The Regents

Basic structure of the University was reorganized last month by the Board of Regents with the establishment of an Undergraduate College designed to separate the freshman and sophomore years of college work from professional training. Beginning next fall, all freshmen entering the University are to be required to enrol in the Undergraduate College. During the two-year course in the Undergraduate College, the student may take a general liberal arts curricula leading to a diploma, or he may prepare for entrance into professional schools or other senior colleges of the University.

The regents directed the existing colleges to take steps to conform their curricula to the new plan by the fall of 1945. It was recognized that the change must be made gradually, and that it could not be applied to students now in school.

Joseph P. Blickensderfer, now director of the School of Letters, was appointed by the regents to serve as dean of the new Undergraduate College for a period of five years, beginning July 1.

The regents outlined the objectives of the new plan as follows: "It shall be the function of the Undergraduate College to prepare undergraduates for the professional schools and the various colleges of the University, to prepare curricula through a general division leading to diplomas for such undergraduates as do not plan to take a degree but who do wish a general education as well as a knowledge of certain skills which will enable them to become better citizens as well as to earn a better living.”

President Brandt pointed out several specific advantages of the new plan:

(1) It will insure that students who come to the University primarily to take a professional course will also receive at least two years of general education.

(2) It will insure a better rounded education to students able to attend only two years.

(3) The two years of general study will give a student a much better opportunity to make a wise choice of his life work or profession. Under the present system, freshmen often make choices that they later regret.

(4) The Undergraduate College plan will make the curriculum for the freshman and sophomore years more uniform, thereby eliminating "frills" and securing greater economy and efficiency.

(5) It will prevent freshmen and sophomores from being "kicked around from college to college," and will tend to unify the University's educational program.

(6) It will make possible closer cooperation between the University and the numerous junior colleges of Oklahoma, with the objective of general improvement in the standards of the Oklahoma education.

Adoption of the Undergraduate College plan is probably the most far-reaching innovation put into effect by President Brandt since he came to the University last summer.

The regents approved a carefully worked out plan, presented by President Brandt, for putting the new system into effect by degrees over a period of years. In regard to the immediate problem of meeting the war situation, it was agreed that the Undergraduate College shall offer programs which shall prepare capable men for the armed services in such periods as the secretaries of war and of the navy may indicate as preferable.

Dean Blickensderfer will be executive officer of the new Undergraduate College. The college will be governed by a Board of Delegates consisting of the dean, a secretary elected by the faculty, and a delegate each elected from the social sciences, the natural sciences, the physical sciences, the humanities, the applied sciences, the fine arts, and a delegate-at-large representing all of the professional schools, the latter to be named by the president of the University. After 1945, legislative power of the college will be vested in the faculty of the college.

The general plan includes committees to maintain close liaison between the Undergraduate College and the senior colleges, to insure that students can make the transition from Undergraduate College to a senior college without friction.

President Brandt explained that the Undergraduate College will be part of the regular four-year program, and is not intended to increase the number of years required for a degree. Freshmen may indicate, as in the past, the school or college in which they expect to specialize. The change is that for the first two years their work will be supervised by the Undergraduate College administration. The plan provides for much more adequate study of each individual student's needs to the end that both he and the college in which he plans to work may do a better job.

The Board of Regents in its January meeting also abolished the University's Administrative Council, which is being replaced by the newly-organized Faculty Senate composed of elected representatives from the faculties of the various divisions of the University. The Administrative Council was directed to continue functioning, however, until the School of Medicine could be given representation on the Faculty Senate.

The regents authorized the University Athletic Council to purchase $25,000 worth of defense bonds.

Suggestion of the State Regents for Higher Education that the fall semester this year begin early enough to permit completion of the first semester by Christmas and thus eliminate a long Christmas vacation was approved by the regents. Final decision on the schedule was left to the State Regents board, which is expected to put all state colleges on a uniform schedule.

The regents consolidated the departments of zoology and physiology under the title of department of animal biology, and merged the departments of botany and bacteriology into a single department of
plant sciences, both changes to become effective September 1. The steps were explained as part of a general policy of making the curriculum simpler and more efficient. The name of the Graduate School was changed to Graduate College, a change which does not involve any administrative revisions.

