

JOURNAL OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
The University of Oklahoma

Special Session -- June 17, 1970 -- 3:10 p. m.
Student Union Building, Room 165

The University Senate was called to order by Dr. Cluff Hopla, Chairman.

<u>Present:</u>	Alley, John N.	Heller, Ben I.	Parker, Jack F.
	Babb, S. E., Jr.	Hilbert, Richard E.	Parr, Arnold
	Christian, Sherril	Hopla, Cluff E.	Pray, Joseph C.
	Ciereszko, Leon S.	Johnson, B. Connor	Shepherd, Gene
	Elconin, Victor A.	Kendall, J. L.	Smouse, A. D.
	Foote, B. L.	Kitts, David B.	Tolson, Melvin B.
	Hall, Rufus	Lancaster, John H.	Weiss, A. Kurt
	Harden, Darrell	Norton, Spencer	White, Raymond R.
	Henderson, George	Olkinetzky, Sam	Zelby, Leon
			Snow, James B.
 <u>Absent:</u>	Abell, Creed	Enis, Thomas	Potter, Emma
	Bowen, Willis	Fite, Gilbert C.	Roller, Duane H.
	Bruce, John B.	Hansen, Robert	Root, Paul
	Deckert, Gordon C.	Hollomon, J. Herbert	Smith, Thomas M.
	Doerr, Arthur H.	Lynn, Thomas, Jr.	Springer, C. E.

Dr. Hopla announced that this special meeting was called at the request of a number of Senators to consider a matter relating to University personnel. Dr. Babb moved that the University Senate go into an executive session. The motion was approved by the Senate with one dissenting vote. Visitors from the University community and representatives of the news media were then excused from the meeting.

UNIVERSITY SENATE RESOLUTION
CONCERNING UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE
AND ADMINISTRATION

In his prefatory remarks, Dr. Hopla called attention to the recent flurry of state-wide press coverage concerning the President of the University and stressed the need to discuss this matter on the basis of the issues and not the personalities involved. During the ensuing discussion that included several unofficial "straw polls," the University Senate approved in separate voice votes, with some opposition in each instance, four separate motions that, for sake of clarity, are presented in the following composite format:

"We note with grave concern recent reports in the news media about personnel matters at the University. In reference to these reports,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

"(1) We commend the firm and impartial leadership of the University administration in the handling of the student demonstrations between May 5 and 12, at a time when imprudent action might have brought disruption to the campus. The example of a number of major institutions should make this clear.

"(2) We reaffirm our support for the constitutional separation of the governance of the University from outside political influence, and we express our continued confidence in the dedication and the integrity of the Oklahoma University Board of Regents.

"(3) We object to any attempt by forces outside the University to exploit legitimate differences between the President and various members of the faculty. We accept these differences as a normal part of any change in the direction of the University and reaffirm our continuing dedication to the progress and the development of the University."

The above resolution includes the following motions by individual members of the University Senate:

Preamble statement: Dr. Harden
Item (1): Dr. Babb
Item (2): Dr. Babb
Item (3), first sentence: Dr. Kitts
 second sentence: Dr. Hilbert

PROPOSED STUDENT CONGRESS JOINT RESOLUTION
CONCERNING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND
UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

In accepting Dr. Babb's motion with some opposition, the University Senate acknowledged receipt as information only of the joint resolution concerning academic freedom and University governance to be presented shortly to the Summer Legislative Council of the Student Congress, without taking any formal action thereon. (See either pages 1 and 2 of the Agenda for this meeting or page 3 of this Journal of the University Senate.)

At 4:12 p. m. , the executive session of the University Senate was concluded and the University Senate was reconvened in open session. At that time, Dr. Hopla made a few prefatory comments to the representatives of the news media present and then called on Dr. Lis to read the complete text of the resolution that had been approved by the University Senate at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment followed at 4:25 p. m.

Anthony S. Lis
Secretary

PROPOSAL TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE SUMMER
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE STUDENT CONGRESS

A JOINT RESOLUTION BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLE OF ACADEMIC
FREEDOM, PARTICULARLY AS IT APPLIES
TO THE GOVERNANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY

- WHEREAS The effective dissemination of knowledge depends upon having a free and unencumbered university, both under the letter and spirit of the law; and
- WHEREAS Political pressures have no place in a University dedicated to the independent pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of that knowledge; and
- WHEREAS All segments of the University Community wish to express their concern over the possibility that the University might be subjected to unfair pressures from outside sources; and
- WHEREAS The recent actions of certain political figures, particularly in an election year, appear extremely dangerous to the constitutional autonomy of the Board of Regents of this University; and
- WHEREAS The Board of Regents of this University are both capable in fact and responsible by charter to deal with all matters of concern to the University; and
- WHEREAS The entire University Community fully supports the concept of academic freedom in all of its ramifications, including that concerned with the governance of the University; and
- WHEREAS The governance of this or any university presents formidable problems growing out of the various constituencies (administrators, faculty, students, staff, legislators, parents, and the public-at-large) served by the President of the University, such problems being in addition to those evolving out of the academic leadership, financial support, management, and research functions which are properly part of the job of University President;
- BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University Community deplores any attempt by certain political figures to unduly influence, control, or affect segments of this University, which segments include all facets of academic life, public and private of members of the University Community; governance of the University, which properly devolves on the Board of Regents of this University, and the President and his appointed staff; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Community wishes to insist on the principles of academic freedom, as outlined above, and calls upon said political figures to cease and desist such unseemly and unwarranted activities on their part forthwith, and without prejudice towards the University, or any members of its Community.

