This Changing Campus

The shifting tone and physical appearance of a state university is a gradual thing, yet the University of Oklahoma will see a number of innovations when students come back to the campus in the fall.

Most important and most evident will be the new building facilities which are being completed during the summer. The Business Administration building will house departments in that college and also several other schools including sociology and perhaps government.

The new Biological Sciences building will be opened (perhaps not until November or December) to botany and zoology.

A new swimming pool, the first men’s pool the University has ever possessed, and the nine-hole golf course will be other completed features.

One of the most interesting changes will be the movement of WNAD, the radio station, to the tower of the Oklahoma Union. Two large studios and the offices for radio directors will be housed in the tower.

An innovation that will prove interesting is the new plan to house freshmen women students in residential halls. No more will freshmen women be allowed to live in private halls.

The plan was proposed by women students themselves, given approval by President Bizzell and then adopted by the board of regents. Freshmen women who do not pledge sororities must live in Hester and Robertson halls under supervision of older students. Study periods and social periods will be directed.

The new plan will do away with the old evil of dumping freshmen women onto the campus and giving them little or no supervision. Excited and enamoured by their first experiences at the University, many freshmen women have been unable to concentrate on studies and the more serious aspects of University life. Many have left at the end of a semester or year, discouraged by their failures.

In Oklahoma City, the University medical school also will be having a new experience. Medical school students will be listening to classroom lectures while oil wells pump outside the window.

Drilling of three oil wells on the property administered by the board of regents was to be started early in July. None of the wells will be within 250 feet of the medical school, University hospital, or Crippled Children’s hospital buildings.

All money from the wells will be administered for the betterment of the University medical school and hospital holdings in Oklahoma City.

One innovation that may prove enlightening is the Norman Forum which was organized by faculty members with Dr. E. Nicholas Comfort, director of the school of religion, as its president.

Nationally known speakers, liberal, conservative, and radical, will be brought to the campus for addresses during the year. Open forums on subjects of current interest will be regular features.

Since Bertrand Russell came to the University several years ago, no speakers of international importance have appeared on the campus. The Norman Forum, comprising faculty members, students, and all Oklahoma residents interested, will attempt to fill this need for outside contact.

The Southwestern Conference on Higher Education last fall brought a number of nationally known figures to the campus for three days, but no constant program of speakers has been maintained.