Several faculty personnel matters were acted upon. Lt. Col. Lloyd E. Swearingen, professor of chemistry, was granted a leave of absence effective February 1 in order to become director, at College Station, Texas, of one of the nation’s two chemical warfare sections. He will be succeeded on the faculty by Samuel Glassstone, widely known electrolytic chemist and author and industrial research authority. He has taught at the University of London and the University of Sheffield and holds two doctor’s degrees from the University of London.

Dud Giezentanner, ’39bus, accountant in the comptroller’s office, was granted leave of absence to go on active Army duty. He was a reserve officer.

The appointments made to the Medical School faculty are: Dr. J. William Finch, Hobart, as visiting lecturer; Dr. Alfred Joseph Ackermann, as associate professor in therapeutic radiology, and Dr. Lois Lyon Wells, Oklahoma City, as associate professor of anesthesiology.

Appointment of Theodore H. Smith, professor of marketing at Fenn College, Cleveland, Ohio, since 1935, as professor of marketing, was announced. Mr. Smith is a national authority on the used automobile market. He has degrees from Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio; Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, and Ohio State University, Columbus.

While at Fenn College he served as director of retail forums and was director of five market research projects for the Cleveland Press between 1936 and 1940. He is the author of The Marketing of Used Automobiles. The appointment to the O. U. faculty is effective with the beginning of the second semester. Mr. Smith succeeds Philip C. Albertson, associate professor of economics who died last fall.

The President

In addition to fulfilling his duties as president of the University and attending numerous campus meetings, Joseph A. Brandt, ’21ba, mounted the rostrum some half-dozen times during January to address various state groups.

January 5, comments by President Brandt opened the first of a series of programs over the University’s radio station WOAI entitled “Young University.” The following week, the president journeyed to Tulsa, where he spoke at noon before a Chamber of Commerce meeting. That afternoon he made a talk at the Magic Empire Women’s Forum.

The next day, January 17, Mr. Brandt went to Muskogee where, as executive of the statewide defense organization in Oklahoma, he took part in a civilian defense rally. He is chairman of the state committee on human resources and skills.

More variety was added to the agenda of speaking engagements on January 22, when Mr. Brandt was scheduled as principal speaker at the annual Boy Scout banquet in Oklahoma City, and again on January 23 when he was to address the Oklahoma Press Association convention, also in Oklahoma City.

Four days later, the busy president was to go to southeastern Oklahoma to speak at a Rotary Club luncheon in Hugo and to meet with O. U. alumni in Hugo during the afternoon. February 5, President Brandt is to address the Chamber of Commerce at Sapulpa.

The calendar for February shows that Mr. Brandt is scheduled to speak February 7 at a dinner for all Tulsa teachers, and on February 12 will address the adult education section of the Oklahoma Education Association meeting in Oklahoma City.

Student Life Changes

Outwardly, life on the O. U. campus goes on as usual. But the war has brought far-reaching changes to the student body and probably many more will come that cannot yet be anticipated.

In January there was much talk about enrollment prospects for the second semester. Would there be a tremendous loss of student population due to enlistments, new employment opportunities, and financial difficulties of parents in certain occupations knocked out by the war?

Considering all factors, a substantial decline in enrollment seemed inevitable. Fraternity and sorority houses—particularly the fraternity houses—faced an uncertain future.

The University administration advised students to stay in school and prepare themselves for better service to the nation, pending a call through the selective service system.

"This is a war of machines, men and psychology," President Joseph A. Brandt told a mass meeting of University men in January. "The student must prepare to aid in a total war, utilizing total resources. Machines and materials are more important than men in this war, and it is your job to produce them."

Capt. I. O. Hagen, occupational director of the state draft board, told students to "stay where you are and you will be more valuable to the government, for we must plan a long program for a long war."

Students were urged to study physics, chemistry and mathematics in preparation for production jobs or service with the armed forces.

A representative of the Navy’s public relations office at Oklahoma City explained to the mass meeting how the Navy will accept enlistments of college juniors and seniors now for service after graduation, permitting students to finish work for degrees in certain fields.

