

JOURNAL OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE  
Special Session, January 9, 1953, 4:10 p.m.  
Monnet Hall, Room 101

The Senate, meeting in special session, was called to order by the Chairman, Dr. Olin L. Browder, Jr.

Present

Bavinger, E. A.  
Bell, R. E.  
Browder, O. L.  
Brown, H. B.  
Bruce, J. B.  
Crook, K. E.  
Fite, G. C.  
Goodman, G. J.  
Hall, R. G.  
Harlow, J. G.  
Herbert, H. H.  
Hollon, W. E.  
Kelly, Ellen  
Leek, J. H.  
Livezey, W. E.  
Marrs, Wyatt  
Mertes, J. E.

Present

Moorhead, M. L.  
Morris, F. C.  
Poston, Lawrence  
Pray, J. C.  
Pritchard, J. P.  
Pugmire, D. R.  
Ragan, W. B.  
Raines, J. M.  
Reese, J. E.  
Scatori, Stephen  
Sears, A. B.  
Springer, C. E.  
Stanley, A. J.  
Wardell, M. L.  
Warren, Mary A.  
Wilcox, S. C.  
Wiley, J. B.

Absent

Cross, G. L.  
Edmondson, V. G.  
Hughes, F. C.  
James, R. V.  
Kelly, Florene C.  
Matlock, J. R.  
Monnett, V. E.  
Peach, W. N.  
Rackley, J. R.  
Self, J. T.

MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE SENATE ON DECEMBER 19, 1952

Explanatory Comment:

On December 19, 1952 the University Senate met in executive session and formal minutes of the proceedings were not recorded. The permanent record of the Senate appears ambiguous without some explanation of what occurred on December 19. Therefore the Chairman of the Senate requested action to make the permanent record understandable.

Senate Action:

Professor Herbert moved that the purpose of the special meeting and the specific action taken on December 19, 1952 be put on record. The motion was approved by the Senate.

Information for the Permanent Record:

## 1. Purpose of the Special Meeting on December 19, 1952:

To consider matters pertaining to the intercollegiate program of athletics at the University of Oklahoma.



2. Resolution Passed at the Special Meeting on December 19, 1952:

A three-man committee of the University Senate, with Dr. S. C. Wilcox as Chairman, shall obtain from President Cross all pertinent information about recent decisions concerning the status of the University in the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The Committee shall then prepare a resolution concerning the athletic program for presentation at a special session of the Senate to be held in January, 1953.

INTERCOLLEGIATE PROGRAM OF ATHLETICS  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Explanatory Comment:

In accordance with action taken at the special session of the Senate on December 19, 1952, a committee consisting of Dr. S. C. Wilcox, Chairman, Dr. J. C. Pray, and Dr. K. E. Crook presented resolutions to be transmitted to President Cross. The letter to President Cross including the resolutions is on pages 4 and 5 of this Journal.

Senate Action:

Dr. Wilcox commented on the resolutions and indicated the procedure by which they were developed. He also indicated the sources from which information was obtained in the process of preparing the letter. Dr. Pray pointed out the problems which the Committee encountered in setting up the form of the resolutions and the letter.

Dr. Wilcox moved that the Senate approve the resolutions and that the letter be transmitted to President Cross. His motion was seconded.

A lengthy discussion of the letter followed the motion by Dr. Wilcox. Several motions were passed regarding minor changes in the wording of the letter. The resolutions and the transmittal of the letter to President Cross were unanimously approved by the Senate.

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Dr. Pray made a motion to refer to the Committee on Academic Standards the following questions:

1. What should be the purpose of the athletic program of the University of Oklahoma and its relationship to educational policy?
2. What action--involving possible changes in policy and organization--should be taken to put into effect such purpose?

The motion made by Dr. Pray was seconded and following a short discussion of its ramifications it was passed by the Senate.

RELATIONSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE  
TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Explanatory Comment:

Dr. Raines raised for discussion the matter of whether or not a committee of the University Senate might be formed to meet in an advisory capacity with the Board of Regents of the University.

Senate Action:

Dr. Raines moved that the matter of a committee being formed to meet with the Board of Regents be referred to the appropriate committee of the Senate. If there is at present no appropriate committee that one be appointed by the Chairman of the Senate. The motion was seconded.

Professor Herbert moved the amendment of the motion by Dr. Raines so that the matter would be referred to the Committee on University Organization, Budget, and Publications. The amendment was seconded and passed.

The motion by Dr. Raines as amended was approved by the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 26, 1953, at 4:10 p.m. Material for the Agenda should be in the office of the Secretary by Tuesday afternoon, January 20.

Gerald A. Porter, Secretary

Telephone: Station 308  
Office: Room 306, Graduate Education Building



January 9, 1953

Dear President Cross:

The University Senate has become deeply concerned over recent decisions regarding athletics. The implications of these decisions so seriously affect the educational welfare and reputation of the whole University that the Senate hopes you will present the following resolutions to the Regents:

FIRST RESOLUTION: The Senate heartily endorses the decision of the Regents to remain in the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association (the Big Seven).

SECOND RESOLUTION: The Senate as strongly endorses the decision of the Regents not to take any action regarding athletics which would endanger the accreditation of the University by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

In addition the Senate hopes you will present the following discussion of these resolutions to the Regents:

The Senate believes that the purpose of an athletic program is the contributions it can make to the educational development of individual students. A sane and balanced intercollegiate athletic program should contribute to this development. Furthermore, as a member of the North Central Association the University must have a program which meets with the Association's approval.

Because general academic accreditation is organized upon a geographical basis, the only agency which can accredit the University of Oklahoma is the North Central. The University should belong to an athletic conference whose rules governing sports competition are in closest possible correspondence with those of the agency to which it must look for accreditation. The Big Seven is such a conference. Membership in an athletic conference outside the area of the North Central Association would force the University to choose between disagreeable alternatives: either observe the rules of the Association and suffer athletic disadvantages, or violate those rules and be investigated and possibly discredited.

President George L. Cross  
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The consequences of disaccreditation would indeed be serious. The professional associations which accredit such subjects as medicine, law, engineering, chemistry, business administration, journalism, architecture, education, and pharmacy would undoubtedly investigate a disaccredited institution with the utmost care. Moreover, transfer credits from the University of Oklahoma would become unacceptable to other universities. Eventually degrees granted by the University of Oklahoma might not even be recognized outside the state, and certainly would lose value within it. All this of course says nothing of the attendant publicity which would damage the fine educational reputation the University of Oklahoma is beginning to enjoy nationally. Upon this reputation depend the keeping of able professors and the acquiring of faculty of merit and standing. And upon the standards of the institution depends the attracting of good students, not to mention the quality of the education they receive. Athletic and academic programs can and should mutually benefit each other because both are a part of the same whole program--the educational effort of the University.

This letter was duly considered and received the unanimous approval of the University Senate at its meeting on January 9, 1953.

Respectfully yours,

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Olin L. Browder, Jr., Chairman

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