

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS
NOVEMBER 21, 1988

A special meeting of the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma was held in Dining Room 5 of the Oklahoma Memorial Union on the Norman Campus of the University beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, November 21, 1988.

The following Regents were present: Regent Thomas Elwood Kemp, Chairman of the Board, presiding; Regents Charles F. Sarratt, Ronald H. White, M.D., Sarah C. Hogan, Sylvia A. Lewis, Sam Noble, and E. Murray Gullatt.

The following also were present: Dr. David Swank, Interim President of the University, Provost Joan Wadlow, Vice Presidents Anona L. Adair and Arthur J. Elbert, Interim Vice President Donna M. Murphy, and Barbara H. Tuttle, Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents. Also present were Associate Provost Robert P. White, Chief Legal Counsel Fred Gipson, and Assistant to the President Beth Wilson.

Notice of the time, date, and place of this meeting was submitted to the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted in the Office of the Board of Regents on or before 9:30 a.m. on November 18, 1988, both as required by 25 O.S. 1981, Section 301-314.

Regent Kemp called the meeting to order and said the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the admission requirements for incoming freshmen and to recommend to the State Regents for Higher Education the admissions standards the Board thinks best for The University of Oklahoma. He pointed out that the State Regents for Higher Education is a constitutional Board with specific powers which includes the authority to set admissions standards for all universities and colleges in the State. In carrying out their duty to set the admissions standards, they have requested the OU Board to recommend to them the appropriate standards for OU. Chairman Kemp said it is his understanding the standards for OU and OSU will be the same and that the OSU Board has indicated they will not make any recommendation. Regent Kemp said the OU Regents do not have to make a recommendation.

Regent Kemp explained the format of the meeting. He said he first will recognize anyone present to discuss the entrance requirements, following which questions may be asked by the Board members. He said he will then go around the Board table and ask each Regent to express his/her opinion on entrance requirements and then he will ask the President of the University for his recommendation and his opinions. He asked that no motions be made until everyone has been heard.

Regent Kemp pointed out some problems that may develop "if we go strong". First, about 55% of graduating seniors take the ACT so about 45% opt out in that manner. He believes if standards are too high about 60% to 75% of high school students will be precluded from attending OU and OSU. If enrollment declines, he wondered about appropriate financial support. He suggested there might be some very drastic changes.

At Regent White's request, attention was called to the fact that entrance requirements for OU for 1988 were an ACT of 18 or 3.0 GPA or top half of the class and it has already been mandated by the State Regents that in 1989 the ACT will increase to 19 with the GPA and class rank the same as 1988.

Two representatives of the Faculty Senate were recognized: Dr. Gary Cohen, Chair of the Faculty Senate, and Professor Roger Rideout, Associate Professor of Music Education, who served on the University Task Force on Admissions last year. Professor Rideout reviewed briefly the studies of the Task Force. He said the Task Force recommendations, which were reported to the University Regents in September, were reviewed by the Provost and submitted to the Faculty Senate for consideration. He said the Senate approved the Task Force policies. He referred to a revised proposal which was submitted to the Faculty Senate and considered at a meeting earlier in November (NOTE: apparently he was referring to a preliminary recommendation prepared by Interim President Swank prior to the November meeting of the Board of Regents). He said the proposed admission policies are the product of deliberations by several faculty groups and administrators with a sincere effort to establish an improved academic environment at OU and one that will assure a qualified student body, diverse in character, and responsive to those who might be adversely affected by the new policies. He said the proposals have the support of the members of the original Task Force and the Faculty Senate and come to the Board with their whole-hearted endorsement.

Professor Cohen reiterated that the Faculty Senate had endorsed the version of the administration proposal that they received two weeks ago with a resolution. He presented three basic points. First, the Faculty Senate believes that raising the admissions standards along the lines proposed, which are cautious, slow, and gradual, will serve the students and the public of Oklahoma better by allowing us to raise the quality of the educational product of this University and to reduce the hardships and the wastage that is represented by the excessive attrition rate and the admission of too many poorly qualified students. His second point had to do with whether adopting new admissions standards would make undergraduate admissions more selective, even exclusive. He called attention to the fact that average ACT scores have been rising gradually and in fact the rise in minority student scores has been higher than among the white applicants. He said the process of getting an education at OU is in fact already selective because we take the top one-half and because of the very high attrition rate. He said the faculty would like to lower the attrition rate and that is one of the principal purposes of the proposal to raise admissions standards. His last point addressed the question of whether these new admissions standards would in fact deny the possibility of public higher education to a large body of students to whom we owe greater opportunity. He does not believe so. He called attention to the regional four-year universities and the junior colleges all over the State of Oklahoma from which students who show minimal ability and achievement may transfer to OU and OSU. He said we need to make better use of that three-tier system than we have made in the past and eliminate the wasteful competition among the three tiers.

Regent Kemp next recognized Lori Ann Sharpe, President of The University of Oklahoma Student Association. She first introduced Becky Turnbull, newly elected Chair of Student Congress. She then reviewed the Student Congress resolution concerning higher admissions standards which was adopted on September 27, 1988, a copy of which is shown below:

Title: A Resolution Concerning Higher Admission Standards

Whereas: It is The University of Oklahoma's responsibility to ensure that admitted students are prepared for the academic challenges that are present in OU's learning environment; and,

Whereas: The University has stated in response to the possible raising of admission requirements that "admission standards are a legitimate approach to evaluating whether students are properly qualified to gain the most from the education they are going to receive at a particular institution"; and,

Whereas: The Oklahoma Higher Education Task Force recommended higher admission standards for "comprehensive universities who are restricted to those students who have demonstrated they can work at the university level"; and,

Whereas: Faculty at The University of Oklahoma need to be able to spend a majority of their limited time working with the students who are academically prepared; and,

Whereas: Remedial education at The University of Oklahoma drains our limited educational resources; and,

Whereas: Higher admission requirements would reduce the possibility of repeated courses; and,

Whereas: Approximately 25% of entering Freshmen to The University of Oklahoma do not return for their sophomore year; and,

Whereas: Sixteen percent of these Freshmen do not return because of academic ineligibility; and,

Whereas: The retention rate for freshmen entering the University without a 20 ACT, 3.00 GPA, and top one half of their graduating class is lower than students who do qualify; and,

Whereas: Higher admission requirements will increase the credibility and marketability of the University; and,

Whereas: A score on a standardized test alone will not prevent a potential student entering The University of Oklahoma; and,

November 21, 1988

20722

Whereas: Students with unusual talent and ability (i.e. music, dance, drama, and the like) should be given opportunity to further the pursuits at the University; and,

Whereas: Students from educationally disadvantaged background showing potential for success on a comprehensive university level should not be denied admittance solely on their previous academic achievements; and,

Whereas: The upper one half and 3.00 GPA or 20 ACT admission proposal insures a diverse yet academically prepared student body; and,

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1: The University of Oklahoma Student Association endorses the following proposed changes in admission standards:
A: 20 ACT (or 840 SAT) or
B: 3.00 high school GPA and class ranking in the upper one half.

Section 2: The current exception category of 5% be raised to 7%.

Section 3: The University of Oklahoma Student Association requests that consideration be given to the possibility of a written essay to be incorporated into the admission process in order to better evaluate potential students.

Section 4: Stronger recruitment of minority students be continued in the future.

Section 5: Copies to be sent to:

Governor Henry Bellmon
Interim President David Swank
Provost Joan Wadlow
Dr. Stan Eliason
Dr. Nancy Mergler
Dr. Dave Schrage
Dr. Mel Messer

State Regents
OU Board of Regents
Dr. Gary Cohen
Dr. Jerry Weber
Anona Adair
Mark Borish
OSU President

Author of the Bill: Academic Affairs

Submitted on a motion by: Turnbull

Action taken by Congress: Passed by a vote of 39-1-1

Verified by Chair of Congress: /s/ Randy M. Daniel Date: October 1, 1988

Verified by UOSA President: /s/ Lori Ann Sharpe Date: October 1, 1988

November 21, 1988

20723

Mr. Tom Lewis, fifth year senior, speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Concerned Minority Students presented the following position statement of this group:

Position Statement on Increased Admissions Standards and the Need for A Task Force to Study and Make Recommendations on Enhancement of Minority Participation and Achievement at The University of Oklahoma.

Group Composition and Purpose

The Alliance of Concerned Minority Students is an effort of minority students at The University of Oklahoma (individually, and through the leaders of American ethnic minority student organizations) to express minority student viewpoints on the quality of education at state institutions of higher learning, the availability and accessibility of that education for minority students, and the need and desirability of continued enhancement of minority participation and achievement at state universities.

Our Position Regarding Proposals to Raise OU Admission Standards

We support reasonably strengthened admission standards, as we agree that such increases are a necessary element of long-term efforts to improve the quality of the State educational system, attract new industry to Oklahoma, and provide for a more prosperous future.

We generally support Provost Joan Wadlow's proposal calling for Fall, 1991 implementation of: (1) an ACT minimum score of 20 or GPA of 3.00 and top one-half class ranking, (2) increase of alternative admissions category from 5% to 7%, and (3) a comprehensive effort at the University level that attempts substantively to identify, eliminate and overcome obstacles which have prevented greater minority participation, achievement, and graduation at State colleges and universities.

Caveat

Our serious concern is that this last element of Provost Wadlow's proposal be given the attention and resources needed for the successful enhancement of minority accessibility, opportunity, and achievement.

Specific Recommendations

The State's success at enhancing minority involvement in higher education depends on each school's commitment to institutionalizing the programs and efforts that will overcome or reduce the obstacles to greater minority participation, therefore, we recommend that The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents:

Request that University of Oklahoma Interim President David Swank convene and empower a task force to assess minority recruitment, achievement, and graduation situations at the University, and make specific recommendations of programs, policies, and efforts to remedy or improve these situations.

November 21, 1988

20724

* The task force should consist of key minority and non-minority students, faculty, staff, and administrative representatives.

* The Board of Regents should establish a date by which the work of the group be completed and report (written and oral) presented to the President and the Board of Regents. We suggest March 15, 1989.

/s/ Shezare Crawford, President
Black Student Association

/s/ Diana Elena Morales, President
Hispanic-American Student Association

/s/ Tawana E. Murdock, President
American Indian Student Association

/s/ Vinh Tran, President
Asian-American Student Association

Regent Kemp then asked each member of the Board to express his/her thoughts about admissions standards for The University of Oklahoma.

Regent Lewis said that quality and excellence in education have always been her goal and certainly are at this point. She said what concerns her most about the admissions proposals is the time element and she questioned the speed of moving into higher standards too fast - why must we increase the ACT score one or more each succeeding year? She said we already know that whatever we do is going to affect minorities and women more if it is based so strongly on standardized tests. She said she certainly concurs with what the student body as well as the Alliance of Concerned Minority Students has proposed. She said she also is strongly concerned about who will form the committee to make the decisions on those to be admitted to the University under the exception policy. She said the University needs to commit up front providing opportunities for those students who can succeed with adequate support for practice testing, better preparation in math and science areas, etc. She said she is not encouraging remedial education but just an opportunity in summer programs or whatever. She said she generally supports Provost Wadlow's proposal and the Faculty Senate action.

Regent Noble said he thinks we are doing a disservice to the student and to his/her parents if we admit students that we know have no chance at succeeding or a very small chance of succeeding. He believes we are on the right track. We don't have an open admissions policy now and all we are talking about doing is just gradually upgrading the standards that we now have. He believes this will send a message to the high schools and the elementary schools to have these students better prepared and he thinks that will happen. Whatever policy is adopted, he hopes the State Regents will provide for some period of review in two or three years, for instance, and if the new policy is not working, then it can be changed.

Earlier in the meeting, Regent Gullatt had asked a question about the situation at Kansas where there is an open admissions policy. Their average ACT is slightly higher than the average ACT at OU and the response from Dr. Cohen as to how this is accomplished was that they do a lot of counseling to students that they should not attend the University of Kansas. Regent Gullatt said in bringing that up he wanted to make a very definite point that the admissions standards per se are not going to solve some of the perceived problems that we have. He said he supports the basic concept and has no problem fully supporting it. He said he would like for this Board to recommend to the State Regents that they enact the proposals firmly through 1991, that the matter be readdressed at that time, and formally reaffirmed or readopted. That would force the impact of any changes approved to be evaluated in two years. He believes they should lay out standards past 1991 but with the stated intent that they will be reviewed and reaffirmed if appropriate. He also raised questions about the financial impact on OU if indeed the number of students enrolled declines as a result of increasing the admissions standards. He also called attention to the fact that the number of high school graduates will decline through the early 1990s. He said he fully supports the standards through 1991 but has a little problem with the later proposals. He thinks the top one third is too restrictive. He would like to see it somewhere around 40%.

Regent Sarratt said he has tried to analyze the information he has received to the best of his ability. He called attention to the fact that some decisions made by people serving in public life are fairly easy but decisions faced by University Regents are not easy. He believes the choices pit one value - excellence - against another value - responsibility. He said the decision on the admissions standards will shape the nature of this University for the foreseeable future; the action taken is an extremely important point. He said it is suggested that we strive as an institution for excellence and he has absolutely no qualms about that. Every administrator that OU has ever had has set excellence as a goal. He said excellence is a broad word and without definition means little or nothing. He called attention to the many excellent achievements at The University of Oklahoma over the years and cited a number from Sooner Achievements. He expressed concerns about all having the same information and said there is confusion about what is being discussed. He suggested a decision will be made without everyone coming from the same data base. Regent Sarratt expressed concern about the students who, under the proposed policies, might not be able to attend the University who have been saving and planning for it. He suggested all students should be given an opportunity; they might be motivated to make it at the University. He said the students don't come here with excellence but they come here to get excellence. He also expressed concern about moving too fast on increasing the standards and expressed a desire for all the data. Regent Sarratt said he is a friend of excellence but a servant of responsibility.

Regent White asked Provost Wadlow to outline the recommendations of the Task Force which she did. Regent White said he appreciated the thoughts and attitudes expressed by UOSA and by the Alliance of Concerned Minority Students and by the faculty in dealing with this issue. He said he agrees with parts of what all of the Regents have said and also with what the students and

faculty have stated. He believes there is some question about how fast the University should move with all of this. Regent White said that regardless of what is recommended that OU needs to have some type of strong statement from the State Regents and possibly some members of the Legislature that if there is intent to accomplish these goals there will be a commitment for financial support in case the numbers do drop. Regent White expressed a number of concerns about raising the requirements but said he thinks they need to be raised to the extent that we can continue to convince the better students to come here. He agreed strongly with the suggestion of Mr. Lewis that a Task Force should be assembled so that programs can be developed and students are guaranteed a chance for graduation and a chance for success. He said just letting them in under the exception rule is not helping the students. He also agreed with the suggestion that a review take place in 1991.

Regent Hogan said much thought and effort has gone into the admissions standards proposal and she expressed appreciation for the presentations of the faculty and the students and said she agrees with the minority students' suggestion that a Task Force be established. She expressed agreement with the foreign language requirement in 1994 and hoped that the requirement could remain firm, as did several of the Regents, so that the high schools and junior high schools would have an opportunity to implement their programs and the students would have the expectation that it will be required. She said she completely endorses the policy proposed but agrees that the State Regents should be asked to review it after 1991 and that this Board should review it in 1991 so that questions such as -- are we doing the right kind of job, are we helping every student achieve, are we not cutting off anybody, are those with the potential to achieve but making a low test score being given every opportunity -- can be examined. She believes the increase in the exception category is extremely important and felt that it might even be increased more.

Regent Kemp asked Interim President Swank to present his point of view. Dr. Swank said he, too, is proud of the University and he commended Regent Sarratt for his support for scholarships at the University and his support for the honors program. He said it is his belief that the University needs to go forward with what it is doing, particularly the efforts with regard to the scholarships and the honors program. He said he has tried to propose increases in the admissions standards that are very gradual and he presented his recommendation as follows:

1. Admission policy for first-time entering freshmen at The University of Oklahoma:

Fall 1989:	19 ACT or 3.0 GPA or top half of class	5% exception
Fall 1990:	20 ACT or 3.0 GPA or top half of class	5% exception
Fall 1991:	20 ACT or 3.0 GPA and top half of class	6% exception
Fall 1992:	21 ACT or 3.0 GPA and top half of class	7% exception
Fall 1993:	22 ACT or 3.0 GPA and top third of class	8% exception
Fall 1994:	22 ACT or 3.0 GPA and top third of class	8% exception

and two years of a single foreign language

2. Admission policy for transfer students:

Fall 1991: Minimum GPA of 2.0

Fall 1992: Minimum GPA of 2.25

3. That in Fall 1989 and Fall 1990 the admissions standards be reviewed by the State Regents to determine the impact on enrollment and quality of entering students at the University.
4. That in the Fall 1991 the State Regents hold public hearings to reconsider these standards after reviewing the impact of the standards upon the enrollment and quality of the entering students and to reimplement the proposed standards for the years 1992, 1993, and 1994, if appropriate.
5. That the State Regents for Higher Education be encouraged to evaluate their curricular requirements to determine if additional changes should be made over the next three to four years.

