

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS  
OCTOBER 3, 1981

A special meeting of the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma was held in Dining Room 6 of the Oklahoma Memorial Union on the Norman Campus of the University on Saturday, October 3, 1981 beginning at 10:12 a.m.

Notice of the time, date, and place of this meeting was submitted to the Secretary of State as required by Enrolled House Bill 1416 (1977 Oklahoma Legislature).

The following were present: Regent Dee A. Replogle, Jr., President of the Board, presiding; Regents Charles E. Engleman, Dan Little, Tom McCurdy, and John M. Imel.

Absent: Regents Ronald H. White and Julian J. Rothbaum.

The following also were present: Dr. William S. Banowsky, President of The University, Provost John R. Morris, Vice Presidents David Burr, Arthur J. Elbert, Jack Stout and R. Gerald Turner, and Barbara H. James, Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents.

Regent Replogle commented that in July (p. 16591) the Board took an action concerning site selection for the proposed Energy Center Building. "The Energy Center is of a size and a magnitude and a contemplative quality which I think reflects the aspirations which all of us have for the University. It is the single most important academic event since I have been on the Board and, I believe, in the recent past of the University. Because of its importance and the desire on the part of the Board to remove any doubt concerning any aspects of it, it was decided that we should hold a special meeting of the Board to review past actions concerning the site selection and to invite discussion from concerned friends and neighbors of the University."

Regent Replogle asked if there were interested individuals who would like to speak and address the Board concerning the site for the Energy Center Building. Because of some time limitations, he asked that remarks be limited to five minutes per speaker and that the remarks not be redundant.

The first individual recognized was Norman Hammon, City Councilmember representing Ward 7 in the City of Norman. He began his remarks by indicating on behalf of his associates in the neighborhood associations that they were attending the meeting under protest. He referred to his letter dated October 2 to the Board of Regents in which he protested the format of this special meeting.

Mr. Hammon indicated that he opposes the site selection for this building, but he made it clear that he does not in any way oppose the concept of the Energy Center or of achieving academic excellence for the University.

Mr. Hammon expressed his concerns and elaborated on them as follows:

1. A lack of planning.
2. The impact on the community as far as destruction of a neighborhood is concerned.
3. The reduction of housing available in the City of Norman.
4. Traffic problems.

In response to questions from a Regent, Mr. Hammon indicated he spoke as a Councilmember but not as a representative of the Norman City Council.

Mary Jackson was recognized and introduced herself as a member of the City of Norman Complan Task Force and President of the Faerie Queene Lane Neighborhood Association. Ms. Jackson's concern primarily was that the University ignored the provisions of Norman's Complan when the site location was determined.

The next speaker was Gary Dart, a graduate of The University of Oklahoma with degrees in government and law. Mr. Dart said he is co-chairman of the C.D.B.G. Policy Committee, a committee of Norman citizens and various representatives of neighborhood associations who present recommendations to the City Council regarding federal funding to revitalize the neighborhoods, and a member of the University Neighborhood Association. He commented that a large amount of federal funds had been used in the area north of the area planned for the Energy Center Building. He expressed concern about the effect of the location of this building on the neighborhoods surrounding the University and particularly the method of acquiring the property. He asked that, if the University is ultimately going to exercise the power of the people of the State of Oklahoma, that the University do it wisely.

The next speaker was John Bedford, President of the Larsh University Neighborhood Association. He expressed concerns as a neighborhood leader who has worked for the revitalization of the neighborhoods. He also expressed concerns about the decision-making procedures at the University and about due process.

The next speaker was Paul Bell, President of the Lions Park Neighborhood Association and a faculty member in the Department of Zoology at the University. He expressed concerns about the location of the Energy Center Building from the standpoint of the community and the quality of life in the community. He is of the opinion an alternative location within the core of the campus can be found for the Energy Center Building and for expansion for the College of Engineering. He encouraged the Regents to reconsider the site location and at least postpone the decision until there is more time for a discussion.

The next speaker was Carl Jahnke, President of the Second State Neighborhood Association, which is the neighborhood directly affected by the acquisition for the Energy Center Building. He stated that his neighborhood association does not oppose the construction of the Energy Center Building and they do not question the needs of the College of Engineering as expressed to them by Dean Jischke at a meeting on September 28. He presented considerable information on the desirability of a site for the Energy Center Building within the current confines of the University campus and the construction of a parking garage which would take up less land than ground parking. He asked that the Regents defer a decision on the location of the Energy Center Building for at least a month.

The next speaker was Lauren Miller, a homeowner just north of the site proposed for the Energy Center Building. She asked the Regents to view the video tape of the discussion that was held between neighborhood representatives and the University administration on September 28. She suggested that another site for the Energy Center Building be selected within the confines of the current campus.

The next speaker was Stanley Grossman, a partner in the consulting engineering firm of Grossman and Keith Engineering Company, Norman. Mr. Grossman expressed concerns about the procedures of the University in the selection of this site and also about the need for a project as large as the one contemplated. He asked the Regents to delay a site selection until a more objective evaluation of need can be made.

After Mr. Hammon summed up for the neighborhood association representatives, Regent Replogle asked for a response from the administration.

Provost Morris responded as follows:

"Mr. President, I think that the academic rationale of the Energy Center has not seriously been questioned. Indeed, it has been supported by most of the speakers except Mr. Grossman, who has a characteristic distaste for brick and mortar but a very strong desire for academic excellence. Those two go together. You have all heard me speak about the acute academic space shortage we have on this campus now. In an area in which we are trying to build, the only way we can attract the nationally outstanding scholars that we need, the scientists and engineers, is by having the laboratories, the facilities, the equipment that points out where we're heading and what we intend to do with regard to the College of Geosciences, the College of Engineering, and the Energy Center. The very rationale for looking at the Engineering area for building the Energy Center is research, not just instruction. Instruction is important but research is the future in this area; we are building a research center. Many of the questions facing us in the whole energy area are going to be settled by a technology that does not now exist and that technology will come out of an interaction between the engineering disciplines and the basic sciences in this area. That is imperative to this whole development, and I don't think anyone seriously questions that.

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"I am currently officed in a building that is 70 years old. To build a project of this magnitude we must think of what this campus is going to be in the year 2,025 or even 70 years from now. We can't think of next month or next year or two years from now; we must think of the kind of future that is facing us, of what is going to happen in the area of electronics and engineering and hydrology, in our research in water, in our research in weather, in our research in energy.

"Nobody hates any more than I the kind of distress that people have who have to be displaced for this kind of a location. If that were a vacant lot standing over there now, there would be no question in anybody's mind that the future is best served by putting the Energy Center Building there; it facilitates our growth of the Engineering complex, it makes room for future developments in this area beyond those things that we can now see. But we are faced with a human problem and I think that we have to weigh that human problem against the future and against the future development of the University in what undoubtedly is going to be the most important focus of our academic growth in the years to come."

Dr. Morris also commented that there is one difficulty with the location as planned and that difficulty is getting students to the building. He said it will be particularly a burden on the lower division students who have classes in that area because of the diversity of their schedules and where they must go throughout the campus. He said, however, we will need to accommodate the lower division students. We are building a research complex which is going to accommodate professional programs and graduate study. The lower division students can be accommodated, as they currently are throughout the campus, in appropriately designed classrooms that need not be part of the Energy Center. He said this will be addressed as we move further into development of the project, but he said he cannot see any of the alternative sites that best accommodates the academic development of the programs we are so interested in as the one that has been chosen.

Vice President Elbert then discussed in some detail the costs and problems associated with the other sites proposed by those making presentations today. He talked about the necessity of reserving the space near the Engineering buildings for expansion of the College of Engineering.

President Banowsky said the site south of Gould Hall was originally his choice for the Energy Center Building and he planned to recommend that to the Board and it was announced as the site for the Energy Center, perhaps as much as a year ago, because it is the traditional base of geology and geophysics and it was individuals in that area who were encouraging us to move in the direction of this kind of internationally important energy center. President Banowsky said it was then that the weakness of the Gould Hall site began to attract widespread campus criticism. He said he was very slow to admit that the criticism was justified and that a complete reevaluation of all possible locations was necessary. President Banowsky said he is absolutely convinced that the decision which he recommended last summer to this Board and the one

he is recommending now is not only the best decision but the only right option which the University has available to it. He said that conclusion is drawn on strictly academic reasons; it was the academic community who caused the administrators to see that we were about to make a mistake in forever separating the College of Engineering, which is one of our nationally strong programs, from the Energy Center. We now do over 50% of all the Energy instruction and research at The University of Oklahoma in the College of Engineering.

President Banowsky expressed deep concern about the problems with our neighbors in the selection of this site. He said, however, the decision is being made because it is the absolutely essential decision to make academically. He said, "The decisions we have to make are not only the expedient decisions that appear to be best at this moment, but we have a profound obligation to those who have been here through the years as well as to all of those who will come on into the next century. We regard this as the best opportunity we have for our University to gain widespread attention academically; that has been the theme of our administration." He said the University will do everything which is humanly possible to be fair and to be overly fair to all of the home owners concerned; whatever we can do to minimize the unpleasantness we will do.

#### PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

Regent Replogle said the following information on the matter under consideration had been presented:

In order to provide (1) an adequate site for the Energy Center Building, (2) area for related parking facilities, and (3) space for the expansion of recreation fields the University needs to undertake a land acquisition program. Authorization is requested to acquire all of the land located east of Carson Engineering Center bordered by Jenkins Avenue, Boyd Street, Trout Street and University Place for the Energy Center site. Funds for this land may be obtained from both public and private sources identified for the Energy Center Building project.

Authorization is also needed to purchase a two-thirds acre of property located near the northeast corner of Jenkins Avenue and Timberdell Road which is for sale at a price of \$40,000. This land is bounded on two sides by property already owned by the University. At the request of the University, the University Foundation will purchase this property with the agreement that the University will repay the Foundation for the purchase costs plus interest during the 1982 Fiscal Year. The purchase costs and interest will be funded by Section 13/New College Funds.

President Banowsky recommended that the Board of Regents authorize (1) the University to proceed with the purchase of land for the Energy Center site, (2) the purchase through the University Foundation of a two-thirds acre of property near the intersection of Jenkins Avenue and Timberdell Road, and

(3) that \$40,000 plus interest of Section 13/New College Funds be identified as the source of funds to be paid to the University Foundation for the purchase of the land near Jenkins Avenue and Timberdell Road.

Regent Imel moved approval of President Banowsky's recommendation. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Replogle, Engleman, Little, McCurdy, and Imel. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

#### FRED JONES, JR., MEMORIAL ART CENTER MECHANICAL SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS

Work has been completed on the Fred Jones, Jr., Art Center mechanical systems improvements. A final inspection has been completed by representatives of the University and the contractor and a punch list of incomplete items has been prepared.

President Banowsky recommended that the Board of Regents accept the Fred Jones, Jr., Art Center mechanical systems improvements project as complete and that final payment be made to Wynn Construction Company, Incorporated following the completion of all punch list items.

Regent Engleman moved approval of the recommendation. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Replogle, Engleman, Little, McCurdy, and Imel. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

#### NUCLEAR ENGINEERING LABORATORY BUILDING RENOVATION

Work has been completed for a \$230,000 renovation project in the Nuclear Engineering Laboratory Building by the Department of Physical Plant. This renovation is the second part of a phased program to provide improved facilities and services for Personnel Services and the College of Engineering.

President Banowsky recommended that the Board of Regents accept the Nuclear Engineering Laboratory Building Renovation project as complete.

Regent McCurdy moved approval of the recommendation. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Replogle, Engleman, Little, McCurdy, and Imel. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

#### OCCE FORUM BUILDING CARPET

Bentley's Carpets of Oklahoma City, the contractor, has completed the installation of carpet in a series of seminar rooms, auditoriums and offices in the OCCE Forum Building. The contract amount for this project is \$78,096.

Inspections have been made during the installation by representatives of Architectural and Engineering Services, OCCE, and Bentley's Carpets. With the exception of minor punch list items, the work is complete.

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President Banowsky recommended that the Board of Regents accept the NUCE Forum Building carpet project as complete and that final payment be made to Bentley's Carpets upon completion of all remaining punch list items.

Regent Engleman moved approval of the recommendation. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Replogle, Engleman, Little, McCurdy, and Imel. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

#### NAME FOR PHARMACY BUILDING


The University of Oklahoma has received a substantial endowment from the estate of Henry D. and Ida Mosier to be used to match State funds in constructing the new College of Pharmacy Building on the Health Sciences Center campus of The University of Oklahoma.

Henry D. Mosier attended The University of Oklahoma from 1908 to 1912 where he starred for the OU track team and graduated with a degree in pharmacy. Mr. Mosier worked as a pharmacist in Edmond for several years before he became a highly successful land developer. Following Mr. Mosier's death in 1966, his widow, Ida, managed his business holdings until her death in 1976.

President Banowsky recommended that the new College of Pharmacy Building be named the Henry and Ida Mosier Pharmacy Building.

Regent McCurdy moved approval of the recommendation. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Replogle, Engleman, Little, McCurdy, and Imel. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

  
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Barbara H. James  
Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents