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SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
OKLAHOMA CLUB, OKLAHOMA CITY
10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 21, 1948

A special meeting of the Board of Regents was held on Wednesday, January 21, 1948, 10:00 a.m., at the Oklahoma Club, Oklahoma City.

The meeting was called to consider the following items, and such other matters that might come before the Board:

1. Distinguished Service Citations
2. Appointment of Dr. Howard Allen Bennett as Professor of Anesthesiology, effective February 15, 1948

The following Regents were present: Lloyd Noble, President, presiding; Emery, Benedum, McBride, Shepler, White.

President Cross discussed the report of the special committee on Distinguished Service Citations.

Regent Benedum moved, following a discussion, that Dr. Cross be instructed to answer Victor Barnett's letter in the following manner:

"Mr. Victor Barnett
The Tulsa Tribune
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Barnett:

This has reference to your letter of January 13 concerning the work of the University's Distinguished Service Award Committee and the difficulties which the committee has encountered with respect to the initial selections.

The Regents of the University, each member of which has received a carbon copy of your letter, as you know, discussed the matter at length in a meeting which was held in Oklahoma City on January 21. The Regents understood well the problem with which the committee is faced, but were quite reluctant to agree that more than seven individuals should be honored on any one occasion. As a matter of fact, when the proposal was first discussed by the Regents, some members of the Board thought that seven would be too many to recognize at any one time. One member of the Regents thought that three or four would certainly be the maximum.'

This original discussion was recalled at the meeting on January 21 and although the Regents took no formal action, I was asked to write to the committee on selections and express, on behalf of the Regents, the hope that the committee would select a number sufficiently small that the recipients would feel that a distinctive honor had been conferred. However, it was recognized that the committee is authorized to select as many as seven.

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I am sorry that what I have said will probably not be of much help to you and the other members of the committee in solving the problem. I hope that the committee will be able to work things out in a manner satisfactory to all of the members.

Cordially yours,

G. L. Cross
President"

The motion was unanimously approved.

The appointment of Dr. Howard Allen Bennett, on which action was deferred at the January 14 meeting, was discussed. The recommendation as originally made was as follows:

That Dr. Howard Allen Bennett be appointed Professor of Anesthesiology, effective February 15, 1948, at an annual salary of \$7,500.00 on a 12-months basis.

The Advisory Board to the Dean of the School of Medicine, at a meeting on December 3, 1947, recommended as follows:

"A full-time Professor of Anesthesiology be appointed with consultation privileges at Will Rogers Hospital and elsewhere after regular hours. Also, that a statement be made that there will be a definite declaration of policy presented for the other departments of the School of Medicine within the next few months."

It was the sense of the Regents that the policy of privileges for consultation should be made more specific and definite, and that arrangements should be made in advance and thus avoid misunderstandings later. Regent White stated he favored the appointment with the understanding that an agreement be made in writing with Dr. Bennett and the Dean, subject to the approval of the President of the University, with reference to the policy on privileges for consultations.

The motion was unanimously approved.

President Cross called attention to his letter to the Regents with reference to the appointment of O. D. Roberts, as Counselor of Men. He stated he would recommend this appointment at the February meeting, and that the letter to the Regents was written in advance as per the previous request that the Regents be given an opportunity to make investigations in advance of appointments to administrative positions.

President Cross asked that the Regents advise him on questions that have come up with reference to the Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher matter, particularly the plan of using our law professors as professors of law of Langston University on a part-time basis. He made no recommendation on this matter.

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After a discussion, Regent Emery moved "that if the President of the University of Oklahoma is requested that part of the law school staff be supplied to the newly created law school of Langston University for instructional purposes that such request be declined upon the ground that it has been found upon investigation that any additional teaching load upon the present law school staff cannot be attempted at the University of Oklahoma Law School or at the Langston University Law School without a loss of necessary operating efficiency.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

Regent Emery moved that the President of the University be authorized and directed to deny the application for admission of Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, now pending, to the Law School of the University of Oklahoma if prior to next Wednesday, January 28, 1948, one of the following events has occurred:

(a) A certificate from the State Regents for Higher Education has been made and delivered to the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma declaring that there has been established and made available to said Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher an opportunity to commence her legal education at a school of law offering advantages for education substantially equal to those offered at the School of Law at the University, or;

(b) There has been delivered to the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma the written opinion of the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma stating that he is of the opinion as such Attorney General that there has been established and made available to said Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher an opportunity to commence her legal education at a school of law offering advantages for education substantially equal to those offered at the School of Law at the University, or;

(c) Without regard to the occurrence of either of the events described in (a) or (b) above, the District Court of Cleveland County, Oklahoma, fails or refuses to issue a writ of mandamus requiring that said application of said Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher be granted without requiring this Board to find whether or not such advantages for education are afforded the said Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the President of the University be authorized and directed to grant the application for admission of Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, now pending, to the Law School of the University of Oklahoma, if prior to next Wednesday, January 28, 1948, neither one of the following events (a) or (b) has occurred:

a. A certificate from the State Regents for Higher Education has been made and delivered to the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma declaring that there has been established and made available to said Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher an opportunity to commence her legal education at a school of law offering advantages for education substantially equal to those offered at the School of Law at the University, or;

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b. There has been delivered to the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma the written opinion of the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma stating that he is of the opinion as such Attorney General that there has been established and made available to said Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher an opportunity to commence her legal education at a school of law offering advantages for education substantially equal to those offered at the School of Law at the University, or;

c. Notwithstanding the occurrence of "a" or "b" above, the District Court of Cleveland County, Oklahoma, issue a writ of mandamus to this Board directing that the application of said Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher for admission to the School of Law of the University of Oklahoma be granted.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the President of the University be authorized and directed to request on behalf of this Board the above-mentioned certificate and opinion; and also request the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma to take immediate and proper steps in the case of Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher vs Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, George L. Cross, et al in the District Court of Cleveland County, for the purpose of procuring an adjudication of the fact as to whether or not Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher has been afforded an opportunity to commence her legal education at a school of law offering advantages for education substantially equal to those afforded at the Law School of the University of Oklahoma.

Regent Emery moved approval of the motion.

On the vote on the motion all members voted AYE, and it was declared unanimously carried.

Regent Benedum moved that a request be made by the University Board of Regents to the Attorney General for advice and procedure to be followed upon any application by a person of African descent for admission to any department of the University.

The motion was unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Emil R. Krauel