

Special session - October 14, 1983 -- 4:30 p.m., Conoco Auditorium,  
Doris W. Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Memorial Library.

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Dr. Robert A. Ford, Chair.

Present:

Atherton	Ford	Howard	Lis	Sandefur
Beesley	Gollahalli	Karriker	Love	Smith
Benham	Goodman	Kleine	Mills	Sonleitner
Black	Grant	Knapp	Murphy	Tharp
Canter	Green	Kutner	Nicewander	Uno
Christian	Gross	Larson	Pflaum	Whitely
Cozad	Harrington	Lehr	Reynolds	Whitmore
DuMont	Hauser	Levy		

Provost's office representative: Ray

PSA representative: Corcos

UOSA representative: Stanhope

GSA representatives: Baldwin Larson

Liaison, AAUP: Turkington

Absent:

Bredeson	Davis	Hengst	Nuttall	Seaberg
Catlin	Hawley	Inman	Schmitz	Stevens
Conner	Hayes	Magrath		

PSA representatives: Boehme Guyer Powers  
Cowen Morrison

UOSA representatives: Albert Rodriguez

Liaison, Women's Caucus: Cleaver

Liaison, ABP: Butler

Invited guest: Dr. William S. Banowsky, President.

Distinguished visitors:

Provost J. R. Morris	Vice President David Burr
Vice President R. Gerald Turner	Vice President Anona Adair
Vice President Arthur Elbert	Dean Martin C. Jischke

(Secretary's note: In accordance with precedent, absences from special meetings of the Senate are not counted in the attendance records of Senators. However, Senate members have the privilege of utilizing their attendance at the special meeting on October 14, 1983, to offset an absence from a regular meeting during the 1983-84 academic year.)

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Before introducing President William S. Banowsky, the Senate Chair noted that during the recent Senate "small group" evening sessions, the University budget crisis was an overriding concern of the faculty.

Furthermore, a number of faculty members, including Senate members, urged the Senate officers to call a special Senate meeting to allow President Banowsky an opportunity to apprise the faculty of the budget situation, as well as the administration's plans for dealing with the impending budgetary crisis.

Accordingly, this special meeting of the Senate was called and President Banowsky was invited to address this group. He accepted the invitation promptly and graciously.

#### REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM S. BANOWSKY

In his informal, 42-minute, wide-ranging presentation, President Banowsky reviewed the University budget situation, discussed the prospects for the future, and outlined the administration's plans for dealing with the various aspects of the problem.

In his view, the University budget crisis has three phases. Phase I last year meant a reduction of \$4.3 million in state appropriations to the University. "We received lighter treatment than other state agencies because of the leadership in the House and elsewhere." The University is now entering Phase II, which he termed as a "crisis of quality," with as yet unknown and undisclosed cuts in the 1983-84 budget. Phase III, "the most critical of all," will mean additional and huge cuts in the 1984-85 budget.

On November 14, the Oklahoma Tax Commission will certify the funds that are being collected and will have been collected during October and will indicate how much the State can commit for November. "The good news at this time is that we are one-third of the way through this fiscal year and that the State has paid fully all of its commitments." Shortfalls are expected during the next four months.

The impact of the following frequently mentioned possible shortfalls would be as follows for the Norman campus:

- a \$90-million shortfall = a reduction of \$3.4 million
- a \$75-million shortfall = a reduction of \$2.8 million
- a \$60-million shortfall = a reduction of \$2.25 million

The "optimistic" \$60-million shortfall would result in the following reductions for the Norman campus:

- (1) a 5 percent cut (\$820,000) in general administration in the four non-academic vice presidential areas,
- (2) a 2.15 percent cut (\$1 million) in the administration and the programs in the Provost's area,
- (3) a campuswide "savings" of \$250,000 in utilities and other sources, and
- (4) a \$180,000 cut in the insurance reserve.

The \$75-million shortfall could require all of the above cuts plus three furlough days; a \$90-million shortfall could require all of the cuts plus five furlough days. Each furlough day "captures" \$230,000 on the Norman campus.

President Banowsky strongly favors utilizing the Norman Budget Council rather than creating a "supergroup" for channeling faculty input. He noted that the Council already represents the faculty, the staff, and the student body on this campus. He urged the faculty to give appropriate input to that group.

In his personal opinion, the \$60-million shortfall is the most likely one; the \$90-million figure is the least likely one.

President Banowsky reported continuing private support. Approximately 1800 Associates are "paying on schedule." Thirty "Founders" have paid \$100,000+ each. "We have lost only 5 or 6 in the oil industry." He added, "So far, not a single faculty member has complained to me about either the Energy Center or the Music Building!"

