

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS
DECEMBER 11, 1992**

A special meeting of the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma was called to order in Lecture Room 299 of the Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library on the Health Sciences Center Campus of the University beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, December 11, 1992.

The following Regents were present: Regent E. Murray Gullatt, Chairman of the Board, presiding; Regents Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, C. S. Lewis III, G. T. Blankenship, Larry C. Brawner, and Melvin C. Hall.

Absent: Regent J. Cooper West.

Others attending all or a part of the meeting included Dr. Don Davis, President of Cameron University, Vice Presidents Louise Brown, Terral McKellips, and Don Sullivan, Fred Gipson, Chief Legal Counsel, and Dr. Chris A. Purcell, Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents.

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 December 10, 1992, both as required by 25 O.S. 1981, Section 301-314.

FOOTBALL PROGRAM AT CAMERON UNIVERSITY

The Cameron administration has determined that it cannot maintain quality in its academic offerings at current and anticipated funding levels and at the same time subsidize a football program costing thousands of dollars. This recommendation is based on lack of support for the football program by the student body and general public, as well as inadequate sources of funding, program expense and impending capital costs.

The recommendation for discontinuance is being made at this time to enable coaches and other personnel to pursue other opportunities and to give the student athletes the earliest possible opportunity to transfer to other institutions. Those student-athletes that do not transfer will continue to receive the same level of support which they have been receiving. An additional factor for taking action at this time is game scheduling which will have a limited impact on other institutions, but nevertheless is a factor.

Funding which has been directed to this budget shortfall will be utilized for academic programs and student services that benefit the entire student body.

President Davis recommended that the intercollegiate football program at Cameron University be discontinued.

President Davis summarized the material which had been sent to the Regents prior to the meeting. This material included an analysis of the football program and the administration's recommendations.

Dr. Davis stated the football program is not viable and it makes good management sense to discontinue it. He said the University does not have any options with respect to other kinds of alliances that make sense. Dr. Davis reviewed the following general financial observations from his report:

1. Little public support exists for the Cameron football program. Season ticket sales and gate receipts were \$32,861 in 1991, and dropped below \$30,000 in 1992. Average attendance at home games dropped from 2,295 in 1990 to 2,021 in 1991, to 1,965 in 1992.
2. Private contributions to the Cameron football program are paltry. Restricted gifts to football were \$6,593 in 1991, and are below \$3,000 for 1992.
3. Athletics budgets are modest, being in line with those of comparable Oklahoma institutions and smaller than other Lone Star Conference schools.
4. Football coaches say they cannot compete in the Lone Star Conference at the current level of funding.
5. Athletics consumes 71 percent of the Student Activity Budget. Students pay \$5.15 per credit hour of enrollment as a Student Activity Fee.
6. Football consumes 40 percent of the athletics allocation of the Student Activity Budget.
7. As the cost of athletics increases, larger allocations must be made from the Student Activity Budget, E & G Budget, or Fee Waiver Allocations (which reduces E & G budget or negatively impacts other recruiting resources).
8. There is growing student dissatisfaction with the amount of the Student Activity Budget that goes to athletics.
9. Other Student Activity Programs are being short-changed because of the cost of football.
10. Other Athletics Programs are being under-funded because of the cost of football.
11. Cameron cannot continue its Athletics Programs at their present level with current sources of funding. Options include increasing Student Activity Fees, diversion of more funds from the E & G Budget, or imposing a new fee on the students at Cameron.
12. Cameron is spending a disproportionate amount of its Athletics Budget for a sport which has become too expensive for the University.

Dr. Davis reviewed necessary capital expenditures which will need to be addressed in the near future as follows:

1. Replacement of artificial turf.
2. Complete renovation of the field house/dressing rooms.
3. Weight training facility.
4. New Press Box.
5. Stadium parking lot repair.

6. Natural turf practice field improvements.

Dr. Davis reported the recommendation to discontinue the football program and the implementation of a Transition Plan are made with the full understanding there are many associated challenges:

A. Achieving Required Budget Cuts Across the University

Discontinuing football will not achieve all anticipated required budget cuts. Several budget cuts and resource reallocations are under review and will be brought to the Board as they mature.

B. Making Proper Provision for Affected Student Athletes and Coaches

Proper provision must be made for student athletes and coaches affected by this recommendation to minimize the impact on the athletic, educational, professional and personal aspects of their lives. The Cameron commitment is contained in the Transition Plan.

C. Developing a Balanced, High-Quality Athletics Program

Elimination of football will relieve university resources of much of the burden of funding too large an athletics program with too few resources. Freed resources must be judiciously reallocated to develop a balanced, high-quality athletics program for both men and women student athletes.

D. Increasing Student Participation in Student Activity Budgeting

Cameron students have been involved only minimally in the development of Student Activity Budgets. With the lion's share of the Student Activity Fee income built into recurring athletic budgets, students have been unable to participate in student activity budgeting decisions. The exclusion of students is inexcusable as a governance concept and violates policies of the Board of Regents. Student participation in the process must be made meaningful.

At the Regents' request, President Davis summarized the Transition Plan and how student athletes will be impacted. He said the keystone of the Plan is to retain the University commitment to any scholarship offer made to any student athlete. Cameron will continue that scholarship support without any requirement except that those student athletes remain full-time students and make satisfactory progress toward an academic degree. There are additional options for students who elect to remain at Cameron including their participation in other sports, participation in wellness programs, intramurals, etc. Plans also include educational experiences for those seeking a career in coaching.

Dr. Davis said counseling and support services will be offered to football team members who remain at Cameron University to assist them in resolving any feeling of anger or failure they may have as a result of the program closure. For student athletes who wish to transfer, assistance will be given in expediting the preparation of necessary documentation. Offices will remain open during the holidays to assist these students.

Also present and given the floor to speak on the proposal to discontinue the Cameron University football program was Mr. John Zelbst, Lawton attorney, a graduate of Cameron and former football player. He discussed the following seven areas of concern:

1. Atmosphere of a small college.
2. Philosophical aspects of the use of student activity fees to support athletic events.
3. Negative impact on the University and the community of the elimination of football.
4. Lack of leadership in reference to financial stability of Cameron football.
5. How to get the football program back on sound financial footing.
6. Why Cameron University football is needed.
7. Discussion of President Davis' report.

Mr. Zelbst said there are many intangible benefits that accrue to the campus and the community from having a football program which must be considered. Strong football helps foster a good public image which in turn helps influence State legislators' opinions of the University. Consequently, both donated and State-appropriated dollars may be affected. Also, student recruitment is affected by a college's athletic program. Using data from other colleges that have discontinued football, Mr. Zelbst discussed how student enrollment will most certainly drop. In addition, he said the positive effect football has on the local retail economy is very important.

Mr. Zelbst said he used the Utah State University model, developed by two Utah State University accountants, which provides standards to follow for determining on a financial basis whether to drop a football program or not. The assumption that if football is eliminated the State-appropriated monies budgeted for that program would become available to bolster other academic and student programs was found by the Utah researchers not to be valid. It is much more complex than that. Mr. Zelbst stated he does not agree with the financial picture as presented in the President's report. Included in his presentation were ideas on how to raise funds and obtain backers for the football program in order to retain it.

Speaking to the Board on behalf of continuing the football program were:

Leanne Brackett, Cameron student
 Rick Jerez, graduate student and a veteran
 Keith Jackson, former City Council member and parent of a Cameron University student
 Cecil Morris, former Cameron University coach
 Jerry Shelton, City Council member speaking on behalf of the Mayor
 Jan O'Malley, Black and Gold President
 Deborah Bailey, Commanche County Health Department employee

Speaking in favor of the elimination of the program were:

Charles Smith, Professor of History and Humanities, Cameron University
 Alfrey Martin, nontraditional student
 Laurie Lee, nontraditional student
 Carla Criss, Secretary of Student Government and a nontraditional student
 Brian Malloy, President of Student Government

Following the speakers, Chairman Gullatt said he, too, is a big fan of college football but the fundamental problem is that Cameron is trying to compete at a level the current funding will not support. The only way Cameron University can compete in football in NCAA Division II is with substantial additional funding which it is obvious is not available. The support as demonstrated by attendance is simply not there, either from the student body or the community. Mr. Gullatt also called attention to the capital projects related to the football facilities which would need to be funded in the near future.

Following comments by Regents, Regent Brawner moved approval of President Davis' recommendation that the Cameron intercollegiate football program be discontinued.

Regent Gullatt said he would like to include in the motion a request that the administration, within the next 90 days, report back to this Board on the feasibility of joining the conference with the so-called compass point colleges. He said he would like to know what the cost of that would be, what the feasibility of that would be. He said just on a gross basis that has to be a lot less expensive than what the current conference arrangement costs. Regent Gullatt asked the Board to entertain that amendment to the motion.

The following voted yes on the motion as amended: Regents Gullatt, Fisher, Lewis, Blankenship, Brawner, and Gullatt. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

ACADEMIC PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Appointments or Reappointments:

Hyunsoon Whang, M.M., Instructor, Department of Music, annual rate of \$22,000 for 9/10 months, effective January 6, 1993, through May 14, 1993. Paid from 11343, Department of Music, pos. F021.

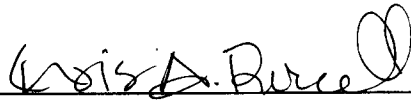
Mary Sue Jackson, appointment as Adjunct Instructor in Music continued at the standard adjunct rate. Mary Sue Jackson is the spouse of Dr. Ted Wendt, Dean of the School of Fine Arts. Written approval of the employment action has been given by the Provost and President, and notice is given to the Board of Regents pursuant to the nepotism policy.

Frank Crosson, nonreappointment as Head Football Coach and Instructor-Temporary.

President Davis recommended approval of the academic personnel actions as shown above.

Regent Lewis moved approval of the recommendation. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Gullatt, Fisher, Lewis, Blankenship, Brawner, and Hall. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.



Chris A. Purcell
Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents