

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS
NOVEMBER 9, 1994**

A special meeting of the Board of Regents governing The University of Oklahoma and Cameron University was called to order in the Board Room of the Foundation Building on the Norman Campus of the University beginning at 2:02 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 1994.

The following Regents were present: Regent E. Murray Gullatt, Chairman of the Board, presiding; Regents G. T. Blankenship, J. Cooper West, Stephen F. Bentley, Melvin C. Hall, Donald B. Halverstadt, M.D., and C. S. Lewis III.

Others attending all or a part of the meeting included Dr. J. R. Morris, Interim President of The University of Oklahoma, Provost James F. Kimpel, Vice Presidents Jerry B. Farley and Mark E. Lemons, Interim Vice Presidents Richard E. Hall and Eddie C. Smith, Mr. Fred Gipson, Chief Legal Counsel, Ms. Beth Wilson, Affirmative Action Officer, and Dr. Chris 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 1:00 p.m. on November 8, 1994, both as required by 25 O.S. 1981, Section 301-314.

CAMPUS PARKING FACILITIES

At 1:00 p.m. Regents Blankenship, West, Bentley, Hall, Halverstadt, and Lewis had met at the Foundation Building for the purpose of taking a tour of the Catlett Music Center site and the surrounding area. Following the tour, the Regents returned to the Foundation Building for the special meeting.

The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss issues related to the construction of a 575-space parking facility that has been recommended to satisfy needs on the northwest side of the Norman Campus.

Notice of the time and place of this meeting, including information on procedures to follow for those community members wishing to speak at the meeting, was printed in *The Norman Transcript*, publicized on campus, distributed door-to-door in the neighborhood, and sent home with students of McKinley School.

An independent consulting firm was hired by The University of Oklahoma to study the entire parking program for the Norman Campus. Data collected indicates that parking in the northwest quadrant of the Campus has been inadequate for several years, and the planned construction of Catlett Music Center Phase II will place additional constraints on this area. One of the suggestions made by the consultants includes the construction of a parking facility to offset the parking congestion for both day and evening functions. Efforts have been made by the University to gather information from residents in the surrounding neighborhoods, and expressed concerns have been relayed to the consultants. Specific concerns regarding traffic flow through the neighborhoods were addressed and reviewed. The consultants determined that a parking facility of this size would not substantially change the traffic in the neighborhood

as long as the University ensures that the following things occur. Ingress and egress to the facility should be located only on Elm Avenue; Cruce Street should be closed to keep the profile of the structure consistent with the existing surrounding buildings and to prohibit circulation into the neighborhood; and a northbound right turn lane be constructed on Elm Avenue at Boyd to facilitate traffic flow and encourage the use of Elm as an arterial road rather than using the surrounding neighborhood streets as is the practice at present.

Vice President Farley gave the following remarks: He said it has been apparent to many people for many years that we do not have ample parking for all people who are interested in visiting or attending the University and it has particularly been a problem in the northwest quadrant of the campus. In that area, there are the fewest opportunities for parking. Primarily, over the years, the University has tried to provide surface parking. It is much less costly to do that, but in that area of campus there is not enough surface to build additional parking spaces. It has been assumed for years that eventually the University would be building parking garages. This problem of parking in the northwest area of campus is going to be intensified with the construction of the second phase of Catlett. Dr. Farley said rather than approaching the problem by just solving that particular problem, the administration looked to develop a master plan for the entire campus and a parking consultant was hired. Barton-Aschman Associates, Inc. developed a master plan and presented several alternatives. Their first working paper presented the extent of the problem, the difficulty of parking on the campus. The second working paper made a recommendation to build a garage on the northwest side of the campus and the best alternative was adjacent to the Catlett lot. There is not adequate space around this area of the campus to build additional surface parking. The only option would be to acquire more land to the west of campus and that was not deemed advisable or beneficial to do at this time. The recommended site to build a garage is on the corner of Cruce and Elm between College and Elm. It is proposed that Elm be the ingress and egress to the garage, that the intersection to Elm and Boyd be improved and that Cruce be closed. All of those measures are an attempt to decline the amount of traffic that might flow into the neighborhood and improve ingress and egress from the campus through that particular intersection. It is also proposed that there be space for 200 cars added at the far southeast part of campus around Jenkins and Lindsey and space for another 100 to the Duck Pond area on the east side of campus to deal primarily with commuter students' parking needs. Those people that utilize parking facilities pay for them. Parking facilities are not being constructed with State funds. In order to finance the parking changes, the surface parking lots, and parking garage, we are proposing an increase to the current user fees. Dr. Farley said the administration recommends spreading an increase in fees over a three-year period. For faculty and staff the increase would be about \$15 annually. For students, about \$13 a year and for evening students \$5. Those fees would generate the revenue necessary to retire the debt on the facility.

