

SPECIAL MEETING
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
Friday, December 19, 1952
3:00 p.m.

A special meeting of the Board of Regents was called pursuant to call by the Chairman.

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

The Chair announced that the meeting was called in connection with the proposal to send the football team as spectators to the Orange Bowl game. He asked President Cross to make a statement of the situation.

President Cross stated there has been such a bitter and unfavorable reaction throughout the country to this proposal he felt it his duty to ask the Regents to look at the whole picture again. He stated he had been given information that the Big Seven Presidents would make an issue of the matter and the least we could expect would be censure by the Conference. Also, that an investigation would be made by the North Central Association, with the possibility of the University's accreditation being canceled, or most certainly being placed on probation; also an investigation by the NCAA, neither of which the University would want.

Following a discussion of the matter Regent McBride inquired of President Cross if he had a recommendation, to which President Cross replied that his position is the same as at the previous meeting, namely, that we would be in violation of Conference and NCAA regulations to finance the trip for the team.

Regent McBride made the following statement and motion: "In the light of the facts presented at a special meeting called, and because of evidence as stated and unstated, I move that the President's advice as of that meeting be upheld, and that we rescind the previous action, otherwise this school will suffer irreparable injury".

The question was called for and all members voted AYE on the McBride motion except Regent Little who asked that he be recorded as voting NO. Regent Little stated he had given his word to the team and would stick by it. He stated further he would send the team at his own expense but under the rules that is not possible.

A release to the press was discussed and the following statement approved:

The Regents of the University of Oklahoma in special session today, rescinded action which would have made it possible for the football team to attend the Orange Bowl at the University's expense.

The Regents issued the following statement:

(Next page)

December 19, 1952

The decision to send the football team to the Orange Bowl as spectators was based upon the conclusion of the Regents that such action would not be in violation of the rules and regulations of the Big Seven Conference. The action was taken against the advice of the President of the University, who had informed the Regents that the trip would constitute a violation, not only of the regulations of the Big Seven Conference, but of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools as well.

After studying carefully Section 14, Principles governing athletic scholarships and other forms of financial aid of the Big Seven Conference, the Regents are convinced that the proposed trip would be in direct violation of Conference regulations. This Section describes in detail the financial aid which is permitted by the Conference. Included in violation of the Section are the following: "Awards of money, gifts, or promises of gifts equivalent to money." A trip to the Orange Bowl would be regarded inevitably as a gift to the team and, therefore, in violation of the regulations.

The Regents intend that the University of Oklahoma shall, in the foreseeable future, retain membership in the Big Seven Conference and comply with Conference rules. Representatives of the University will work with representatives of other institutional members in an effort to develop Conference rules and regulations which are satisfactory to all schools involved. The University of Oklahoma will cooperate also with the other institutional members of the Big Seven Conference in an effort to adjust the athletic code of the North Central Association in such a manner as to enable the University of Oklahoma to continue the clean, successful athletic program which has been developed here.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Emil R. Kraettli, Secretary