

From the Regents

During the past few months the OU Regents have been working with President Hollomon in an effort to provide increased funds for the University.

In September we passed a resolution which will be presented to the State Regents asking for a unilateral fee increase based on the traditional credit hour concept. We have not suggested an across-the-board increase for all institutions. We associated with the University simply feel that OU's financial plight is of sufficient magnitude to make us willing to stand alone on this issue. In return we ask that the Legislature and the State Regents grant us our regular appropriation from state funds thus making it possible for us to realize an increase in revenue that reflects the full benefit of our fee increase.

The decision to ask for an increase in fees was not arrived at casually. Much discussion, examination of the University's financial picture, consultation with budget officials and real soul searching went into our decision. We realize that by asking for such an increase we are placing an added burden on the people we are here to serve—the students and their parents. This was one of the reasons we chose to make the

increase somewhat less for resident students and those from states contiguous to Oklahoma.

Many alumni no doubt have read of the differing opinions on the state of the University's finances. I am certainly not trying to say that the University is in danger of closing its doors from lack of funds.

The fact remains, however, that just as the average citizen is being affected by inflation, higher education is being affected as well. Although the State of Oklahoma has given us increased appropriations each year, we have not been able to make significant strides forward in the face of continuing inflation throughout the nation.

This is not a problem that is easily solved, as we all know. Yet in all good conscience we who share a deep concern for the welfare of higher education cannot stand by and let outstanding programs slip back into mediocrity. We cannot let top professors be lured away to more affluent institutions. We cannot let our students suffer poor teaching.

Therefore, as those holding fiscal responsibility for the University, the Regents must do everything in their power to see that OU receives the money it needs to operate effectively at all levels. We do not view this as a one-pronged attack on the fee structure, the appropriations methods or the private funds resources. Rather, we are attempting to tap every possible source for all possible dollars to give our very fine student body the best possible educational opportunities.

John M. Houchin

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