One of the most important steps in the history of the University of Oklahoma Association was taken by the Executive Board in a special meeting in April.

Deciding that the time had come for the association to make itself independent of financial ties with the University, the Executive Board rearranged the association's budget in such a way that all University salary aid was eliminated, effective April 1.

"Hereafter no officer or employee of the Association will receive directly or indirectly any salary or compensation of any kind from the University," Earl Foster, president of the Association, explained following the meeting.

Under the new plan, the Association takes over the responsibility of raising $3,700 a year that formerly was contributed by the University to apply on the Association's salary budget. The University had paid part of the salary of the Executive Secretary, and employed the editor of The Sooner Magazine on a part time basis to do work in the Public Relations Department of the University.

As a result of the action taken by the board, the entire salary of the Executive Secretary is paid by the Association, and the Magazine editor also is paid entirely by the Association and will no longer work part-time for the University.

In taking this action, alumni leaders expressed belief that financial independence on the part of the Association would be beneficial both to the University and to the Association since it would permit organized alumni to take an open stand on issues affecting the University.

"The new plan of organization will in no manner affect the continuation of the Association's policy of wholehearted cooperation with the Board of Regents and the University administration in furthering at all times the best interests of the University," Mr. Foster said.

Alumni leaders pointed out that with the Association independent of University salary aid, the organization could act aggressively in behalf of the University without being in the ineffective position of supporting its own source of revenue.

Major Eugene Kerr, of Muskogee, president of the Board of Regents, previously had proposed separation of the alumni association and the University, but had expected that the separation would be a slow and gradual process.

The Alumni Executive Board, deciding that the principle was an important one, decided to go ahead and act on it at once.

Successful operation under the new plan will require considerable enlargement of the Association's membership, and alumni officials started plans for an active membership campaign during the next year.

Several other important matters were acted on at the meeting, which was a joint session of the Alumni Executive Board and the Stadium-Union Board of Trustees.

Completion of negotiations with the federal government for a project to complete the main lounge room in the Union building was authorized, and a federal grant of $1,376 for completing the south wing of the third floor lobby was accepted on the basis of a local contribution of $340. Work on the latter project was due to start in April.

Proposal for the building of a co-operative dormitory for men in the University stadium, with a $4,000 state appropriation and a federal grant was approved. Legislative approval of the state appropriation was believed virtually assured. University Regents approved the plan and the NYA has agreed to provide unskilled labor.

A committee consisting of Frank Cleckler, Oklahoma City; Tom Carey, Oklahoma City; and E. R. Kraetli, Norman, was appointed to study insurance rates on the Union building and the Stadium.

The final list of nominations for members of the Executive Board to be elected this spring was approved. The list follows:

DISTRICT ONE
John R. Pearl, Pawhuska.
Claude Rosenstone, Tulsa.
Moody Tidwell, Miami.

DISTRICT FIVE
Fred Holman, Guthrie.
Coleman Hayes, Oklahoma City.
Dr. Fred Hood, Oklahoma City.

DISTRICT NINE
Mrs. Alice Gable, Norman.
Elton Hunt, Tulsa.
Ralph Miller, Enid.

AY-LARGE
Harry Halley, Tulsa.
Mrs. Wendell Long, Oklahoma City.
H. E. Wrinkle, Bartlesville.
Graham Johnson, Norman.
W. G. Stigler, Stigler.
Don Walker, Ardmore.

One nominee will be elected from each district and two will be elected at large. Ballots were sent out by mail in April.

At an earlier meeting the Executive Board authorized steps toward establishing memorials for Dr. David Ross Boyd, first president of the University, and Dr. James S. Buchanan, popular history professor, who for a time was acting president.

Ex-Editors to convene

A reunion luncheon of former editors of student newspapers at the University will be held Sunday, June 6, as a new event in the June Commencement program for Sooner alumni.

An informal luncheon or dinner session is planned, without any formal program, according to Ted Beaird, Alumni Executive Secretary.

A committee consisting of Joseph Brandt, chairman, Savoie Lottinville and Roscoe Cate, all of Norman, has been appointed to represent the former editors in planning the affair.

Except for a break during the World war, a student newspaper has been published continuously since 1906.

Editors of the semi-weekly Umpire were Earle W. Radcliff, J. Wallace Perry,
Lee Thompson (left) and Maurice Kelley have been elected alumni members of the University chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Each year the chapter customarily elects two alumni from the class that has been out of school ten years. (Details elsewhere on this page.)

Reuben McKitrick (now deceased), C. W. Fowler, William N. Randolph, Lloyd Maxwell, Earl Foster and Orel Busby.

Editors of the semi-weekly University Oklahoman were Earl Christmas, Chester H. Westfall and Willard H. Campbell.


Crider is Tiger coach

Frank Crider, '30, former Sooner football star, has taken over the job as coach of the Norman High School football team. He was formerly at El Reno.

Crider was an all-state high school player at Durant, and starred on the Soon- er football team. He was captain of the O. U. eleven in 1929.

Chosen for Phi Beta Kappa

Two Sooner alumni from the class of 1927 were elected to membership in the University chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, national honorary scholastic society, in the annual election of new members.

The two are Lee B. Thompson, Okla- homa City attorney, and Maurice Kelley, member of the English faculty of Prince- ton University.

W. S. Campbell, associate professor of English in the University and widely known as a writer under the name of Stanley Vestal was elected an honorary member of the chapter. He is not an alumnus of the University.

Mr. Thompson since his graduation from the University has become a well known attorney. He has served as vice-president of the Junior Chamber of Com- merce of America, and as president of the Oklahoma City Junior Chamber of Commerce. He is now a regional officer of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

He was prominent in many student af- fairs while in school. His activities in- cluded Beta Theta Pi, Pe-et, Scabbard and Blade, Clip, Student Council, presi- dent of Freshman Law Class, Publication Board, First Letzeiser Medal, delegate to Midwest Student Conference, Manhattan, Kans., and New Orleans, La., Vice- President of conference, and member of Jazz Hounds.

Mr. Kelley received an A. B. degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1927 and an M. A. degree from the University of Maine in 1929.

He was formerly an instructor in English in West Virginia University and is at present in Princeton where he is on the English faculty and has finished work for a Ph.D. degree.

He has written some distinguished poetry on Oklahoma subjects, and is the author of "Additional Chapters on Thom- as Cooper" which was published in the University of Maine Studies. This mon- ograph was written as his master's thesis and was revised for publication.

Mr. Kelley also wrote for Modern Language Notes an article entitled "Thomas Cooper and Pantisocracy" and he has written several articles on folk and regional subjects. He has contributed to the American Mercury, Folk-Say, Mod- ern Language Notes and other popular and scholarly publications.

Law firms change

Announcements of several changes in law firms involving Sooner alumni have been received at the alumni office.

The firm of Harper and Lee at Tulsa has been dissolved and Gentry Lee, '24 law, is entering the legal department of the Barnsdall Oil Company. The firm will be succeeded by Roscoe E. Harper, attorney, and Fenelon Boesche, '34 law, will continue to be associated with the firm.

Robert L. Cox, '29, '31 law, and Joe Fred Gibson, '30 law, formerly with Mur- rah, Bohannon, Gibson and Savage, have announced the formation of a partnership for the general practice of law as Cox and Gibson at 1015 Petroleum building, Oklahoma City.

Building outlook improves

Hopes for a building appropriation for the University for the 1937-39 biennium brightened in early April as several leaders in the Legislature lent their support to a proposal for a $350,000 Petroleum En- gineering building. It was hoped that an appropriation for this project might bring a federal grant sufficient to build a Ge- ology building also.

A general building appropriation in- cluding the O. U. Petroleum Engineer- ing building was reported favorably to the House.

The Norman Transcript in a front page editorial which was reprinted in many parts of the state argued that a state ap- propriation for a Petroleum Engineering building would be the means of creating new wealth for the state. The editorial said in part:

Oklahoma is rapidly exhausting that portion of its supply of oil which is close enough to the surface to be tapped and drained by drilling and production equipment now in use. Undoub- tedly there is lots more to be found at lower depths, if ways and means can be found to economically explore for it and bring it to the surface.

The oil industry is depending strongly on the School of Petroleum Engineering and the School of Geology at the University to solve this problem. The engineer is counted upon to perfect seismograph instruments which will make a rec- ord of formations at greater depths than holes now are drilled. Then the engineer must de- velop methods and machines to drill at greater depths, at the same time keeping down drilling costs. Geologists are constantly perfecting their methods of finding and surveying oil formations and in co-operation with seismographic work are helping to reduce the gamble in wildcat drilling. These developments not only will greatly in- crease the amount of oil produced in the state; they also will revive oil leasing on countless
acres of land now condemned. It will mean
once more the pouring of millions of dollars in
oil rent into the pockets of farmers and
other oil land owners.

There is a good reason to believe perfecton
of such equipment will bring oil development to
many sections of the state now considered out-
side the area of possible production.

The refinery division of the School of Petrol-
ium Engineering also is training men to de-
velop better lubricants and improved gasoline,
thereby assuring more efficient operation of
automobile, truck, and tractor engines. A sci-
ciental development along such lines by one
graduate of the school that would save each state
motorist even $10 a year would be worth more
than three million dollars a year to the Okla-
ahoma citizenship as a whole.

Certainly every citizen is deeply interested in
seeing the continued production of oil wealth in
the state. Every citizen, and every legislator,
then, should consider this matter of an appropri-
ation for new University buildings on the basis
of its potential worth in furthering the income
of the state and its citizens from oil.

On such a basis, there should be no hesitancy
in making the investment.

Heads commission

Andrew Fraley, '30ex, became chairman of
the State Industrial Commission in
April only a few weeks after his appoint-
ment to the commission. He formerly
was chief clerk of the House of Representa-
tives.

Mr. Fraley succeeded Matt McElroy as
chairman. McElroy remains a member of
the Commission. The Industrial Com-
mission sits as a court to hear damage
claims of injured workmen. Mr. Fraley,
a former Kay County Representative,
was an inspector for the Commission for
about twenty months before resigning to
become chief clerk for the House last
November.

Fraternity dinners held

Several fraternities have had important
dinners at Oklahoma City and Tulsa re-
cently.

Members of the University chapter of
Phi Gamma Delta met with alumni at
the Huckins Hotel in Oklahoma City
for the 20th annual "pig dinner."

A score of O. U. alumni were present.

The party they gave was typically rural,
and guests came attired in a variety of
farm costumes. Bales of hay and fest-
toons of crepe paper flowers decorated
the long room, and one corner was dis-
guised as an old-fashioned country store.

Sooners who were present included Dow
Hamm, Grant Blanchard, Clayton Smith.
Helen Berry Hamm, Bill Johnson, Janet
Stewart Johnson, George Stevens, Tho-
burn Taggart, Howell Cocke, Ruth Bretch
Cocke, Clifton M. Mackey, Alice Hurley
Mackey, Carle Reisle, Jr., Mattie Muldrow
Reisle, Jack Ruble, Hubert Clift, Dolly
DuVall and Josie DuVall.

Bentonelli visits state

Joseph Bentonelli, '20, Metropolitan
Opera singer, came back to Oklahoma in
April in the course of a concert tour over
much of the United States.

His Oklahoma appearances were sched-
uled as follows: April 29, Edmond; April
30, Ada; May 3, Wewoka; May 4, Ok-
mulgee; May 6, Alva; and May 7 Wood-
ward.

Drama association formed

Bill Cape, '34ex, was named chairman
of the constitution committee of the newly
organized Municipal Drama Association
at Oklahoma City. Lillian Forrester, '35,
was one of the committee members.