

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS  
APRIL 30, 2002**

A special meeting of the Board of Regents governing The University of Oklahoma, Cameron University, and Rogers State University was called to order on Tuesday, April 30, 2002 in the Downstairs Seminar Room of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, Oklahoma, at 6:05 p.m.

The following Regents were present: Regent G.T. Blankenship, Vice Chairman of the Board, presiding; Regents Stephen F. Bentley, Christy Everest, Tom Clark and Jon R. Stuart.

Others attending all or a part of the meeting included Joseph Harroz, Jr., General Counsel and Dr. Chris A. Purcell, Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents.

Notice of the time, date, and place of this meeting were submitted to the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted in the Office of the Board of Regents on or before 6:00 p.m. on April 26, 2002, both as required by 25 O.S. 1981, Section 301-314.

**NAMING OF THE LAW CENTER FACILITY**

Since Andrew M. Coats became the dean of the OU College of Law in 1996, the College has experienced dramatic success.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Andrew M. Coats has served as dean of The University of Oklahoma College of Law since 1996;

WHEREAS, during his tenure as dean of the OU College of Law, the College of Law has made unparalleled progress and has secured a place in the top ranks of all U.S. law schools;

WHEREAS, also during his tenure, the size of the student body has been reduced from 700 to 500 and the ratio of first-year law students to faculty has been reduced to 16 to 1 to provide more individualized instruction;

WHEREAS, because of his efforts, the 2002 entering class at the College of Law, which includes students from 70 different universities, will have students with grade point averages and LSAT scores among the highest in the nation;

WHEREAS, with only 170 students accepted for the 2002 entering class out of more than 1,000 applicants, the OU College of Law has become among the top law schools in the nation in selectivity ratio;

WHEREAS, since he became dean of the College, more than 90 percent of the law school's students now graduate, pass the bar in Oklahoma as well as other states and have jobs in law-related functions at, or shortly after, graduation, and OU graduates have the highest passage rates on the Oklahoma Bar Examination of any in-state or out-of-state law school;

WHEREAS, during his tenure, endowed faculty positions have increased from four in 1996 to 17, plus six Presidential Professorships in 2002;

WHEREAS, faculty salaries, which were last among Big 12 schools when he became dean in 1996, are now in the top three;

WHEREAS, during his tenure, funds for scholarships have quadrupled and the number of alumni giving to the College has increased threefold;

WHEREAS, the \$19 million renovation and addition to the Law Center includes 80,000 square feet housing the Donald E. Pray Law Library; the state-of-the-art Dick Bell Courtroom and auditorium; the Sneed Lounge, which honors Dean Earl Sneed, and is used for lectures and receptions; the Kerr Lounge for students and faculty; and the William J. Ross Courtyard at the new south side entrance to the Law Center;

WHEREAS, Dean Coats is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of OU who served his country in the U.S. Navy, reaching the rank of lieutenant and, after serving at sea, was adviser to the Republic of China naval forces in Taiwan from 1957 to 1960;

WHEREAS, he returned to OU to attend the College of Law, where he was an editor of the *Oklahoma Law Review*, president of the Student Bar Association and was elected to the Order of the Coif; and served as Dean Sneed's research assistant;

WHEREAS, in 1962 he was honored by the Oklahoma Bar Association as the outstanding law student in the State of Oklahoma and was selected by Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity as the outstanding law graduate of 1963;

WHEREAS, he served as the district attorney of Oklahoma County from 1976 to 1980 and as mayor of Oklahoma City from 1983 to 1987;

WHEREAS, he served as president of the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1992, and national president of the American College of Trial Lawyers from 1996 to 1997;

WHEREAS, the OU College of Law named him the outstanding lawyer in Oklahoma in 1977;

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Crowe & Dunlevy law firm from 1963 to 1976 and from 1980 to 1996 and as the firm's president from 1987 to 1988;

WHEREAS, he was the charter president of the American Board of Trial Advocates in Oklahoma and is a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers;

WHEREAS, he was selected in 1995 as a trustee of the United States Supreme Court Historical Society;

WHEREAS, it is proper for The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents to follow historic precedent in the naming of the new building, such precedent having been set in 1914 when the Regents named the new law building Monnet Hall after the outstanding incumbent dean who had championed its construction; and

WHEREAS, the current outstanding dean, Andrew Coats, has led the effort to construct the new home for the College of Law;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, in profound appreciation for his outstanding leadership, unwavering commitment, notable service and many contributions that have enhanced the quality of education and work environment of the students, faculty and staff of The University of Oklahoma College of Law, the Regents of The University of Oklahoma unanimously approve President David Boren's recommendation to name the building housing The University of Oklahoma College of Law and the Oklahoma Law Center "Andrew M. Coats Hall" on this thirtieth day of April, two thousand and two.

[This is an exception to the Policy for Names of Campus Facilities: No facility on the campus shall be given a specific name, except by vote of the Board of Regents, other than that which designates the type of work done therein; and no facility shall ordinarily be named after individuals who are members of the active faculty or staff of the University. (RM, 7-10-62, p. 7139)]

President Boren recommended the Board of Regents approve the above resolution naming The University of Oklahoma Law Center in honor of Andrew M. Coats.

Regent Stuart moved approval of the recommendation. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Bentley, Everest, Clark and Stuart. The Vice Chair declared the motion unanimously approved. Regent Blankenship also noted that Chairman Noble and Regent Austin wished it said that they also supported the recommendation and would have voted yes had they been able to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.



Chris A. Purcell

Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents