

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS
AND
THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL
COLLEGES
DECEMBER 11, 1991**

A joint meeting (special meeting) of The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents and the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges was held in Ballrooms A and B of the Waterford Hotel, 6300 Waterford Boulevard, Oklahoma City, beginning at 2:10 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 1991.

The following members of The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents were present: Regent Sarah C. Hogan, Chairman of the Board, Regents Sylvia A. Lewis, E. Murray Gullatt, J. Cooper West, G. T. Blankenship, and C. Victor Williams, M.D. Regent Sam Noble had resigned from the Board of Regents by letter to the Chairman of the Board dated November 22, 1991.

The following members of the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges were present: Regent Jimmie C. Thomas, Chairman of the Board, Regents Isabel Keith Baker, Bruce T. Denbrook, Robert Robbins, Gary Sherrer, and L. E. "Dean" Stringer. Absent: Regents Vernon Breckenridge, Edward Keller, and Carolyn Savage. Dr. Douglas Wilson, Executive Secretary of the Board, was present.

Also present from The University of Oklahoma for all or a part of the meeting were Dr. Richard L. Van Horn, President of the University, Provost Clayton Rich, Interim Provost Richard C. Gipson, Vice Presidents Fred J. Bennett, Arthur J. Elbert, Jerry B. Farley, Daniel J. O'Neil, and Roland M. Smith, Robert P. White, and Barbara H. Tuttle, Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents.

Staff members present from Oklahoma State University included President John Campbell, Provosts Ray Bowen, James Hooper, Robert Klabenes, and Tom Allen, and Vice Presidents Harry Birdwell, Christine Jackson, and Tom Collins.

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 and in the Office of the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges on or before 2:00 p.m. on December 10, 1991, both as required by 25 O.S. 1981, Section 301-314.

This meeting was held as the result of a desire by both Boards to strengthen the relationship of the two comprehensive research universities and to consider current and future cooperative efforts and common challenges, with a focus on 1992 legislative goals. An agenda for the meeting was mailed in advance.

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order and recognized Chairman Hogan for opening comments. Mrs. Hogan said it is a pleasure to welcome everyone to this historic meeting of the two Boards. She said working together OU and OSU can explore methods to improve the quality of academic offerings, use limited funds with greater efficiency and better serve enrolled students and State citizens from border to border. Our students represent the prosperity of Oklahoma's future. Mrs. Hogan introduced each OU Regent and Barbara Tuttle.

Chairman Thomas said this meeting has taken a long time to become a reality and he is glad it has finally happened. He said today we will hear a lot about the three C's - communication, coordination and cooperation. They serve as the theme for this meeting. Mr. Thomas introduced each Board member and Doug Wilson.

Chairman Hogan introduced President Van Horn for opening comments. Dr. Van Horn said The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University are cooperative and at the same time competitive and both of these aspects are very important for the State. He pointed out ways in which we cooperate and compete, such as in recruiting faculty and students and also in the area of research. The two universities have many common goals and interests and each has areas of special strength.

Chairman Hogan introduced President Campbell. Dr. Campbell presented slides with narration on the history of OSU and information on areas such as student enrollment, research funding and improving educational quality. He said OSU is very pleased to be a part of this meeting today.

LEGISLATIVE GOALS

President Campbell introduced Harry Birdwell and Robert White for this presentation. Dr. Birdwell stated the two universities support similar legislative issues and objectives. He discussed the five primary legislative goals which are included in the Joint Resolution proposed for adoption. Dr. Birdwell called on Mr. White, who read the proposed Joint Resolution into the record as follows:

WHEREAS, Oklahoma State University and The University of Oklahoma are the comprehensive research universities within the State System of Higher Education and, as such, are charged with fulfilling the missions of education, research and public service on behalf of State citizens; and,

WHEREAS, institutions of higher education, and particularly the comprehensive universities within the State of Oklahoma, historically have been funded at levels well below the average received by their publicly-supported peer institutions within the Big Eight and Big Ten.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma jointly support efforts to request actions and appropriations from the State Legislature that will accomplish the following goals: (a) the replacement with permanent funds of the allocations specified as one-time monies in the 1991-92 higher education budget; (b) the appropriation of adequate new State funds in the 1992-93 higher education budget; (c) the enactment of a special capital bond issue to meet critical needs for renovation, repair and construction in higher education; (d) the support for the State Regents' plan to reach the average peer group funding; and (e) the continued support for the State Regents Endowment Program, which provides matching funds for private donations to establish endowed chairs and professorships, and the Academic Scholars Program, which provides scholarships to Oklahoma Colleges and universities for the State's brightest high school graduates.

OSU Regent Bruce Benbrook moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The motion was seconded by Regent Gary Sherrer. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Thomas, Baker, Benbrook, Robbins, Sherrer, and Stringer. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

OU Regent Murray Gullatt moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Hogan, Lewis, Gullatt, West, Blankenship, and Williams. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS: ROLES, MISSIONS, COMPLIMENTARY AND DUPLICATION

President Van Horn stated the two universities can coordinate efforts in particular areas and build programs in areas that will have distinction and will enable each school to be competitive nationally. We can target areas that are specialized without duplicating. He said the single most important issue is providing encouragement to both universities to strengthen and extend graduate and research programs with focus and incentives.

President Campbell gave a slide presentation which highlighted the role and mission of OSU. He commented on the importance of the University's agricultural research to the State and also the joint effort with OU on MESONET and weather data that is provided statewide. Dr. Campbell's report highlighted centers of excellence at OSU.

Regent Stringer raised the question of whether it is possible for us to jointly address the problem of duplication and if it is not possible, why not.

Dr. Campbell responded it is possible to get together to discuss duplication and he and President Van Horn have talked on numerous occasions and find there is common thought and agreement on eliminating duplication. One important point is to agree on what is necessary duplication and what is not. Dr. Van Horn agreed that this is a very important issue. Areas need to be

identified and examined very carefully. He said it would be advisable to come together and decide in what areas each university has or would like to have strong programs and use each other's strengths to benefit the State and then look at areas in which OU or OSU should not have programs.

Regent Stringer said his concern is if the two universities do not work together on eliminating duplication, it will be done for us and will be out of our hands.

President Campbell read the following proposed Joint Resolution:

WHEREAS, The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University were created by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890 and today are public universities serving students at the undergraduate and graduate levels; and,

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, empowered by the Constitution of Oklahoma to allocate responsibilities to public institutions of higher education, have designated The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University as the State's comprehensive research universities; and,

WHEREAS, the comprehensive research universities are assigned the missions of providing education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, conducting basic and applied research, and offering public service, including extension study, national and international programs, and the promotion of economic development in Oklahoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma jointly embrace those missions, express confidence in their institutions' ability to fulfill them, and request financial incentives for successful performance in accomplishing those missions, including the creation of an incentive fund to encourage and reward externally-supported research, and an incentive toward increasing efficiency and decreasing duplication of programs through no reduction of State funding when programs are reduced or eliminated.

OU Regent G. T. Blankenship moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Hogan, Lewis, Gullatt, West, Blankenship, and Williams. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

OSU Regent Isabel Baker moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The motion was seconded by Regent Robert Robbins. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Thomas, Baker, Benbrook, Robbins, Sherrer, and Stringer. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

President Campbell asked OSU Provost Ray Bowen and OU Interim Provost Richard Gipson to share their thoughts on this topic.

Dr. Bowen spoke about instructional and educational activities on which the two universities are working together. These activities involve the Colleges of Business and Engineering, the libraries, and others. He said he and Dr. Gipson have met regarding the Master of Economics degree at UCT and this is a good example of the level of cooperation that is characteristic of the two institutions.

Dr. Gipson said OU and OSU do cooperate in all areas of the universities' joint missions of teaching and service. As a matter of policy, at the graduate level no restrictions are placed on the transfer or use of courses taken on any of OU's or OSU's campuses to meet graduate degree requirements. This program has prevented unnecessary duplication of faculty and permits students to broaden their learning experiences by taking courses that are not available to them at their own campus. Dr. Gipson said the next higher level of cooperation will be apparent with regard to UCT. OU and OSU will be working on the concept that by joining forces and pulling from areas of special expertise we can maximize and be more efficient in the delivery of courses.

President Campbell asked the two Vice Presidents for Research for comments.

Dr. Collins gave a brief description of the two universities' cooperation in joint programs, such as MESONET, to compete as one for federal funds.

Dr. O'Neil said Oklahoma is a known competitive State for federal funding. We may have limited resources but we do have the brain power. Externally sponsored research will help both universities attract and keep students. Dr. O'Neil touched on a joint proposal from OU and OSU to combine our schools of architecture.

President Van Horn read the following proposed Joint Resolution:

WHEREAS, The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University are two comprehensive research universities within the State System of Higher Education with roles and missions defined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; and,

WHEREAS, the two comprehensive research universities have many common goals, objectives and challenges in fulfilling their roles and missions, including common missions of education, research and public service; and,

WHEREAS, close and continued cooperation between Oklahoma State University and The University of Oklahoma may enable the universities to better serve the citizens of Oklahoma with high standards for academic accomplishment and efficiency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma jointly pledge to maintain and expand cooperative efforts and the exchange of ideas and information between the comprehensive research universities in the pursuit of their common objectives.

OSU Regent Dean Stringer moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The motion was seconded by Regent Bruce Benbrook. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Thomas, Baker, Benbrook, Robbins, Sherrer, and Stringer. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

OU Regent C. Victor Williams moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Hogan, Lewis, Gullatt, West, Blankenship, and Williams. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT QUALITY

President Van Horn commented the University would like to have students who are capable of taking advantage of the educational experiences that are offered. With admission standards we are trying to match students to the levels of effort and ability that are required by the university in an equitable way. He said there has been discussion on whether increasing admissions standards will improve retention and graduation rates. Looking at the data, we find retention is more than just an academic problem. It is often a financial problem. No one has all the answers so using an experimental approach and trying different processes for selecting students is needed.

