

SPECIAL MEETING
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1954 - 11:00 A.M.

A special meeting of the Regents of the University was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 1954, pursuant to call by Regent Short, President of the Board.

The following were present: Regent Short, President, presiding; Regents Foster, Little, McBride, Grisso, Benadum. Absent: Regent Morgan.

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing a communication from Walter Byers, Executive Director of the National Collegiate Athletic Association with reference to alleged violations of NCAA requirements on the part of the University of Oklahoma.

President Cross stated he called Mr. Short on receipt of the communication and that he had suggested calling a meeting of the Regents. Following is a copy of the communication:

"April 13, 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

"Dear President Cross:

"This is in reference to our previous correspondence regarding the preliminary inquiry of the NCAA Sub-Committee on Infractions. In this connection, I should point out that the 48th annual NCAA Convention this past January adopted amendments to the Association's Constitution which resulted in a revision of our enforcement machinery and procedure. As you will note by the enclosed, the NCAA Membership Committee has been eliminated and a Committee on Infractions has replaced the former Sub-Committee and performs its duties.

"The Committee on Infractions met February 19-21, at which time it reviewed available information regarding alleged violations of NCAA requirements on the part of the University of Oklahoma. It was the Committee's conclusion that the information is of sufficient substance and the sources of sufficient reliability to warrant an official inquiry. Consequently, the Committee wishes to submit several questions designed to obtain the facts regarding the athletic policies and practices of the University of Oklahoma in the area of athletic recruitment and award of financial aid to athletes.

"There is evidence before the Committee which indicates that University of Oklahoma athletes, particularly football players, received financial and other aid in contradiction and violation of Article III, Section 4, of the NCAA Constitution and, further, that representatives of the University have been in violation of Article VI, Sections 1 and 2 of the NCAA By-laws.

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"For example, it is alleged that the Touchdown Club of Oklahoma, with offices in Oklahoma City, makes funds available for the aid of athletes at the University, such aid not being administered by the University. Further, it is charged that alumni and friends of the University directly aid athletes, and also recruit prospective football players at the direction of and/or in the company of University staff members, offering financial inducements not permitted by the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

"The enforcement program of the NCAA is a cooperative undertaking involving our individual member institutions and allied conferences working through the NCAA - a unified effort designed to improve the administration and conduct of intercollegiate athletics. We call upon you, as the chief executive officer of the University of Oklahoma, for your cooperation and assistance to the end that the complete facts can be developed.

"It will be appreciated if you will forward to us the information requested by the enclosed questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Walter Byers

WB:bb

CC: Mr. Earl Sneed, Jr.
Mr. C. B. Wilkinson
Mr. Reaves E. Peters
Mr. Frank N. Gardner, Fifth District
Vice-President
NCAA Committee on Infractions"

"AN INQUIRY

From the N.C.A.A. Committee on Infractions

to the

Chief Executive Officer of the University of Oklahoma

- "1. What agency or individual is responsible for the creation and establishment of the University of Oklahoma's athletic policies and regulations?
- "2. What agency or individual is responsible for determining that the University's athletic policies and regulations are adhered to once they are established?
- "3. Is there a systematic review of athletic policies and regulations with athletic staff members and an indoctrination of staff members at the time revised or new policies and regulations are established?

- "4. If the answer to No. 3 is in the affirmative, please advise as to the agency or individual responsible in this area. How is the review conducted?
- "5. What are the University of Oklahoma's rules and regulations governing the recruitment of athletes; i.e., the contacting of prospective athletes by University coaches and friends; the payment of transportation costs of prospective athletes to visit the campus; the trying out of prospective athletes both on and off the campus; the entertainment of prospective athletes both on and off the campus, etc.?
- "6. What are the specific practices of the University of Oklahoma's coaches and other staff members in the matter of recruiting prospective football players? (The Committee would appreciate receiving a detailed description of the usual procedure followed in the contacting of a prospect; the subsequent transporting of the prospect to the campus; entertainment while visiting, the followup contacts and visitations.)
- "7. What are the University of Oklahoma's rules and regulations governing financial aid to athletes, such as the award of scholarships and/or grants-in-aid; the total permissible aid an athlete might receive through institutional channels; permissible aid from non-institutional sources; income from employment during college year, etc.?
- "8. What are the procedures and practices of the University of Oklahoma in administering institutional aid to athletes? (The Committee would appreciate receiving a step-by-step description of the procedures followed by an athlete in applying for aid; the system followed by the University in processing the application; the composition and procedure of the Committee which approves the award; manner in which aid is provided to recipient; requirements for retaining aid; etc.)
- "9. In addition to the answers supplied to the foregoing, are there any other rules or regulations, or any other factors, which influence or govern the University's practices in the area of financial aid to and recruitment of athletes.
- "10. Reference is made to the accompanying letter, relative to the Touchdown Club of Oklahoma.
- (a) Please describe the purpose, organization and operation of this Club. (Also, please attach the Constitution and/or By-laws of the Club as well as any other related literature.)
 - (b) Please list the names and titles of the present officers of the Club.
 - (c) How are the activities of the Club financed?
 - (d) What are the relationships between the University of Oklahoma, its administration and athletic department, and the Touchdown Club?
 - (e) What are the relationships between individual staff members of the University of Oklahoma and the Touchdown Club?
 - (f) Were or are there any members of the Touchdown Club who held or hold positions at the University of Oklahoma, either as employees or as members of the Board of Trustees, Athletic Council, Athletic Advisory Committee or any other Committee?

(g) Does the Touchdown Club contribute funds to the University? If the answer is in the affirmative, please provide the following information:

- (1) Purpose for which the funds are contributed to the University.
- (2) Conditions attached to the contributions.
- (3) Amount of annual financial contributions to the University during the past five years.
- (4) Copies of the Touchdown Club's financial statements for the past four years.

(h) Does the Touchdown Club make any other contributions to the University? (If so, please describe.)

"11. At any time from September 1, 1950, to present date, has there existed a fund or funds for use in connection with the athletic program of the University of Oklahoma, said fund(s) not administered by the institution?

(a) If so, please provide specific details related to the fund(s), such as:

- (a) Name of the fund.
- (b) Date it was created.
- (c) Is it still in existence? If not, the date it was dissolved.
- (d) Total amount of money deposited in the fund.
- (e) Total amount of withdrawals.
- (f) Record of disbursements from the fund, and the purpose of said disbursements.
- (g) Person or agency responsible for the administration of the fund.
- (h) Person or agency responsible for handling the fund's receipts.
- (i) Person or agency responsible for handling the fund's disbursements.
- (j) Source of the money deposited in the fund.
- (k) Manner in which said money was raised or collected.
- (l) Any other pertinent details.

"12. What method does the University of Oklahoma employ to determine that its rules and regulations are observed, particularly in the area of non-institutional aid to athletes?

"13. Additional information and comments will be welcomed."

President Cross stated in his opinion "we have not violated any of the NCAA regulations". He stated it would take some time to prepare the complete report, that he would write to Mr. Byers acknowledging receipt of the communication, and that he would have the report by May 13, the date for the next regular meeting of the Regents. Dean Sneed and Mr. Wilkinson have been requested to provide the answers on the questionnaire.

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President Cross stated he would ask Dean Sneed to appear before the committee for the hearing.

It was the consensus of the Regents that President Cross handle the matter and that he will report to the Regents on May 13.

Copies of Regent Short's letter to Mr. Cate, re: insurance on self-liquidating projects on the University campus were distributed. Since this matter was not on the agenda for this meeting it was passed over to the May 13 meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Emil R. Kraettli, Secretary