

SPECIAL MEETING
REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1952
3:00 P.M.

The Regents met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 1952, in the office of the President of the University. The meeting was called to discuss further matters in connection with Dr. Richard Blanc, Assistant Professor of Zoology, in accordance with the action taken at the special meeting in the Governor's Office on May 27.

The following were present: Regent Oscar White, President, presiding; Regents Benedum, Foster, Short, McBride. Absent: Regents Morgan and Little.

President Cross requested that his letter to the Regents under date of May 28, 1952, be included in the minutes of this meeting. A copy of the letter follows:

May 28, 1952

- Dr. Oscar White
- Mr. T. R. Benedum
- Mr. Rayburn Foster
- Mr. Quintin Little
- Mr. Joe McBride
- Mr. Dave Jeff Morgan
- Mr. George F. Short

Gentlemen:

In accordance with instructions given me at the meeting in the Blue Room of the State Capitol on May 27, I have discussed with Professor Richard Blanc the report made by Mr. Wilson concerning his past activities.

Professor Blanc will not resign from the faculty of the University, nor does he seek a hearing before the Regents unless charges in writing are presented to him in advance of the meeting. He denies violating any laws of the State or regulations of the University. The facts of the case are, therefore, in dispute.

In regard to such matters, the approved procedures of the American Association of University Professors and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools are as follows:

Termination for cause of a continuous appointment, or the dismissal for cause of a teacher previous to the expiration of a term appointment, should, if possible, be considered by both a faculty committee

June 2, 1952

and the governing board of the institution. In all cases where the facts are in dispute, the accused teacher should be informed before the hearing in writing of the charges against him and should have the opportunity to be heard in his own defense by all bodies that pass judgment upon his case. He should be permitted to have with him an adviser of his own choosing who may act as counsel. There should be a full stenographic record of the hearing available to the parties concerned. In the hearing of charges of incompetence the testimony should include that of teachers and other scholars either from his own or from other institutions. Teachers on continuous appointments who are dismissed for reasons not involving moral turpitude should receive their salaries for at least a year from the date of notification of dismissal whether or not they are continued in their duties at the institution.

The policy stated above was approved for use at the University of Oklahoma by the Regents of the University on May 14, 1947. Failure to follow the policy in regard to Professor Blanc's case will almost automatically result in the University of Oklahoma being placed on the black list of the American Association of University Professors.

I recommend and urge strongly that the Regents of the University present to Professor Blanc in writing a statement outlining the reasons why he will not be re-employed for the coming year. I recommend also that he be given ample time to prepare a refutation of any charges that may be made, and that he be given an opportunity to appear before the Regents with a counselor or adviser of his choosing.

If this recommendation is followed and Professor Blanc's guilt can be established with reasonable certainty, we shall have no difficulties with the American Association of University Professors. The national publicity which would result from our being black listed by the American Association of University Professors would set the University back many years in its development and handicap it for years to come.

I recommend that a meeting of the Regents be held on Monday, June 2, to discuss the matter and possibly formulate a written statement of charges.

I respectfully ask that this letter be made a part of the records of the Regents to follow the minutes of the meeting which was held May 27, 1952.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ G. L. Cross

G. L. Cross
President

GLC:aa

After a full review of matters at hand, action was taken as follows:

June 2, 1952

Motion by Regent Foster, duly seconded, and unanimously voted, that the following statement and charges be preferred:

"Certain information has been brought to the attention of the Regents of the University of Oklahoma indicating your unfitness to serve as a member of the faculty, and you are therefore required to show cause to the Regents on the 16th day of June, 1952, at 10:00 a.m. in the Office of the President of the University of Oklahoma why your services with the University should not be terminated because of your unfitness to serve, for the following reasons:

1. You are a member or affiliated with certain organizations listed as subversive by the Attorney General of the United States, to wit:

- a. The Joint Anti Fascist Refugee Committee
- b. The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
- c. Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy

In addition you are a member of the "American Labor Party", an organization cited in 1944 by the United States Special Committee on Un-American Activities as being largely dominated by Communists.

2. You have made misrepresentations and false statements to the American Association of University Professors and to members of the faculty of the University of Oklahoma in your own personal interest calculated to degrade the administration of the University of Oklahoma.

3. Your associations over a long period of time evidence a basic course of thinking and activity which is inimical to the type of instruction and the social and economic philosophy demanded of persons entrusted with the responsibility of teaching and directing young Americans through the instrumentality of a university sponsored and financially supported by the State of Oklahoma.

You are therefore required to appear at the time and place aforesaid for the purpose of the hearing with respect to the foregoing charge.

At the hearing you may be represented by counsel, may produce witnesses, present evidence, cross-examine witnesses and controvert any evidence presented."

It was moved by Regent Benedum, duly seconded, and unanimously voted, that the Secretary of the Board of Regents be authorized, on behalf of the Board, to sign and present said charges to Professor Elanc.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



 Emil R. Kraettli

4369

June 2, 1952

At the June 14 meeting, the Secretary was asked to include in the record of the meeting of June 2 any correspondence with Dr. Richard Blanc. Copies of correspondence follows:

June 4, 1952

Mr. Emil R. Kraettli, Secretary
Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Kraettli:

I am in receipt of the "Charges and notice of hearing" dated June 2, 1952. If I am to be given a fair opportunity to secure evidence to controvert the charge or charges against me, I shall need to know the charges, and the evidences for them, in more specific terms than the above-mentioned document provides, and I would greatly appreciate your obtaining for me answers to the following:

Under (1) in the "Charges and notice of hearing": Of what organization or organizations is it alleged that I am a member, and with which is it alleged that I am "affiliated"? In what sense is the word "affiliated" used here, and what is the specific evidence for my alleged "affiliation" in the instance or instances in which it is charged?

Under (2): What are the misrepresentations and false statements which I am alleged to have made to the American Association of University Professors and to members of the University faculty, respectively? To what faculty members were the alleged misrepresentations and false statements made, and when?

Under (3): What are the specific associations that are alleged to "evidence a basic course of thinking and activity which is inimical" etc?

I should also like to request that I be provided with a full stenographic record of the hearing, in accordance with the rules of the University on academic tenure.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Richard Blanc

Richard Blanc
Assistant Professor of
Zoological Sciences

Copy to President G. L. Cross

June 2, 1952

4370

June 6, 1952

Mr. Richard Blanc,
1204 Camden Way,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Blanc:

Following receipt of your letter of June 2 (should have been June 4), I contacted members of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and have been directed to inform you as follows:

- (1) That there is no necessity for the purpose of preferring Charges of elaborating upon whether you are a "member" or "affiliated" with the organizations set forth in Charge No. 1. Affiliated, as used in the Charge is defined in Webster's New International Dictionary.
- (2) That you are possessed with information as to the contents of your letter to the American Association of University Professors, and you are likewise possessed of knowledge as to members of the Faculty with whom you recently discussed the matters upon which the Charge is based.
- (3) That you have full and specific information as to your association with individuals and groups upon which Charge No. 3 is predicated.

I have been further instructed to advise you that a full stenographic record of the hearing will be made, which will be available to you.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Emil R. Kraettli

Emil R. Kraettli,
Secretary.

ERKM

June 10, 1952

Mr. Emil R. Kraettli, Secretary
Board of Regents
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Kraettli:

I am sorry to trouble you again, but I find it necessary to ask for a postponement of my hearing before the Board of Regents. My reason

4371

June 2, 1952

for this request is that a great deal of correspondence is entailed in collecting evidence and testimony relevant to the charges listed against me, and it will be impossible for me to have the material ready by June 16, the date presently set for the hearing.

I understood you to say that July 9, the date of the next regular meeting of the Board of Regents, would be a possible alternative to the date originally set for the hearing, if I should require more time. I therefore earnestly petition the Board of Regents to postpone the hearing either until July 9 or to some other date no earlier than June 30. I will be grateful if you will transmit this petition to the Board.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Richard Blanc

Richard Blanc
Assistant Professor of
Zoological Sciences

June 11, 1952

Dr. Richard Blanc
1204 Camden Way
Norman, Oklahoma

My dear Dr. Blanc:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter requesting a continuance on your hearing before the Board of Regents from June 16 to July 9, 1952, which is the date for the next regular meeting of the Board. I discussed this with several members of the Board and was directed to inform you that your request has been granted.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Emil R. Kraettli

Emil R. Kraettli
Secretary

ERK:dg