A special meeting of The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents was held in Dining Room 2 of the Oklahoma Memorial Union on the Norman Campus of the University on February 21, 1978, beginning at 4:15 p.m.

Notice of time, date, and place of this meeting were submitted to the Secretary of State as required by Enrolled House Bill 1416 (1977 Legislature).

The following were present: Regent Thomas R. Brett, President of the Board, presiding; Regents Richard A. Bell, Dee A. Replogle, Jr., Charles E. Engleman, and Ronald H. White, M.D.


Also present were the following members of the Presidential Search Committee: Eugene Kuntz, Chair; A. J. Kondonassis; David W. Levy; Martin Jischke; David Golden; Donald T. Counihan; Dr. A. N. Vammen; Anona Adair; Peggy Culver; Tim Hightower; Dean A. McGee; and Barry J. Galt.

The following also were present: Dr. Paul F. Sharp, President of the University, and Mrs. Barbara H. James, Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents and Secretary of the Search Committee.

Regent Brett said this special meeting was called for the purpose of meeting with the Presidential Search Committee and giving the charge to the committee. He said, however, that an emergency item had come up just today and he asked the Search Committee members to stand by while this one emergency item was taken care of by the members of the Board.

President Sharp reported Continental Oil Company has a good gas well on the Vincent farm in Logan County (Madge May Vincent Estate). Continental Oil would like to have an easement for a pipeline to the well in order to capture the gas which is now escaping into the countryside. The Continental Oil offer is $20 per rod for a length of 118 rods (total of $1,180.00). The University's interest is an undivided one-half. The other one-half belongs to the First National Bank of Guthrie and they have approved this easement.

President Sharp recommended the Regents approve the granting the right-of-way to Continental Oil Company on the property described as Township 17N, Range 4W, Section 32 in the NE/4 in Logan County, Oklahoma.

Regent Engleman moved approval of the recommendation. The following voted yes on the motion: Regents Brett, Replogle, Engleman, and White. (Regent Bell had stepped out of the room at the time of this vote.) The Chair declared the motion carried.
Regent Brett welcomed the Search Committee members. He said the other Regents and he are very pleased with the quality of those chosen to serve. In order to get everyone acquainted, Regent Brett first introduced the Regents and then introduced each of the voting and non-voting members of the Search Committee. Regent Brett said he would expect the alternates to participate in the search and make their voice heard as the Search Committee sessions proceed. They will vote, however, only when their counterpart voting member is absent.

At this point Regent Brett asked if President Sharp had any words of wisdom for the committee. President Sharp said he attended the meeting at Regent Brett's request to wish the committee every success in the search. He hopes it will be done speedily. President Sharp said he has every confidence the committee is going to identify a number of excellent presidential candidates and will make a good choice for his successor. He wished the committee Godspeed.

Regent Brett said each committee member has in their materials for this committee meeting the Criteria for the Selection of a President which was approved by the University Regents at the meeting on February 16. Regent Brett then read the criteria as follows:

The University of Oklahoma is seeking a President for the University. The President serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the institution. Such a person should possess the exceptional drive and stamina needed to lead a major University. There are certain other personal and professional characteristics deemed preferable.

The next President should be a person who is progressive and sensitive to the changing needs and aspirations of the various groups which comprise the University community and one who will be articulate and effective in expressing these needs to others both within and without the University. The President must be able to see that the rules of the University are enforced and, at the same time, strive to insure free expression and the basic principles of academic freedom.

The next President should understand and be able to articulate the institution in all of its aspects, including but not necessarily limited to academics, financial, social, political, student, faculty, alumni, and public relations. The President should recognize the roles and responsibilities of the Faculty Senates, the University of Oklahoma Student Association, the Employee Executive Council, and the Employee Liaison Council in the governance of the University, in accordance with procedures approved by the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents.

Finally, the President should be a person who is decisive in nature with integrity, dignity, and compassion.

There are certain professional qualifications that are deemed necessary. These qualifications are:

1. an earned advanced degree
2. several years of successful administration in a position involving broad responsibilities, which should but need not include academic administration and teaching in a college faculty.

Regent Brett said there are a few other pertinent observations that the Regents asked that he pass on to the committee and he commented on these as follows:

1. The committee has the freedom to go where it must to find the best person.

2. While the Regents might reject any or all names submitted by the committee and might then request additional "nominees", the Regents do not want to name as President a person who has not been nominated by the Search Committee.

3. The Regents will appreciate receiving from the Search Committee three to five nominees and the Regents would prefer that these not be formally ranked.

4. Any report of Search Committee activities and progress will be made only through the President of the Board of Regents.

5. No member of the committee or immediate relative of a committee member should have an interest in the office of the presidency.

6. The Regents have selected as officers of the Search Committee the following: Eugene Kuntz, Chair; Thomas Brett, Co-Chair; Barbara James, Secretary.

7. The Presidential Search Committee comes under the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. It is contemplated and it is the judgment of University Counsel that the meetings of the Search Committee will be confidential and in Executive Session. In order to protect the integrity of the search, as well as to assure that the search is an extensive one, it is believed that the search process should be confidential. University Counsel has assured that this is within the spirit and intent of the Open Meeting Law.

Dr. Kuntz stated he has been designated as Chair by the Regents and it is his distinct honor to serve with these committee members. He said that all regret that it is necessary to conduct this search at all and that President Sharp has felt it necessary to retire. Since that is the case, however, Dr. Kuntz said he believes everyone will do the best they can.

Regent Brett said a room has been set aside for the Search Committee's deliberations and he suggested the committee proceed with the initial meeting.

The Regents' meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.