Speeding up the education program to meet war needs should not reduce requirements or change curriculum to prevent the student from being ably equipped upon graduation, Homer L. Dodge, dean of the Graduate College advised following a meeting in Washington with the National Advisory Committee on Engineering, Science and Management Defense Training.

Mr. Dodge said that Brig. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, deplored the army enlistment of science and technology students and urged that students with aptitude for engineering, physics, chemistry or production management remain in training as long as possible.

Student social life has changed drastically. Although there is still dancing and entertaining, the psychology has changed completely and there is a desire to avoid needless waste instead of to make a display. Fraternities and sororities have put a rigid ban on decorations for their dances, which in recent years have been quite expensive. Printed bids to dances also have been prohibited as a needless expense. The elaborate annual ball of El Modjii, honorary art society, was canceled in view of the time and expense that could be saved.

Fraternities are fulfilling their contracts with student dance bands for engagements this year, as many musicians counted on this work to get through school, but nick-
eldeons are coming into popularity for dances where bands had not already been engaged.

In accordance with recommendation of student leaders, the University administration last month changed the 1 o'clock "curfew" for women students on Friday nights back to 12 o'clock. The change was made because late hours Friday night appeared to interfere with Saturday morning classwork, and also because of the desire to conserve student time and energy during the war-time emergency.

A faculty-student committee is studying the problem of reducing activities of departmental and honorary clubs on the campus, to conserve student time. Most of such activities probably will be eliminated, or greatly reduced, but it was believed advisable to study the situation before acting since some departmental clubs have been closely tied with classwork.

Also pending is a recommendation that campus libraries and laboratories be kept open for use on Saturdays and Sundays, since many students will be carrying heavier schedules of classwork to speed up their graduation.

One long-enjoyed campus activity became a war casualty last month. All civilian and "pleasure" horseback riding with mounts from the military department stables was prohibited. This order means suspension of women's physical education classes in horseback riding, an end to the University's intercollegiate polo schedule, and probably the end of activities for Timbercruisers, women students' riding club. Non-military use of the horses was prohibited because of anticipated speeding up of the training of R. O. T. C. cadets, Lt. Col. Charles H. Brammell, commandant, explained.

Transcripts in Demand

Active part being taken by University of Oklahoma alumni in various defense activities could be judged last month from the fact that requests for transcripts of University credits were flooding into the registry office at the rate of about three hundred a week.

From all parts of the United States have come requests for transcripts for use of graduates and former students going into the armed forces or defense plants or other similar purposes.

Hundreds come to Norman to get the required information. Others telephone. One transcript involving 160 hours of college credit was dictated over long distance to Oklahoma City. Another phone call about a transcript came from Louisiana.

Although there is a standard charge of 50 cents for preparing a transcript of credits, the University waive fees when the transcript is sought by a former student going into military service or defense work.

Vision for Oklahoma

It took Jerry J. Soukup—a Czechoslovakian-born American who came to this country at the age of 7 and stayed to build an Oklahoma industry with his "own bare hands"—to sum up the University's Institute on Public Affairs held in January.

He remarked to a friend at the first morning session: "Under this roof is as fine a collection of brains as can be found in the country. I wish more Oklahoma people would come to hear these men."

Jerry Soukup well knows the benefits of wise counsel and expert opinion, because there have been times when it could have circumvented some of the hard knocks he encountered in building his own Mountain Park Granite Company to what it is today.

Snow and near-zero temperatures hurt the opening attendance, but by the end of the conference the cumulative attendance reached more than a thousand, and many more thousands of Oklahomans read about the conference discussions in their newspapers.

Through this conference, Oklahoma learned something about how it can utilize its vast resources, and heard warnings about some of the dangers to be avoided. Here is a summary of some of the highlights:

1. Oklahoma and the Southwest, through full utilization of their resources, can very likely outstrip the remainder of the nation in growth.

This optimistic prophecy was made by Professor Warren S. Thompson, director of the Scripps Foundation, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. He qualified his statement with these reservations: The new pipeline from Baton Rouge to the East must be used to ship gasoline rather than crude oil; the oil industry must continue to expand; synthetic rubber must be made from petroleum on a large scale in this area, chemical industries based on sulfur and salt must be developed near the mines, and paper and plastics industries using southern pine as raw materials must increase rapidly. In addition to this, he said, if iron ore and coal of this area could be made usable through new processes to compete with Lake Superior ore and Pennsylvania and West Virginia coal, and if Arkansas bauxite were to be refined into aluminum at or near the mines, then the Southwest might experience a rapid industrial development.

"But as long as the Southwest ships out a large part of its raw materials—crude oil, sulfur, salt, bauxite, cotton and wood pulp—its manufacturing will go ahead slowly and its population will increase only as needed," he warned. "The export of people and raw materials go together.

2. End of the world's fabulous "machine age" is in sight, and the chemical era now moving into view will prove of great importance to the Southwest region.

This vision was presented to the Institute audience by Victor Shoffelmayer, agricultural editor of the Dallas Morning News. Said he: "Chemistry is changing our lives daily. Chemistry is essential to winning the war. I need only mention the rapidly developing plastics industry whose products already compete with steel and iron, copper, wood, glass, cement, natural fibers, and other raw materials."

Furthermore, Mr. Shoffelmayer explained, most of the raw materials which go into products developed through chemistry—in the new process called chemurgy—come from farm crops, trees of the forest, surplus farm products such as sawdust and waste wood, corn cobs, wheat and oats straw, peanut hulls and cotton burrs, waste skim milk and whey, and from special crops grown only for chemical and other industrial uses. The abundance of these materials in the South and Southwest is attracting hundreds of large and small industries to the area.

3. Oklahoma should do more to develop its abundance of mineral resources.

M. M. Leighton, chief of the Illinois Geological Survey, was the Institute speaker who urged Oklahomans to utilize their mineral wealth. Mr. Leighton knows whereof he speaks, as Illinois has reaped a wonderful harvest from its natural resources. He told the Institute audience that the state government should supply increased funds for its geological survey, to hire additional trained men to explore and study native mineral resources, and to
investigate thoroughly their possibilities for further development.

4. There have been remarkable advances in social conditions and democratic government in the last fifty years, and the future holds unbounded promise for human betterment.

The better life was effectively pictured by E. A. Ross, professor emeritus of sociology at the University of Wisconsin, who described the accomplishments of the past half century in developing care, better hours and working conditions for laborers, a vastly enlarged and superior system of private and public schools, in addition to progress in the effectiveness of democratic government. Mr. Ross traced a marked growth in the unity of Americans and predicted better social conditions in the future.

5. There will be a tremendous boom in the post-war era and here again Oklahoma must be ready if it is to enjoy its share of the national prosperity.

Karl Brandt, who as a governmental agricultural economist saw the dark ages set in for Germany, told the Institute audience that he sees a bright future for America, in his new homeland. This nation, he said, will face the job of catching up on back production after the war, and the region which is ready and has the materials ready to produce will be in the vanguard. Inflation and its attendant ills can be avoided through long range planning, he believes.

Warnings sounded by various Institute speakers included:

Work in soil conservation must move swiftly ahead—at far greater speed than at present—if the life of the land is to be saved.

Farm population in this region will continue to decline unless farm mechanization can go forward on a much bigger scale than heretofore.

Inflation must be avoided by whatever steps necessary, probably the price-control system which has been employed effectively thus far.

We must not underestimate German resources and initiative, and we must not rest until we have mobilized our entire assets toward winning the war and the peace that will follow.—FRANCIS STILLEY.

Nation Hears O. U. Music

The University of Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra, directed by Paul Carpenter, last month showed the entire nation a facet of Oklahoma not to be found in such books as Grapes of Wrath.

Playing from WKY's Skirvin Tower Studios in Oklahoma City, the orchestra presented a 30-minute program for the coast-to-coast NBC Red Network. The program replaced the "Music and American Youth" program usually heard over the network at 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

The orchestra played A Night on Bald Mountain, by Moussorgski; the Scherzo Movement from the Third (Unfinished) Symphony by Borodin; and a suite from Le Coq d'Or, by Rimsky-Korsakoff. Spencer Norton, '28ba, chairman of the department of piano, prepared the program notes.

Oldest organization in the College of Fine Arts, the University of Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra was established in 1903 by the late Fredrik Holmberg.

Plates and Politics

Through Oklahoma newspapers last month paraded a cause celebre which for a time threatened to crowd the war for headline space. Frank Carter, state auditor, veteran public office holder and self-styled guardian of the public treasury, started it all when he notified reporters that he was rejecting payment on two claims for furnishings for the home of President Joseph A. Brandt. Out of several thousand dollars worth of purchases authorized by the Board of Regents and the State Board of Affairs to furnish the official president's home when Mr. and Mrs. Brandt moved in last summer, the state auditor picked out two particular items, one for $33.50 for a bedspread and headboard and the other for $70.44 for serving dishes, to criticize as "too extravagant."

The publication of the first story, on Page One of the Sunday Oklahoman, was followed by a furor that lasted for several weeks. The state auditor from time to time picked out other specific items to criticize, but finally withdrew from the field with a suggestion that the regents change the system of granting funds for the maintenance and furnishing of the president's home "so there may be an end to this controversy."

The Sunday Oklahoman, in its first story on the affair, treated it as a serious news story of the Zealous-Public-Servant-Saves-Money-For-Taxpayers variety. Later the Oklahoman, after having stirred up the whirlwind, waxed philosophical about it in an editorial:

No Oklahoma need ever remain ignorant of the fact that a primary campaign is approaching. The signs of the times are unmistakable. As a preliminary to the first formal preliminary the state auditor always disapproves a $30.00 claim and the state commissioner of charity always discovers a leeking pipe in some county jail. All of our quadrennial campaigns open in this wise. Rejecting a $30.00 claim in a year's total of some 30 million dollars may not contribute a vast lot to budget balancing, but it has a whale of a value for political purposes.

With the exception of the Enid News, few state newspapers gave the state auditor any encouragement for his purported economy program. Most of the editorials denounced the affair as "cheap politics."

State Senator Jim Nance, of Purcell, veteran legislator and newspaper publisher, bitterly criticized the Daily Oklahoman for giving a big play to the state auditor's charges of extravagance, especially in view of the fact that the Oklahoman in the past had used harsh words to describe Carter's qualifications for state office. Senator Nance pointed out that it is the responsibility of the Board of Affairs to determine whether the state is getting its money's worth in its purchases.

The Anadarko Daily News, edited by Joe W. McBride, '28bus, member of the University Board of Regents, summed up the incident very neatly in the following editorial:

Isn't it disgusting that a state officer will pick out some prominent man or institution, gather up small items of supposed technicality only in
It seems the state officer, Frank Carter, has mounted the publicity bandwagon that came with Joe Brandt, president of the University of Oklahoma. In order to further his own personal political ends,

Joe Brandt came back to his university with good publicity. Some politicians want to trash the governor and get a share for themselves while Joe is still in the limelight.

Here is the method we estimate Frank Carter used to make news and cash in on the Joe Brandt publicity. Joe Brandt is getting a good play in the press. No doubt Carter thinks: Now if I can get something that will connect my name with Joe Brandt, I too will get publicity. Now I need something that will be on the tightwad, economy order. I need a small item that the ordinary country people of the state will understand. I need something that will make the country people perk up their ears with "what a great boy I am" when it comes to saving the taxpayers money. Boy! What a guardian I am. I'll even make the small town bankers, merchants and professional people think I'm the savior of Oklahoma, in order to further his own personal campaign? Just like leading lambs to the slaughter.

That dear readers is another side of the picture when Frank Carter "saves the taxpayers money." That, dear readers, is how a perennial office seeker is being duped into giving free publicity rides to such politicians. So help us and deliver us from such in the future.

Lloyd Noble, '21, Ardmore, member of the University Board of Regents, declared that any criticism of the furnishing of the president's home should be directed at the Regents, as they authorized the expenditures.

As a matter of fact, the only items purchased for the president's home that seem more elaborates than might be found in any well furnished home in Oklahoma are certain items, such as large serving dishes, that are needed for the very considerable amount of entertaining that must be done in the University's president's home. The Brandts, who preferred to live on a comparatively simple scale at Princeton, were not equipped for large entertaining when they came west, and are the subject of all for being duped into giving free publicity rides to such politicians. So help us and deliver us from such in the future.

That dear readers is another side of the picture when Frank Carter "saves the taxpayers money." That, dear readers, is how a perennial office seeker is being duped into giving free publicity rides to such politicians. So help us and deliver us from such in the future.

Lloyd E. Swearingen, professor of chemistry and a lieutenant colonel in the Officers Reserve Corps, received orders to report for active duty February 1. Subject to passing physical examination, he was slated for assignment to serve at College Station, Texas, as commandant of one of the United States' two chemical warfare sections.

Major Clarence J. Kanaga, who joined the military science faculty at the University in September, 1940, has been assigned to duty at the Luke Field advanced flying school, Phoenix, Arizona.

A striking cover page for a section of the Sunday Oklahoman, illustrating Oklahoma's frightful automobile accident toll for the last year, was designed by Charles Elson, associate professor of drama. Student stage hands built a platform in Holmberg Hall and about two score persons were posed in a semblance of a haphazard heap of accident victims.

Roy Temple House, chairman of the modern languages department and editor of Books Abroad is author of an article in the December 15 issue of the magazine Tomorrow. The article described how Mexico is handing its refugee problem.

Lytle Powell, assistant professor of piano, accepted an invitation to play Tchaikovsky's Concerto in B flat Minor with the Springfield Civic Orchestra, Springfield, Missouri, in late January.

Scores of University faculty members attended meetings of learned societies, associations and scientific organizations during the Christmas holidays. Those scheduled to appear on programs included:

J. Rud Nielsen, Samuel Silver, Oren P. Evans, Charles N. Gould, Stuart L. Schoff, Clyde J. Bollinger, George L. Cross, Milton Hopkins, O. J. Eigsti, Glenn C. Couch, L. B. Hoisington, Charles M. Perry, Gustav Mueller, and Loyd Harris, all of whom were on programs for various sections and affiliated organizations of the American Association for the advancement of Science, which met at Dallas; Oliver E. Benson, American Political Science Association, New York City; Truman Pouncy, American Association of Colleges and Departments of Journalism and American Association of Teachers of Journalism, Des Moines; Joseph Charles C. Walcutt, Modern Language Association and the National Council of English Teachers, Indianapolis; Charles P. Green, William M. Sattler, E. Thayer Curry, Carl Ritzman, National Association of Teachers of Speech, Detroit, Michigan; Lloyd W. Daly, American Philological Association, Hartford, Connecticut; Henry S. Robinson, American Archeological Association, Hartford; Dr. W. A. Fowler, Student Health Association, New York City; Leslie Hewes, Association of American Geographers, New York City.

Dr. N. Brugg, professor of zoology, has been awarded a $116 research grant by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The grant was in recognition of his research on the economic value of toads in the prevention of insect damage to crops.

Edwin W. Reed, formerly of Miami, Florida, has been appointed junior hydraulic engineer for the Oklahoma Geological Survey. Mr. Reed is a graduate of the City College of New York.

Natural Gas Research

Investigation into certain chemical problems of natural gas engineering has been undertaken by the University Research Institute with funds supplied by the Southern Natural Gas Company of Birmingham, Alabama, Homer L. Dodge, director of the institute, announced last month.

The Birmingham company utilizes a 14-inch high pressure pipeline operating at 12,000 pounds pressure per square inch, said to be the highest yet used in gas transmission, and many new problems are arising.

"The project comes to the University as a result of the reputation which the college of engineering has built in the field of natural gas engineering," Dean Dodge said. "Dean Carson of the College of Engineering has given special attention to the development of this branch of engineering which is of such vital importance to Oklahoma and the southwest."

A committee appointed to conduct the research project consists of R. L. Huntington, director of the School of Chemical Engineering, chairman, J. S. Walton, L. S. Reid, J. Rud Nielsen and Bruce Houston, with Mr. Carson and Mr. Dodge as ex-officio members.