

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

A special meeting of the Board of Regents was held August 12, 1931, in the Library of the Medical Building, in Oklahoma City, at 1:30 p. m.

The following members of the Board were present: Chairman Bowman presiding, Carlock, Hatchett, Looney, Hesser, Milburn and Tolbert.

The reading of the minutes of the meeting held on July 7, was omitted.

The meeting of the Board of Regents was called to consider matters affecting the Medical School and the University Hospital. The difficulties were precipitated as a result of a chiropractor being admitted to the University Hospital to attend a patient, following the issuance of an executive order by the Governor of the state.

A committee of the Oklahoma Medical Association, consisting of Doctors McClain Rogers, Clinton; J. G. Fulton, Atoka; H. C. Webber, Bartlesville, appeared before the Board. This committee emphasized the importance of maintaining the high standards of the Medical School and urged action that would insure the class "A" rating of the Medical School in the state. Mr. Webber speaking for the committee stated; "The Oklahoma Medical Association is fighting for a principle which is right and unless this principle is upheld Oklahoma will become the laughing stock so far as medical education is concerned. The Oklahoma Medical Association wants to be helpful and will cooperate in any way that will increase the efficiency of the University Hospital in its service to the state and to the Medical School, in providing proper training for the Medical students."

Following the committee from the Oklahoma Medical Association, a committee representing the faculty of the School of Medicine, consisting of Doctors E. S. Ferguson, George A. LaMotte, Horace Reed, and J. B. Smith, recently appointed Superintendent of the University Hospital, appeared before the Board. Doctors Ferguson and Reed urged the importance of immediate action to safeguard the future of the Medical School and assured the Board of the hearty cooperation of the entire faculty in maintaining the standards of the Medical School.

Following the committee of the faculty, a committee representing the osteopaths, consisting of Doctors A. G. Reed, Tulsa; H. C. Montague, Muskogee; F. A. Englehart, Oklahoma City, appeared before the Board, and submitted the following statement:

"Members of the Osteopathic profession in Oklahoma have been repeatedly refused admittance to practice in hospitals of the state supported by taxation, and have been refused admittance to University extension courses in the medical department of the University, on the ground that we are Osteopaths, and we have been referred to in the press as not being proper persons to practice in high standard medical institutions. We wish to be understood clearly:

1st, We do not wish to disturb the standard or efficiency of any medical school or hospital in the state, neither do we believe that our practice in any institution should in any way interfere, but, on the other hand, we believe that our service would provide added safety and comfort to the clientele of any hospital. Our hospitals in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Pennsylvania, California and anywhere established compare favorably in class of surgery or other service, to like medical institutions.

2nd, We feel that the rules governing institutions, wherein they provide that if an Osteopathic Physician is allowed to practice in a hospital, that fact lowers the standard of the institution (regardless of his qualifications) is class discrimination that is both unconstitutional, and, in many cases, deprives patients of their best interests.

3rd, It is a well established fact that approximately 80 percent of the laity, who use medical service of any kind, employ practitioners of schools other than the so called medical schools. Many of these people employing practitioners of other schools need hospital service. Under the policy hereto for allowed by state institutions they are denied this privilege unless they dismiss their practitioner and accept the service of a so called regular medical physician. These people have long expressed a hope and have felt confident that the authorities, in their judgment, would finally provide the opportunity for them to have institutional service directed by the physician of their choice.

Respectfully submitted to the Board of Regents of the Oklahoma State University by the Oklahoma State Osteopathic Association.

(Signed) A. G. Reed, D. O. Pres

Following the committee of osteopaths, a committee consisting of Dr. H. K. Speed, of Sayre, father of H. K. Speed, Jr., a student in the Medical School; W. A. Minsch, and T. L. Weinright, also students in the Medical School, appeared before the Board. Dr. Speed stated that he had spent a great deal of money paying the expenses of his son while pursuing his college and medical work, and that unless some satisfactory solution of the difficulties could be worked out, all of this money and time would be wasted, and that this not only applied to his own son but to every other student in the Medical School. Chairman Bowman assured Dr. Speed, and the students, that everything possible would be done to safeguard the Medical School.

