

RECOGNITION AND RESOLUTION

The Regents recognize a quartet of outstanding teachers, and the faculty passes a resolution on academic freedom

At the spring meeting of the general faculty, James G. Davidson, president of the Board of Regents, presented the 1967 Regents' Awards for Superior Teaching to Dr. Leon S. Ciereszko, professor of chemistry; Dr. Robert A. Ford, professor of finance; Dr. David B. Kitts, professor of geology and associate professor of the history of science, and Dr. Melvin B. Tolson, assistant professor of modern languages.

Each winner receives a merit salary increase of at least \$500 in the fiscal year following selection, and Davidson sardonically noted that these four may be the only merit raises of the year in light of the financial situation in Oklahoma's colleges and universities (see page 4). In his remarks to the faculty, the first time he had appeared before them since becoming president of the Regents, Davidson emphasized his belief in academic freedom. "After all, all academic freedom does is insure that faculty members and students have the rights and privileges that all other citizens have," he said. "Academic freedom may be abused occasionally by irresponsible actions, though I cannot recall a single instance this has happened at OU, but it is far more important that we do not restrict it. Without it we

have no university." Davidson then introduced each recipient.

The Regents Awards were initiated in 1964 and are made on the basis of nominations from department chairmen. (David Ross Boyd professors are not eligible.) Final selections are made by a committee of Regents. Previous winners by year are: 1964—Dr. Stephen M. Sutherland, professor of geography and assistant dean of University College; Dr. Paul R. David, professor of zoology, and Dr. Alexander J. Kondonassis, professor of economics.

1965—Dr. Max L. Moorhead, professor of history; Miss Eunice Lewis, associate professor of education, and Dr. David P. French, associate professor of English. 1966—Dr. Gail de Stwolinski, professor of music; Dr. Roy R. Male, professor of English; Dr. Elroy L. Rice, professor of botany, and Dr. Lloyd P. Williams, professor of education.

Presiding at the meeting was Dr. William H. Maehl, president of the Faculty Senate, who made a year-end report of the senate's activities for 1966-67. The meeting was also addressed briefly by Dr. Cross, who spoke about the financial crisis in Oklahoma higher education.

The Faculty Resolution on Academic Freedom

The faculty of the University of Oklahoma takes this opportunity to express its faith in the democratic process, in the value of the free mind, and in the historic conception of a university as a community of scholars and students joined together in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. The wisdom of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States in its affirmation of the right of free speech, free choice in religion, free press, and the freedom to petition and peacefully to assemble is beyond dispute. A university by definition is a center of free and critical thought. For serious scholars there is no topic, no question, no problem, no hypothesis outside the realm of examination and analysis. Necessarily the approach to such topics must be objective, critical, open, and tentative. Indoctrination, coercion, and authoritarianism have no place in a genuine university. Open discussion, inquiry, and publication are the heart of its intellectual life. Censorship of men, books, or ideas is in itself a denial of the Bill of Rights as well as a repudiation of the idea of a university.

The substance of this University and all universities has been, is, and will continue to be its faculty. The goals of the University of Oklahoma are centered in the faculty's opportunity and responsibility to teach the arts, sciences,

and socially useful vocations with a maximum emphasis upon student self-determination, self-discipline, and active participation in the rich intellectual and cultural life of man. In addition, the faculty has the inescapable responsibility of advancing knowledge, refining ideas, and encouraging independent thought. For without enlightened independent thought as a principal outcome of education, the idea of self-government has no hope of survival. The enormous burden of the scholar and the social significance of the modern university was well put by Harold Benjamin: "Free men cannot be taught by slaves. Courageous citizens cannot be well educated by scared hired men." However inadequate our effort, we seek to educate students who possess the intelligence, the courage, and the will to govern themselves with prudence and with wisdom.

As men and women dedicated to the life of scholarship and to the freedom of the human personality, we reaffirm our faith in the processes of free discussion and in the historic mission of the university, and express our appreciation to the President of the University, Dr. George Cross, as well as to the Board of Regents, who have demonstrated their commitment to these ideas in this complex, stressful, and precarious period of man's history.