Professor Whitmore asked how the 1984-85 budget would be "reshaped" if the projected \$250-million shortfall materializes. President Banowsky replied that Senate leaders had recently requested the University administration, as well as other agencies in the state, for a preliminary 1984-85 budget that would reflect a 16-percent cut in the budget. That budget is being submitted to Chancellor Leone who, in turn, may or may not present the document to the legislators. Responding to a follow-up question by Professor Whitmore, President Banowsky felt that any further discussion of this item "would not be very meaningful at this point when we don't know what will happen next month."

Professor Smith asked about the attitudes of the legislators and the state power structure toward higher education "now and in the days to come." President Banowsky was reticent to characterize the 150 members of the State Legislature and the Governor. "We have strong friends. The Governor's record is a proved one. I am genuinely encouraged that a majority of them are concerned about the damage that is occurring." In President Banowsky's view, "It is difficult for the general citizenry to appreciate the mission of a comprehensive, research university. I found that during the years that I have been here. It is probably the same old problem of convincing the general population. I think that this kind of experience becomes a learning experience."

President Banowsky reported that the Tulsa World had sent its entire editorial board to the Norman campus last spring. "A number of very supportive editorials have followed since then."

In conclusion, President Banowsky expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the Senate and also expressed his hope that this meeting was successful from the faculty's point of view. "Before you see concerns on campus build up, please find a way to ring the bell and get our attention."

CONCERNED FACULTY "OPEN LETTER" TO THE PRESIDENT, THE SENATE, AND  
THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

With permission of the Senate Chair, Professor Christian read an "open letter" from an informal group of 30+ concerned faculty members representing several academic areas to President William S. Banowsky, the Faculty Senate, the faculty, and the University community at large. (The full text of the letter appears on page 4 of this Journal.)

President Banowsky acknowledged the letter with thanks. No formal action was taken by the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:31 p.m. The next regular session of the Faculty Senate will be held at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, November 14, 1983, in the Conoco Auditorium, Doris W. Neustadt Wing, Bizzell Memorial Library.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anthony S. Lis*  
Anthony S. Lis  
Professor of Business Administration  
Secretary, Faculty Senate

An open letter to President Banowsky, the Faculty Senate, the faculty, the staff, and the University community at large;

October 14, 1983

We share the deep concern of the University community for the erosion of academic quality that will surely occur in the face of severe budget cuts. We are especially troubled by the effect of such cuts and the actions taken in response to them on the research mission of the University. Short-term cuts are potentially much more damaging to research programs than to the instructional programs, and we are in danger of wiping out the significant gains in research made over the past few years. This is particularly true in relation to our ability to retain the best and brightest of our present research faculty and the future recruitment of quality researchers. The way in which the University responds to the present budget crisis will be very important as regards this issue.

More specifically, we should like to take note of the following points:

(1) Pay cuts will directly influence the morale and the future plans of faculty members, especially those most "mobile."

(2) Cuts in library acquisitions (as opposed to services) can vitally damage research programs by cutting them off from fast-moving research in the world community.

(3) Freezes and cuts in travel further isolate research in a University, which already suffers from geographic isolation.

(4) Lack of even very modest financial support for equipment and supplies can leave a developing research program floundering.

(5) Even the proposal to shorten the work week, while not seriously affecting the teaching program, strikes directly at the research activities, many of which depend on evening and weekend hours. This has already become a significant problem with our present energy-saving efforts.

In response to these concerns, we believe that, in planning to survive the hopefully short-term budget crisis, the highest priority should be to preserve research at the departmental level. We commend President Banowsky for his forthright statement of October 12, 1983, for the emphasis he placed on academic excellence, and for his leadership in informing the people of Oklahoma of the importance of the mission of the University to the future of Oklahoma and in warning of the serious damage that the University may suffer.

We believe that, in planning the budget, the highest priority should be to improve instruction and research at the departmental level. For this reason, we urge the President to search for alternatives to faculty furloughs. Involuntary furloughs would be a direct financial reversal, especially hard on young faculty, and give the appearance of misplaced priorities, especially discouraging to those most dedicated to academic excellence. Once accomplished, furloughs would damage confidence in the University from the scholarly community at large and make it more difficult to recruit good faculty for the future.

We appreciate that further contingency and long-range planning may require evaluation and perhaps elimination of some academic programs. Should this be desirable, we recommend to the President that a task force be appointed from the faculty to advise the administration on funding priorities.

Robert F. Petry, Professor of Physics, and  
 Roger Frech, Professor of Chemistry,  
 on behalf of thirty-plus concerned faculty  
 members on the Norman campus.