The Board then took up the issues which involved the interpretation of an Act of the Sixth Legislature (Chapter 170, Session Laws of Oklahoma 1917), providing for the establishment of the University Hospital. President Bizzell, reported that he had received letters from Dr. Min West, and Dr. N. P. Caldwell, of the American Medical Association, and Dr. Franklin H. Martin, of the American College of Surgeons, giving the attitude of these Boards on the admission of any but regular medical doctors to practice in the University Hospital. There was considerable discussion on the power of the Board of Regents to limit practice in the Hospital, in view of the statute above referred to.

Chairman Bowman submitted a resolution and after some discussion it was voted that Regents Tolbert and Looney redraft the resolution and it was resubmitted in the following form.

WHEREAS, the University Hospital was created primarily for the purpose of giving the required training and instruction to the medical students in the School of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma, and was placed under the jurisdiction and control of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma as a part of the University of Oklahoma, and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to restrict the use of said hospital to the doctors of medicine for practice therein in order to maintain the standing of said medical school, and,

WHEREAS, it was the intent of the Legislature of Oklahoma, in creating the University Hospital, to restrict the same to the use of doctors of medicine for practice therein;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED; that the privileges of the University Hospital shall be at all times extended to any doctor of medicine, now or hereafter licensed or authorized to practice medicine by Chapter 59, Session Laws of Oklahoma, 1925.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any patient or inmate in the University Hospital shall have the right at any time to select and receive treatment from any doctor of medicine as above defined.

Motion made by Regent Looney, seconded by Regent Carlock, that the resolution be adopted.

Discussion. Regent Hatchett offered the following as a substitute resolution and moved its adoption; seconded by Regent Rosser.

WHEREAS, some question has arisen to the right of licensed physicians and surgeons to treat patients in the University Hospital, and as to the right of any patient in the hospital to receive treatment from physicians other than those connected with the Medical School,

BE IT RESOLVED: That it is the opinion and order of this Board that the privileges of the University Hospital shall be at all times extended to any physician or surgeon licensed or authorized to practice medicine or surgery under the laws of Oklahoma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That any patient or inmate in the University Hospital shall have the right at any time to select and to receive treatment from any registered physician or surgeon licensed or authorized to practice under the laws of Oklahoma.

Discussion. Vote was had on the substitute resolution. Regents Hatchett and Rosser voting "aye"; Regents Carlock, Looney, Milburn, Tolbert, and Bowman, voting "no". A vote then occurred on the original resolution; Regents Carlock, Looney, Milburn, Tolbert, and Bowman voting "aye"; Regents Hatchett and Rosser, "no".

Resolution Adopted.

Regent Hatchett requested that the following statement be included in the minutes:

"I think the action of the majority of the Board is contrary to the plain meaning of the language of the statutes of this state. I think it unfair. I think we have taken an action that will hurt rather than help the Medical College of the University. I think we have treated a body of American citizens unfairly and illegally, and have given an interpretation to the law that it is not our province to give, and have assumed that the statutes mean something contrary to what in my opinion is its plain meaning."

Regent Esser made the following statement:

"I voted "no" on the resolution, feeling that the resolution is for the benefit of the Doctors and not for the benefit of the students".

President Bizzell presented the resignation of Dr. LeRoy Long, Dean of the School of Medicine, Professor of Surgery. Resignation accepted.

President Bizzell presented the resignation of Dr. LeRoy Downing Long, Assistant Professor of Surgery. Resignation accepted.

President Bizzell presented the resignation of Dr. Wendell McLean Long, Instructor in Gynecology; Resignation accepted.

President Bizzell recommended appointment of Dr. L. J. Moorman for the position of Dean of the School of Medicine, to serve on the same basis as Dr. Long, and that his services continue until a full time Dean is secured.

Chairman Bowman asked to be excused on account of another engagement and Vice-chairman Carlock took the chair.

Regent Milburn made a motion, seconded by Regent Tolbert, that President Bizzell's recommendation be approved. Dr. L. J. Moorman was unanimously elected to serve as Dean of the Medical School.

On motion adjourned.

Emil R. Kraettli
Emil R. Kraettli, Secretary.