

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1971

A special meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma was held in the office of the President of the University, Norman, on April 20, 1971, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The following were present: Regent Horace K. Calvert, President, presiding; Regents Nancy J. Davies, Huston Huffman, Jack H. Santee, Walter Neustadt, Jr., V. M. Lockard, and Tom R. Brett.

The following were also present: Dr. Pete Kyle McCarter, Interim President of the University; Dr. Carl D. Riggs, Acting Provost; Vice Presidents Burr, Dean, Eliel, Nordby and White; Dr. Thomas E. Broce, Executive Assistant to the President; Professor David Swank, Legal Counsel, and Mr. R. Boyd Gunning, Trust Officer.

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Frederick Sharp were invited to the meeting.

Mr. Calvert stated the purpose of the meeting was to take formal action on the selection of a President of the University of Oklahoma. He declared the floor open for a motion on the appointment of a President.

Mrs. Davies moved that Dr. Paul F. Sharp be appointed President of the University of Oklahoma effective August 16, 1971, with remuneration as follows:

1. Base annual salary of \$40,000.00.
2. A President's Home.
3. An automobile.
4. An annual housing maintenance allowance of \$7,500.00.
5. Fringe benefits in accordance with those paid to his predecessor.

Dr. McCarter stated that on proper action by the faculties and deans concerned and by the Provost, he recommended that Dr. Paul F. Sharp be appointed Professor of History and Professor of Education simultaneously with his appointment as President.

Regent Davies amended her motion to include the academic appointments as recommended by Dr. McCarter.

Before further discussion on the appointment and before taking a vote on the motion, Mr. Calvert made the following statement on behalf of the Board of Regents:

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"The search for the ninth president of the University of Oklahoma officially began by the Regents' appointment of a Presidential Search Committee on September 10, 1970, approximately nine months ago.

"This committee was composed of eight faculty members, four students, one employee, and two alumni. At the first meeting, Professor Cluff E. Hopla was elected Chairman, student H. Steve Manning, Vice-Chairman, and Professor William H. Keown, Secretary. By October 24, 1970, criteria for the selection of a president was agreed to by both the Presidential Search Committee and the Board of Regents. Between October, 1970, and March, 1971, the Presidential Search Committee had 16 extended meetings and numerous interviews were conducted, both in and out of state. There were some 180 nominees that were considered for the presidency, however, some eliminated themselves. By January of this year, the number of prospective candidates had been narrowed down to approximately 20. On March 13, 1971, the Committee made their final recommendations to the Regents.

"I would like to express the Board of Regents' appreciation to Dr. Cluff E. Hopla, Mr. H. Steve Manning, Dr. William H. Keown, and the other University faculty, staff, alumni and students who served as members of the Presidential Search Committee. I have never served with a more conscientious committee that discharged its duties with more dedication and devotion. Their efforts have made it possible for the Regents to select a man who is regarded as one of the most respected university administrators in the nation.

"During the time we have been searching for a president, Dr. Pete Kyle McCarter has been the University's Interim President. The excellent job that Dr. McCarter and his staff have performed, coupled with the loyalty of the faculty during this unsettled period, cannot be over-emphasized. On behalf of the Board, I would also like to express our appreciation to them.

"In selection of a President, the obvious objective is to obtain the best qualified person. Needless to say, one searches for a recognized academician possessing demonstrated administrative ability. Dr. Sharp certainly meets this criteria as he has headed a college or university for the past 15 years and has gained a national reputation as a leader in the field of higher education.

"The Search Committee was unrestricted in its search for the best candidate. While it was not a stated criterion, it was an underlying consideration that the next president should have a broad understanding of our region's culture. In the selection of Dr. Sharp, this criterion is certainly satisfied. Before his birth, his mother taught school in Oklahoma Indian Territory at Carrier Academy and at Whitehorse School, both near Enid, Oklahoma. He was born in Missouri, graduated from Phillips University at Enid, has written a great deal on American Western culture, and married an Oklahoma girl (Rose Anderson of Enid) who will necessarily play a strong supporting role in the responsibilities of the presidency.

"Another important objective was the selection of a person who could relate not only to students and faculty but to all the university publics, such as the executive and legislative branches of our government, the alumni, and the general public. We believe that Dr. Sharp can readily achieve this vital objective.

"Lastly, probably the most important objective is the matching of the president with the institution, so that one meets the other's needs at a particular moment in history. While there is no single method, and no guaranteed formula for the selection of the right man, we believe, and we hope, that we are correct that Dr. Sharp is the right man for both the immediate and long range needs of the University of Oklahoma."

Mr. Calvert asked if anyone cared to make any statements.

Mr. Neustadt said that through business and personal contacts in Des Moines he has been well aware of the reputation that Dr. Sharp has had at Drake. He said he knows the tremendous progress that Drake has made under his leadership during the last few years and he is firmly convinced that that leadership will be put to good avail here at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. McCarter made the following statement: "I should like to compliment the Regents on the outcome of the search and to congratulate the University on the appointment of Dr. Sharp. As far as I am able to speak for the faculty, staff, students, and alumni, I am sure they would all join me in pledging to Dr. Sharp our cooperation and support when he comes aboard."

On the vote on the motion as amended, all members of the Board voted AYE. The Chair declared the motion carried unanimously.

In response to a question from the Chair, Dr. Sharp stated that he would accept the position.

Mr. Calvert introduced Dr. Paul F. Sharp, new President of the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Sharp said he was very sensible of the honor which the Regents of the University have done for him and pledged hard work, and all the imagination and energy that he can bring to bear on the task ahead of him. He said: "I want to express my real appreciation to the Search Committee for their sincerity, for the imagination they displayed, and for the integrity which consistently they demonstrated in my relationships with them through this search. I understand that my appearance here today is not altogether a surprise.

"A University is a very special thing in our society, ladies and gentlemen, and we mustn't forget that. We're passing through perhaps the most troubled period in the history of higher education and it is a very special challenge to be a university president in these days. I want you to know that

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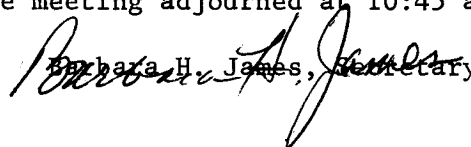
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in my judgment the University of Oklahoma is one of the great leaders, not only in higher education, but in the State of Oklahoma, and that the quality of life in this state and that everything this state accomplishes will respond to the energy and imagination that we on this campus bring to bear to our social and economic problems and opportunities. We have a great deal to do as a university in our society and I am very proud to be a part of this University as it meets those challenges.

"I thank you ladies and gentlemen very much indeed. You have done me a great honor and I appreciate it so much."

Mr. Calvert announced that immediately following the meeting there would be a press conference with Dr. and Mrs. Sharp. A luncheon honoring the Sharps was held in the Oklahoma Memorial Union including Dr. and Mrs. McCarter, Regents and their wives, the Presidential Search Committee, Vice Presidents, Deans and other administrators. A reception for all faculty, staff and students was held in the Union following the luncheon.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.


Barbara H. James, Secretary

Others present at the meeting:

Mrs. Horace K. Calvert	Jack Reese, Norman Transcript
Mrs. Huston Huffman	Harold Belknap, Norman Transcript
Mrs. Tom R. Brett	Don Frensley, Norman Transcript
Mrs. Pete Kyle McCarter	Bill Lynch, KWTV, Oklahoma City
Dr. Cluff Hopla and other members of the Presidential Search Committee	Phil Ross, KWTV, Oklahoma City
Jerry Scarbrough, Associated Press	Oliver Murray, WKY-TV, Oklahoma City
Steve Logue, Oklahoman and Times	Carrell Barton, WKY-TV, Oklahoma City
Jim Jackson, Oklahoman and Times	Carl Stephens, KOCO-TV, Oklahoma City
Windsor Ridenour, Tulsa Tribune	Jerry Fontaine, WKY Radio, Oklahoma City
Teresa Pitts, Tulsa Tribune	Bob Burke, KTOK Radio and Oklahoma News Network, Oklahoma City
Jim Campbell, United Press International	Mike Williams, KGOU Radio
Kay Martin, United Press International	John McBreen, KGOU Radio
Howard Davis, Oklahoma Journal	Cameramen from KTEW-TV, Tulsa,
Greg Broadb, Tulsa World	Photographer, Tulsa World
David Schanzer, Oklahoma Daily	Photographer, Oklahoman & Times
John Hoke, Oklahoma Daily	Photographer, Oklahoma Journal
Connie Ruggles, Sooner Magazine	Other interested faculty, staff and students
Val PIPPS, Sooner Magazine	
Mary Lyle Weeks, Sooner State Press	
Beth Watson, Norman Transcript	