He said the proposed policy for raising the University's admission standards incrementally over the next six years will ensure that more of our students -- freshmen and transfers -- are prepared to succeed academically at OU; that is, stay in school and eventually graduate. The implementation timetable allows Oklahoma students and schools time to adjust to the new standards. And, through the proposed alternative admission procedures, the University will be able to sustain its progress toward increased minority enrollment and continue to allow adults/older students to return for their degrees.

Dr. Swank said the present high school curricular requirements mandated by the State Regents for admission into colleges and universities would continue with the addition in Fall 1994 of a foreign language requirement of two years of the same language in high school. As of Fall 1988, students seeking admission to colleges and universities in the State System must complete 11 required units -- four in English, three in mathematics, two in laboratory science, and two in history -- through high school coursework. In addition to these requirements, four units in the following subjects -- computer science, foreign language, speech, economics, geography, government, psychology or sociology -- are recommended for college preparation. Two years of one foreign language is strongly recommended.

He presented the following information which elaborates on the rationale for the proposed admissions policy and then addresses the alternative admissions policy, including what is commonly called the "exception" category:

First, it is important to stress that a score on a standardized test alone will not prevent a student from entering OU. This is because the proposed admissions policy provides separate tracks for admission to OU.

Three tracks for regular admission -- ACT score, or high school GPA, or high school class rank -- would be available to students in Fall 1989 or Fall 1990. Currently, OU requires a minimum ACT score of 18, or a 3.0 GPA or rank in the upper half of the high school graduating class. In Fall 1989, the State Regents will require a minimum ACT test score of 19 for OU and Oklahoma State University -- and the first year of OU's proposed admissions policy reflects this new State-mandated requirement. In Fall 1990, OU's proposed admissions policy recommends increasing the minimum ACT test score required to a 20.

In Fall 1991, OU's proposed admissions policy calls for the implementation of two tracks for regular admission -- one requires a minimum ACT of 20 and the other track requires a minimum high school GPA of 3.0 and ranking in the top one-half of the high school class. In Fall 1992, the proposed policy calls for increasing the minimum ACT score to 21. In Fall 1993, the proposed admissions policy would require a minimum ACT of 22 or 3.0 GPA and ranking in the top one-third of the high school class. In Fall 1994, the curricular requirement of two years of a single foreign language in high school would be added to OU's performance requirements.

The possibility of being admitted to OU by meeting standards that are not linked to standardized test scores is desirable because of the considerable documentation showing that standardized test scores systematically under-predict the future academic performance of women and minorities. Beginning in Fall 1991, the proposed policy also calls for linking both rank and grades in high school under one track; this is desirable because using both ameliorates inequities of one or the other that might arise in differences between high school programs.

In preparing the recommended changes in OU's admissions policy, Dr. Swank said a number of studies were conducted, including ones that examine college performance in relation to ACT scores and high school scholastic performance. Longitudinal retention studies of the University's first-time freshmen indicate that a student's ACT score appears to be the most significant factor of retention. Students with ACT composite scores of 19 and above perform better, stay longer, and are more likely to graduate than students with lower ACT scores. This finding is important because OU's retention and graduation rates are among the lowest of our peer institutions, and OU's graduation rate is at the very bottom of the Big Eight.

A Summary Report on the Impact of Proposed Admission Standards on Enrollment, Student Retention, and Graduation was distributed to the Regents, as well as a summary on the impact of various admission requirements.

Dr. Swank said studies also show that some students with ACT scores below 19 can survive academically, but barely so because they are very close to probation. A longitudinal retention study of aggregated Fall 1979-81 freshman classes detailing OU's retention and graduation rate by ACT scores was distributed.

He said an additional finding in the various studies that have been conducted is a rising trend in the ACT scores of minority students admitted to OU over the past several years. This gives us reason to believe that many more minority students than at present will be meeting the proposed increased ACT score requirements by their implementation dates under the proposed new admissions policy.

He said the graduation implementation timetable is an important part of the proposed admissions policy. Under the proposed policy, only the minimum ACT score increases in Fall 1989 and Fall 1990. The other two tracks of admission -- 3.0 GPA or upper half class rank -- remain the same as present in Fall 1989 and Fall 1990. Students have nearly their entire high school careers to prepare for the Fall 1991 admissions policy linking the GPA/class rank requirements. And, they have almost five years to prepare for the Fall 1993 requirement of an ACT of 22 or 3.0 GPA and upper one-third class rank.

He said the 1994 date for implementing the language requirement allows ample opportunity for students and schools to take appropriate steps to prepare. In discussing this important curricular requirement, which will help ensure that Oklahoma students are better prepared for the global society where they will spend their adult lives, the following points are important:

1. If the policy is officially approved during this academic year, 1988-89, schools would have nearly two full years, 1988-89 and 1989-90, to consider options that could be implemented in 1990-91. Students entering high school in Fall of 1991 would therefore have their entire high school career to take foreign languages prior to Fall 1994 when the OU foreign language requirement becomes effective.
2. Studies revealed that the majority of students admitted to OU over the past several years have already taken two years of a single foreign language in high school. This came as a surprise to many people. In fact, the percentage of entering freshmen in the Fall of 1988 who had already taken two years of a single foreign language in high school was 63.9 percent; this represented a big jump from two years ago, the Fall of 1986, when the percentage was 52.8 percent. Clearly, more and more students in recent years have been completing two years of foreign language in high school. This trend is expected to continue. In addition, many Oklahoma students throughout the State now take foreign language through telecommunication courses.

Another component of the proposed policy calls for a minimum 2.0 grade point average for each transfer student in Fall 1991 and a minimum 2.25 GPA for transfer students in Fall 1992. At present, OU uses a sliding scale with the required GPA depending upon the number of hours being transferred.

Consequently, some transfer students are admitted with less than a 2.0 GPA. Transfer students, like new freshmen, should have demonstrated that they have the potential for academic success at OU. This is particularly important because the performance of transfer students at OU is lower than students who began their studies at OU, and many students who currently transfer to OU do not perform as well academically here as compared to their previous institution. For example, junior college students transferred to OU in the Fall of 1987 with an average 2.87 GPA from their previous institution and earned an average GPA of 2.35 at the end of their first semester at OU, or .52 lower. Transfers from four-year institutions to OU in the Fall of 1987 had an average GPA of 2.66; at the end of their first semester at OU the average GPA of these students was 2.53, or .13 lower. The new transfer admissions policy would help ensure more satisfactory demonstration of capacity by potential transfer students to succeed at a comprehensive research university like OU.

Dr. Swank said alternative admission procedures, including the one commonly referred to as the "exception" category and the Summer Admissions Option, are another important component of the proposed admissions policy. The "exception" category at OU has never been filled and, moreover, it has been used for a wide range of admissions; it is not dominated by any category of students. Since OU has never fully used this category, studies suggest that a policy admitting five percent of the freshman class by exception accommodates students who have potential for academic success but who do not qualify under the normal tracks for admission.

Nonetheless, it is technically possible that the five percent limit on this category in the future might prevent admission of some students with potential for success. And, it appears that there is a perception at present that stricter admission standards at OU might reduce opportunities for academically talented minorities. Perceptions are important at a time when OU has made a commitment in its Strategy for Excellence for greater cultural diversity, including the recruitment and retention of more faculty, staff and students from under-represented minorities.

Therefore, he said the proposed admissions policy includes a recommendation to increase this alternative admission route for up to 6 percent of the freshman class in Fall 1991, 7 percent of the freshman class in Fall 1992, and 8 percent of the freshman class in Fall 1993. These slight increases would be large enough to admit students with special talents and under-represented minorities who have the academic potential to succeed at OU. The President or his/her designee will administer the alternative admissions program. Policies and practices in administering this alternative admissions track, including its size, should be regularly monitored and revised as conditions warrant.

The present institutional practice of the Summer Admissions Option for students not meeting performance and/or curricular requirements must be continued and expanded. Some students, who do not meet the regular admission standards or qualify for the exception category, may believe they can compete at the University level. In order to provide an option for these students to prove their academic potential a Summer Admissions Option Program should be

permitted. Students wishing to qualify for admission under this option would take six hours of course work in required core curriculum subjects during a summer term. If a student passed both courses with at least a C grade, that student would be admitted on probation to the University the following fall semester. If the student made satisfactory progress during the first semester, the probationary status would be dropped.

Dr. Swank said OU also must continue to provide alternative admission opportunities for adults/older students and continually monitor and revise these policies as necessary. Currently, adults/older students not meeting OU's admissions performance standards can be admitted by successfully completing the Summer Admissions Option or under the exception category. OU's Bachelor of Liberal Studies program requires applicants to complete a narrative application and submit three essays for the College of Liberal Studies Admission Committee's review. OU must continue to serve the needs of this growing category of adults/older students.