The following individuals presented comments to the Board:

Representing the community interests in supporting and promoting Fine Arts were Mr. Chuck Bacon, Mrs. Sue Ann Hyde and Mr. Marion Bauman.

Speakers from the Neighborhood were Professor Ola Fincke, Professor Matthew Kraynak, Mrs. Kay Holladay, Professor Mack Caldwell, Dr. Ed Kessler, Mrs. Terry Bell, Professor Carol Beesley, Terry Risenhoover, Professor James Fife, Ms. Lois Lawler, and Mr. Neil McGuffee.

Those representing University constituencies were Professor Tom Boyd (Norman Campus Faculty Senate), Mr. Scott Martin (University of Oklahoma Student Association), and Ms. Terri Moyer (Norman Campus Staff Senate).

Those people who had requested to speak were allowed three minutes. Objections made to the proposal included the following points:

- There are church parking lots north of Catlett Center which stand empty during daytime hours and could possibly be utilized.
- A need has not been credibly established for this garage. Other alternatives should be looked at again. Could build a parking garage on the Dale Hall lot. The use of surface lots and several small garages is preferable to one large garage.
- Proper study has not been undertaken, the entire neighborhood will be adversely impacted and is being encroached upon. Need a traffic study and other impact studies to realize effect on the neighborhood. Some will have a parking garage in their backyard.
- A concentration of 500 cars is too great and it is not possible to predict traffic flow. The traffic flow increase will affect McKinley School students. Many elementary students walk to school, crossing all streets around campus. Peak times of traffic coincide with McKinley students arriving or departing. Instead of a garage, could increase the amount of street parking.
- This opportunity to express various viewpoints should have happened earlier in the process so there would have been sufficient time for study and deliberation. The Campus Planning Council is charged to represent faculty and University interests in determining structural changes on campus but has not actively participated in reaching those decisions.
- The faculty faces financial stresses associated with a lack of salary raises, changes in State retirement funding and a possible reduction in take-home pay next year and understandably registers considerable apprehension.

Those people who spoke in favor of the proposal made the following points:

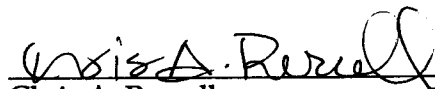
- The various Fine Arts groups support this as necessary for those in the community to come to campus events and find convenient parking available.
- There is no other realistic alternative. This is a well thought out plan. The garage can be landscaped so as to make it attractive and less an eyesore.
- The Norman Campus Staff Senate voted to support the proposed garage. The Student Government encourages building the parking garage. Even if it costs more, it is a good solution to the parking problem.
- Appreciation was expressed to the University for the process, investigation of alternatives, providing an opportunity for input from the various constituencies, and keeping the public informed.

- The parking inadequacy is serious. This proposed garage will benefit elderly and handicapped with convenient access to Fine Arts events.
- The proximity of the garage to Catlett and west side of campus will help eliminate danger to students and others. It is unsafe to walk at night. Also, those attending events in formal wear do not wish to walk far, for instance from the church lots.

Dr. Farley described the study which analyzed the current occupancy of certain parking lots as well as the movements to and from those lots of the people currently parking there. The increase in numbers of people will come from visitors, not faculty, staff or students. The study focused on what the peak periods will be, the flow of traffic and the impact on the neighborhood and McKinley School. In response to a Regent's question, Dr. Farley said there are no plans that indicate any further movement to the west from the sites the University already owns. The University did acquire property on Boyd between College and Chautauqua Streets which was graded off and will be used for staging during construction of Catlett and the parking garage. Later it will become a parking lot for handicapped or special access parking to the Catlett Center. Dr. Farley said the intent is to leave a great deal of green space around Jacobson House. With regard to the possibility of using church lots, the University tried to negotiate with a church for construction site parking during Whitehand Hall construction but the price per space was too high. The church and Ratcliffe's Bookstore are unwilling to sell their parking lots north of Boyd but the University has a standing offer to purchase.

Chairman Gullatt thanked those who came and presented their viewpoints and announced the matter would be considered by the Board at the Regents' meeting on Thursday morning.

There being no further business, the special meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.


Chris A. Purcell
Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents