

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF REGENTS
NOVEMBER 22, 1998**

A special meeting of the Board of Regents governing The University of Oklahoma and Cameron University was called to order in the Associates' Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union on the Norman Campus of the University on Sunday, November 22, 1998, beginning at 3:02 p.m.

The following Regents were present: Regent Melvin C. Hall, Chairman of the Board, presiding; Regents Donald B. Halverstadt, M.D., C. S. Lewis III, Mary Jane Noble, G. T. Blankenship, and Stephen F. Bentley.

Absent: Regent Robin Siegfried.

Others attending all or a part of the meeting included Mr. David L. Boren, President of The University of Oklahoma, Mr. Joseph Harroz, Jr., General Counsel, Mr. Joseph Castiglione, Sr., Director of Athletics, 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 3:00 p.m. on November 19, 1998, both as required by 25 O.S. 1981, Section 301-314.

The purpose of this special meeting as stated on the posted agenda was Annual Review and Evaluation of the Performance of Football Coach John Blake and consideration of his employment contract with The University of Oklahoma.

President Boren said Regent Siegfried was unavoidably absent due to a family medical problem and he had expressed his desire that this meeting proceed.

Regent Halverstadt moved the Board meet in executive session to consider personnel issues as stated on the agenda. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Halverstadt, Lewis, Noble, Blankenship, and Bentley. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved. The executive session was held in Room 204 of Evans Hall and began at 3:15 p.m.

The Regents returned to regular session in the Associates' Room in the Oklahoma Memorial Union at 7:03 p.m. Regent Halverstadt moved the special meeting be reconvened in regular session and the following voted yes on the motion: Regents Halverstadt, Lewis, Noble, Blankenship, and Bentley. The Chair declared the motion unanimously approved.

President Boren presented the following recommendation: "Mr. Chairman, following our usual procedure with the agenda, it is the responsibility of the President to recommend agenda items to the Board. Therefore, I recommend that the Board of Regents exercise the University's option under the current contract with the head football coach to create a vacancy in the position of head coach so that the search for a new head football coach may be commenced."

Regent Blankenship moved approval of the recommendation. Chairman Hall opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the Chairman asked the Executive Secretary of the Board to call the roll.

Regent Bentley voted yes, Regent Blankenship voted yes, Regent Noble voted yes.

Regent Lewis made the following statement: "I have something I'd like to say as part of voting and that is I respect this process. I respect my fellow Regents. For those that were not a part of this process, you probably wouldn't believe the amount of soul searching and difficulty this decision has been for all concerned. I must respectfully disagree with the motion and with that recommendation for a lot of reasons, all of which are probably not obvious, but it's my belief that the suggestion to make a change at this time is not the right way to go and I know everyone has really strong feelings of what a fine person John Blake is. I certainly share those feelings and I would have voted to retain John Blake as our football coach and I vote no."

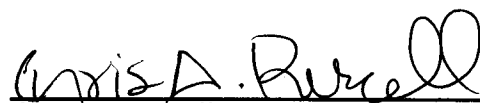
Regent Halverstadt voted yes.

Chairman Hall made the following statement: "I would also like to state that the process that has just taken place is a process that is a democratic process, it is a process in which a lot of issues were discussed and everyone had an opportunity to openly and candidly share their belief. My personal belief on this matter is that we owe a tremendous debt of thanks to John Blake, who during his brief tenure here certainly exhibited a high level of character and a high standard of motivation to motivate his players to galvanize the performance and the commitment to play hard from his players and the hard work that he's put in, I think deserves much better than the decision that the majority of the Board is making today and I disagree very very strongly with the decision. I think that the accomplishments that John Blake has displayed certainly entitled him to complete the remainder of his contract and continue to build his program on the way and the road or path that he has placed it on, but having said that and understanding the, being able to do the math so to speak, I realize that the majority has spoken, but I would like to record my vote of no."

President Boren gave the following comments: "Mr. Chairman, before the Secretary declares the vote, might I make just a brief comment? Mr. Chairman, I presented the recommendation to you. It was a very difficult one to make. This has been a very difficult process for everyone involved and I am simply, as this action is getting ready to be taken, I want to express my admiration for John Blake as a person. It would be a much easier decision if we did not have such great admiration for him as a person. I deeply appreciate his concern and caring for our players and I appreciate the fact that he has brought honor to our University by recruiting young student athletes for this team of exceptionally high personal character representing the best values of our University and this is a wrenching decision for all of us, Mr. Chairman, but as President of the University I want to express even at this difficult moment those feelings of appreciation we have for John Blake as a person."

The Executive Secretary announced the vote: four in favor and two opposed. The motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



Chris A. Purcell
Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents