent by Mr. Hardage, and three students purporting to represent the two pep clubs, and the Men's Council. That subsequently he had had conferences with the members of these organizations, and that they resented individuals sending the telegrams, both to Washington and to Captain Jones, and that he felt that the sentiment was practically unanimous in favor of employing Captain Jones. He stated that General McKinley, of the War Department, had requested information on the situation, and had raised the question whether the University of Oklahoma desired the detail of Captain Jones, with the understanding that three years of his detail away from troops had been spent at Louisiana State University, and that he would regularly have only one additional year; and that at the most the University of Oklahoma could not expect to keep him more than two years.

Regent Noble stated that he had asked Captain Jones how much salary he would expect if he came to the University of Oklahoma. Captain Jones stated that he had gone to Louisiana State University for \$7,500 and that he was now getting \$10,000. "I told Captain Jones, if he came up and found the situation satisfactory, and we decided to employ him, that I would take personal responsibility for the differential in salary".

Regent Hatchett inquired, "How much differential, \$2,500?"

Regent Noble stated, "Yes".

Regent Bowman stated, "Is it understood that if we hire him the Athletic Council is to pay him \$5,000?"

President Bizzell: "That is the recommendation of the Athletic Council".

Regent Ledbetter, "I do not think that any individual or group of individuals, should be required, or permitted, to pay the balance of his salary."

Regent Kerr, "I feel that the increase in the gate receipts will fully justify paying the full salary out of the athletic funds."

A motion was made, seconded, and carried, that vacancies be declared in the Head Football and Assistant Football ~~and Assistant Football~~ Coaching positions, effective at the close of the current academic year.

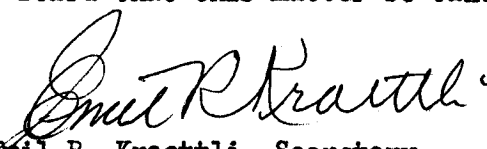
A motion was made, seconded, and carried, that President Bizzell's recommendation that Captain "Biff" Jones be elected Head Coach, at a salary of \$7,500 per year, and that the entire salary be paid from athletic funds, and no part from outside funds.

President Bizzell recommended that the previous action making the purchasing of athletic tickets compulsory, be rescinded.

Recommendation App.

Regent Ledbetter requested that the third recommendation of the Athletic Council, with reference to the employment of a permanent athletic director, be considered. It was the sense of the Board that this matter be taken up at the next meeting.

On motion adjourned.


Emil R. Kraettli, Secretary.