In conjunction with the proposed admissions policy, the University must continue to expand appropriate academic support and financial aid programs to enhance the quality of education at OU.

Dr. Swank said he believes these proposed admissions policies will continue to improve The University of Oklahoma as a comprehensive research university, enroll more students with the preparation required to succeed academically at OU, and provide time for Oklahoma students and schools to prepare for the new requirements.

Dr. Swank proposed that the Regents leave to the President or the President's designees the exception category. He said he has asked Provost Wadlow to start looking at how that can be managed and later in the meeting she addressed the studies now taking place on this issue. He believes the ultimate responsibility should be with the President because the President is answerable to this Board very directly. Dr. Swank said he is concerned about minority students particularly and he thinks we are not doing enough. He said the recommendation made by Mr. Lewis for a Task Force is appropriate and that OU is not doing enough at this time to recruit and retain minority students. "If we are going to have a diverse student body at this institution, we have to work harder at that, harder at hiring more minority faculty, harder at increasing the number of faculty so that our students can have a better student/faculty ratio and so that they can receive better training here." He said those are secondary issues and we have to start someplace. He believes increasing the admissions standards is a good place to start.

Earlier in the meeting, there was reference and brief discussion about the financial resources if the increased admissions standards did indeed reduce the enrollment at the University. Dr. Swank said he has discussed this with one or two of the State Regents and they are cognizant of a possible financial problem and have indicated they will adjust the financial resources to accommodate a change. Dr. Swank said he thinks this is a question that has to be asked directly of the State Regents.

The Regents discussed at length the proposal submitted by Interim President Swank with several proposing various modifications in his proposal.

Regent White also brought up the UOSA suggestion for an essay and this was addressed in some depth with Becky Turnbull, Chair of Student Congress, explaining further the rationale of the students for suggesting such an essay. Dr. Cohen also addressed this issue.

Following the discussion, Regent Noble moved that the Board of Regents recommend that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education adopt the admissions standards for The University of Oklahoma as proposed by Interim President Swank with the changes just discussed, which would also include the summer option program, and further recommend that these proposals be firmly established through 1991 and then must be readopted for 1992 through 1994 with the further understanding the foreign language requirement proposed for 1994 will remain in effect regardless of whether the other proposed standards are readopted. During the discussion of the motion, Tom Lewis suggested that the alternative admission percentage for the year 1991 be increased to 7% from 6% and Regent Noble was in agreement that that be included in his motion.

The motion to be voted on, therefore, was as follows:

1. Admission policy for first-time entering freshmen at The University of Oklahoma:

Fall 1989:	19 ACT or 3.0 GPA or top half of class	5% alternative admissions
Fall 1990:	20 ACT or 3.0 GPA or top half of class	5% alt. adm.
Fall 1991:	20 ACT or 3.0 GPA and top half of class	7% alt. adm.
Fall 1992:	21 ACT or 3.0 GPA and top half of class	7% alt. adm.
Fall 1993:	22 ACT or 3.0 GPA and top 2/5 of class	8% alt. adm.
Fall 1994:	22 ACT or 3.0 GPA and top third of class	8% alt. adm.
	and two years of a single foreign language	

2. Admission policy for transfer students:

Fall 1991:	Minimum GPA of 2.0
Fall 1992:	Minimum GPA of 2.25
Fall 1993:	Minimum GPA of 2.5

3. That in the Fall 1989 and the Fall 1990 the admissions standards be reviewed by the State Regents to determine the impact of the standards on finances as well as enrollment and the quality of entering students at the University.
4. That in the Fall 1991 the State Regents hold public hearings to reconsider these standards after reviewing the impact upon the enrollment and quality of the entering students and must readopt the proposed standards for the years 1992, 1993, and 1994, if appropriate.

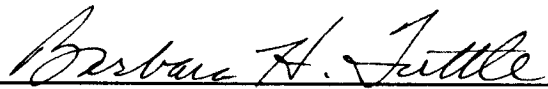
November 21, 1988

20733

On the vote on the motion, the following voted yes: Regents Kemp, White, Hogan, Lewis, Noble, and Gullatt. Regent Sarratt abstained until he can address the data base.

It was agreed that the Task Force proposed by the Alliance of Concerned Minority Students and Interim President Swank's number five recommendation regarding curricular requirements would be addressed at the December Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



Barbara H. Tuttle
Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents