

Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma

A meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma was held on Wednesday, December 7, 1938, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., in the office of the President of the University.

Regent Ledbetter, Vice President of the Board presided in the absence of Regent Looney; others present: Regents Kerr, Hatchett, Noble, McBride, Harrell. (Regent Looney, President of the Board, arrived at 11:20 a.m.)

The minutes of the meeting held on Saturday, November 5, 1938, were approved, each member having received a copy through the mails.

In accordance with instructions at the previous meeting, President Bizzell reported he had made an investigation with reference to the so-called "Vocational Extension Service" and its connection with the WPA project under which a correspondence course in Diesel engines is given. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Louis B. Fritts, Secretary of the Correspondence Study Department, also one from A. A. Armstrong, Assistant Supervisor, Correspondence Studies Project under the WPA, making full explanation concerning the activities of Mr. Murray Robinson, in soliciting students for his private course in Diesel engines.

Following a discussion, it was voted to file these reports.

President Bizzell was instructed to write a letter to A. A. Armstrong, calling his attention to criticisms that had come to the University through misleading statements by representatives of the "Vocational Extension Service", creating the impression of a connection with the University of Oklahoma, and that in the future utmost care be taken to avoid a repetition in similar matters.

President Bizzell reported that Lila M. Welch, Associate Professor of Home Economics on Sabbatical leave of absence during the first semester of the school year of 1938-39, had requested that her leave of absence be continued on a Sabbatical basis during the second semester of the current school year, in order to complete the problems begun at Ohio State University.

President Bizzell recommended that leave of absence be extended.

Recommendation was approved.

Attention was called to the matter with reference to the bond of the Sunray Oil Company, discussed at the last meeting of the Board of Regents, and Regent Ledbetter reported that the information requested had not been submitted by the parties concerned and suggested that the matter lay over until a further date.

Regent Ledbetter reported that the Attorney General had been asked to file suit for damages to the Nurses Home on the Medical School campus, in connection with the drilling of oil wells sometime ago. This report was in accordance with action by the Board at the last meeting.

Mr. Looney, Chairman of the Board, arrived at 11:20 a.m., and took the chair.

There was a discussion with reference to the need for dormitories on the University campus due to the acute housing situation.

A motion was made by Regent Hatchett, seconded by Regent McBride, "That we go on record asking the legislature to authorize issuing self-liquidating bonds to the extent of one million dollars for the purpose of erecting dormitories at the University of Oklahoma."

On the vote on the motion, all members voted "aye" except Regent Kerr who requested that he be recorded as voting "no". Regent Harrell stated that he was voting "aye" on the President's statement that the present dormitory is paying its way. Regent Noble stated that he was voting "aye" with the understanding that the President of the University submit a plan to the Board and agree to support a program which would make the dormitories self-liquidating.

The chair declared the motion carried.

The Board recessed for lunch at the Union at 12:15 p.m., and reconvened at 1:25 p.m., in Executive Session until 2:00 p.m.

Regent Looney, President of the Board, addressing Regent Ledbetter, Vice President, moved that the by-laws of the Board of Regents be amended to read as follows:

Article 2, Section 2:

The President and Vice President of the Board shall be elected by ballot in March, and shall serve for a term of one year from the adjournment of said meeting and until their successors are elected and qualified; provided that the President shall not be eligible immediately to succeed himself.

Vice President Ledbetter called for a vote on the motion, whereupon all members voted "aye".

The amendment was unanimously adopted.

Motion by Regent Kerr: "Mr. President, I move you that the President of the University be requested and directed to take a vacation starting at this date and continuing until the 15th day of January, 1939".

The motion was unanimously carried.

President Bizzell expressed appreciation for this action and agreed to send post cards to each member of the Board as definite proof that he was complying with the above action.

Regent Hatchett asked that he be excused at 2:40 p.m., stating that it was absolutely necessary for him to return to Durant during the afternoon.

President Bizzell stated that he had prepared copies of the University budget for the biennium beginning July 1, 1939, and asked that the Board give consideration to items contained therein. He explained briefly the policy in making this budget which was in accordance with the action of the Board at the previous meeting, namely, that the request for salaries be placed at the 1930-31 schedule, with additions to take care of the increased enrolment. He stated also that the estimates included capital items which he desired to discuss in detail, and that he would like to have Mr. Kraft appear before the Board. He stated also that if agreeable with the Board, he would like to have the respective deans discuss their budgets, but, if this were done it would be necessary that the board meeting continue through Thursday.

Regent Harrell and Regent Looney stated that it would not be possible for them to remain and the matter was passed over for the present.

The Board's attention was called to the fact that Tom Stidham, Head Coach and Director of Athletics, was outside and he was invited to appear before the Board.

The President of the Board in addressing Coach Stidham, expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board of the fine season and the winning of the Big Six Conference. Tom Stidham thanked the Board for its cooperation, stating that there had been a fine spirit among the boys and that they had worked hard. He also expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the other members of the staff, "without which the season would not have been so

successful". Mr. Stidham reviewed some of the incidents on the various trips during games played, stating that he was gratified that everything had worked out so well and that there was such a fine feeling among the boys. He expressed regret over injuries to McCarty, Bolton and Jennings now in Saint Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City.

Tom Stidham thanked the Board for the opportunity to appear and left the meeting.

Mr. Walter W. Kraft, Superintendent of Utilities, was called before the Board to make explanation on capital items totaling \$386,830.20 for 1939-1940, and \$342,990.80 for 1940-1941.

Inquiry was made concerning utility mains and tunnel extensions, the question being whether these would be necessary without an extensive building program. Mr. Kraft explained that for the most part these items were included looking toward the building program and it was the sense of the Board that they be withheld until the appropriations for buildings had been approved, following which requests would be made for capital items as listed in such amounts as would be required.

Following Mr. Kraft's explanation on one of the points, the Board expressed appreciation to him for furnishing the information to the Board not only in this connection, but at other times.

It was the sense of the Board that President Bizzell proceed with the budget in accordance with the plan as outlined by him, keeping in mind such suggestions as had been made, and present same to the Budget Officer.

President Bizzell stated that General Patterson had prepared estimates for the Medical School and Hospitals, each member having been furnished a copy.

Following a discussion of these budgets, it was voted that the Medical School budget be presented to the Budget Officer as recommended by General Patterson, except that no new departments requiring additional appropriations be approved. Also, it was the sense of the Board that the request for buildings at the Medical School and Hospitals not exceed approximately \$300,000.00.

On the vote on the building program all members voted "aye" except Regent McBride who requested that he be recorded as voting "no".

There was a discussion with reference to the date for the next meeting of the Board and it was agreed that the Board adjourn

at this time subject to call.

Before adjournment Regent Kerr stated that he would like to contribute to a fund to send flowers to the three football boys in the hospital and the following contributions were made: Kerr, Bizzell, Ledbetter, Harrell, McBride, Noble and Looney, \$1.00 each.

President Bizzell was instructed to write the boys letters on behalf of the Board and the Secretary was instructed to have the flowers sent on behalf of the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Emil R. Kraettli
Emil R. Kraettli, Secretary.