Dr. Gipson presented information on how enrollments have changed in the State System since 1986, with projections for enrollments of first-time students in 1994 at OU. He discussed alternative admissions projections and said OU is proposing the State Regents increase alternative admissions from 5% to 10%.

President Campbell called attention to data on the decreasing number of high school graduates. He said OSU subscribes heartily to the efforts that are being put into increasing admissions and increasing the quality of the student body. However, he said there must be continuing dialogue with the State Regents to continue working on the schedule of admissions requirements and to work out some alternatives.

There was some discussion and general agreement by Regents from both universities that the percentage of alternative admissions should be increased even more than 10% in order that many more students might be given the right to try and the right to fail. There was a consensus that OU and OSU must present shared proposals and goals to the State Regents.

President Campbell read the following proposed Joint Resolution:

WHEREAS, Oklahoma State University and The University of Oklahoma are the State of Oklahoma's public comprehensive research universities and their missions include the provision of high-quality undergraduate and graduate education; and,

WHEREAS, Oklahoma State University and The University of Oklahoma support the goals of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in establishing admissions standards to motivate student performance in high school, which, in turn, will help assure well qualified students at the universities and improve graduation rates; and,

WHEREAS, the great majority of students admitted at Oklahoma State University and The University of Oklahoma demonstrate exceptional academic qualifications with almost one-fourth of the students in the freshman class at both schools achieving ACT scores of 27 or above (top 9 percent of Oklahoma test takers), and nearly one-fourth of Fall 1991 freshmen having graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school classes; and,

WHEREAS, to serve all categories of students within the State of Oklahoma, alternative means of accessing admission to the comprehensive universities must be considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regents for Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and The University of Oklahoma jointly support further meetings involving the administrations of OU and OSU and the staff of the State Regents for Higher Education which will cause the analysis of data pertinent to the admission policies in effect and the consideration of revisions which will increase the effectiveness of the policy in addressing the needs of higher education in Oklahoma.

OU Regent Sylvia A. Lewis moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Hogan, Lewis, Gullatt, West, Blankenship, and Williams. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

OSU Regent Gary Sherrer moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The motion was seconded by Regent Isabel Baker. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Thomas, Baker, Benbrook, Robbins, Sherrer, and Stringer. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

FEE WAIVERS

Dr. Van Horn presented briefly the background for the Resolution about to be presented. He said OU and OSU have large graduate populations and it is the tradition in graduate programs, particularly in doctoral programs, that students receive tuition waivers. The State Regents have placed a limit on the amount of tuition waivers. We have no insurance for that limit as it relates to undergraduate education but we are concerned that the particular limit places restrictions on us that are different than the intended restrictions. This Resolution suggests a change in that policy.

President Van Horn presented the following proposed Joint Resolution:

WHEREAS, The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University are public comprehensive research universities with policies on fee waivers set by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Current policy limits total enrollment fee waivers for undergraduate and graduate students, both resident and nonresident, to three percent of Part One of the Educational and General Budget; and,

WHEREAS, a large proportion of available fee waivers at both universities is used to recruit undergraduates, thus curtailing the ability to offer fee waivers in the national recruitment of outstanding graduate students, and, thereby, impedes research productivity and graduate education consistent with an important mission of comprehensive research universities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma jointly support a request to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to permit the awarding of fee waivers for graduate students outside the three percent limit established for resident undergraduate students.

OSU Regent Isabel Baker moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The motion was seconded by Regent Bruce Benbrook. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Thomas, Baker, Benbrook, Robbins, Sherrer, and Stringer. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

OU Regent J. Cooper West moved to adopt the Resolution as read. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Hogan, Lewis, Gullatt, West, Blankenship, and Williams. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

CONSIDERATION OF PLANS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Following comments from both Boards on the value and importance of this type of meeting, OSU Regent Robert Robbins moved that we charge the Presidents and the Chairmen of the Boards of Regents of OSU and OU to cooperate and continue to develop these meetings and have more meetings in the near future. The motion was seconded by Regent Dean Stringer. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Thomas, Baker, Benbrook, Robbins, Sherrer, and Stringer. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

OU Regent G. T. Blankenship also moved that we charge the Presidents and the Chairmen of the Boards of Regents of OU and OSU to cooperate and continue to develop these meetings and have more meetings in the near future. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Hogan, Lewis, Gullatt, West, Blankenship, and Williams. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

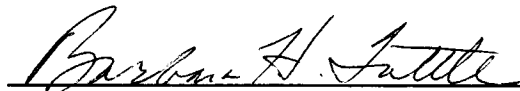
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President Campbell introduced State Senator Bernice Shedrick, who was present for this meeting. He said Senator Shedrick is very serious about the quality of education. She chairs the Senate Education Committee and, along with State Representative Carolyn Thompson, has worked very hard on the endowed chair program, OCAST and funding of scholarships for outstanding students in Oklahoma and has shown in many ways that she means business about the quality of education.

Senator Shedrick was given a round of applause. She said Representative Carolyn Thompson could not attend today but joins in congratulating all of you for coming together today for this historic meeting. She said we are pleased about this meeting and the resolutions and hope that this kind of communication will be continued.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.



Barbara H. Tuccie
Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents