

The university investigation

Perhaps the most unusual investigation in the history of American education which was begun by the state senate March 30 at the request of the board of regents ended April 9 with a report by the committee to the senate exonerating certain officers of the university of charges of irregularity.

Alva McDonald, formerly United States marshal, conducted an investigation at the university for a period of six weeks, taking statements from university employes and discharged employes. He presented each of the persons queried with an authorization from Governor Murray, stating that he was acting on behalf of the governor. Towards the close of March, and after the investigation had been in progress for six weeks, it was announced in Oklahoma City that Mr McDonald was making the investigation.

Trunk wires of the United Press and the Associated Press carried March 26 the following prepared statement made by Governor Murray relative to the investigation Mr McDonald had made (the United Press report is the one reproduced here):

My instruction to him was to go to the university and ascertain whether there was bootlegging of liquor, whether there was any immorality going on the campus and whether there was expenditure of money that was in violation of the law. In short, to investigate crime.

I selected McDonald because he has been United States marshal and in politics, had no pro-democratic bias and who understands how to detect criminals from years of experience; and he got a plenty.

We found that the Oklahoma City orchestra had bought instruments that were never used at the university out of the state funds. In fact, I have a letter signed by Dean Holmberg that would convince any persons of the misuse of these funds.

I have facts of one member of the faculty who traveled in various states, Ohio, Indiana, Louisiana, Illinois, and Kansas and padded the expense account, even on simple things as railroad fares.

In one instance, where there was not a possibility of eating more than one meal, there was charged up \$7.50 for food. This party knows that we know and offered McDonald to return the money, even to resign.

Many thousands of dollars has been stolen by these methods and the truth is clear and convincing.

In addition, flagrant cases of immorality exist. Certainly, I would not be doing my duty, to parents of this state, who send sons and daughters to that institution, some of whom make the complaint, did I not order an investigation to protect them as well as to protect the expenditures of the funds of the state and I shall do this notwithstanding the howl and slander of certain newspapers who have hounded me all my public career.

Mr Murray explained that he had hoped to keep the investigation private and take whatever action was necessary through the board of regents, by presenting to the

board such evidence of alleged irregularities that the former marshal had secured. He stated further that he was not aiming the investigation at President Bizzell. "I have the highest regard for President Bizzell," Mr Murray told the United Press. "My opinion of him is better now than when this investigation started six weeks ago. He is in no way involved in any of the wrongful conditions we found to exist."

The United Press stated: "Immorality at the university is limited and not widespread, the governor said. Both school teachers and students are involved, Murray said, but he declined to go into detail."

The story was carried on every trunk wire in the United States, and "immorality" appeared in most of the headlines, whether in St. Louis, Chicago or New York.

Person Woodall, '27 law, county attorney of Cleveland county, in which the university is located, wrote the governor a letter, asking to prosecute any charges of irregularity. His letter follows:

I noticed through the press that you have evidence in your possession that has been obtained by operatives working under your direction, of violations of the criminal laws of this state, said violations purported to have been committed in Cleveland county by employes of the University of Oklahoma.

As county attorney of Cleveland I want to take this occasion to offer my office and services in the prosecution of these violations if there be any. It is my desire and hope that you will give me this information in order that I might proceed against these violators.

The governor, however, requested the board of regents to make an investigation of the evidence Mr McDonald had found. The board met March 27 in Oklahoma City and asked that the legislature make the investigation, since it was without funds to do so. The resolution of the regents in full text follows:

Whereas, much publicity has been given to alleged immorality and alleged misuse of state funds at the university;

Whereas, the authority of the board of regents to make an investigation is very limited;

Whereas, the board of regents has no funds with which to make an investigation;

Now, therefore, be it resolved: First, that we hereby request the legislature of the state of Oklahoma to make a complete and thorough investigation of all such charges and rumors, or any other matter pertaining to the state university that the legislature may see fit to investigate; and that this investigation be made before the adjournment of the present legislature so that these charges, or the facts relating thereto, may be definitely determined.

Second, that the president of the board of regents be authorized and directed to present a copy of this resolution to the presiding officer of each house of the legislature, and to the governor of the state of Oklahoma.

On March 28, in pursuance to the request of the regents, Lieutenant Governor Burns, so authorized by the state senate, appointed the following committee to investigate in full all of the charges, to subpoena witnesses and to make a report: W. G. "Bill" Stigler, president *pro tempore* of the senate, chairman, Hardin Ballard, Charles Memminger, Mack Q. Williamson, W. C. Fidler, T. T. Blakely and W. J. Otjen. Mr Stigler was unable to serve on the committee because of illness and Senator Cecil R. Chamberlain was named chairman in his stead.

On March 30, the senators began their inquiry in Oklahoma City, conducting the second hearing at Norman on March 31, the inquiry lasting until 3 o'clock in the morning. Five administrative officers were named in the report of Mr McDonald: Walter W. Kraft, superintendent of utilities; Miss Edna McDaniel, dean of women; James R. Craven, landscape gardener; Fredrik Holmberg, dean of the college of fine arts; Emil R. Kraetli, ex '18, secretary of the university; and W. K. Newton, associate professor of accounting.

Mr Kraft was alleged to have diverted certain materials belonging to the state for use in the building of his home. Miss McDaniel was alleged to have "padded" her expense accounts and to have absented herself from the university unduly. Mr Craven was accused of taking certain shrubs and trees from the university to his home. Dean Holmberg was charged with irregularity in the purchase of music by the university for use by the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra, which Mr Holmberg directs, and in sending private telegrams at university expense, and with unduly absenting himself from the university. Mr Kraetli was alleged to have solicited insurance for a brother-in-law. Mr Newton was charged with acting as auditor for various cities while an employe of the university.

Mr Murray sent the senate committee a letter as it began its investigation requesting that the immorality charge be not investigated. The senate committee decided to investigate the charge but to do so privately. It concerned a faculty member whose name was not revealed; and no substance was attached to the charge, the matter finally being left in the hands of the president of the university.

Many witnesses were called by the committee in the eight day investigation. Mr McDonald, the first witness called, stated that he had not been sent to Norman by the governor to investigate immorality. He had found accidentally in the course of his inquiry into alleged "padding" of expense accounts and other administrative alleged irregularities one case of alleged immorality, he told the committee.

Mr McDonald was represented in the long-drawn out hearings by Ben Williams of Norman. Miss McDaniel, Mr Kraft

Dean Holmberg and Mr Craven were represented by J. B. Dudley of Oklahoma City and by John Luttrell of Norman.

On April 9, the senate committee reported that the charges against the six officers were without foundation and completely exonerated them. The report of the committee praised the administration for its conduct of the university and recommended that internal government of the school be left to the board of regents and the president of the university.

The committee's report in full text follows:

We, your special committee of the senate on investigation of affairs at the state university, beg leave to report that the committee has concluded the investigation, and desires to submit herewith our findings, conclusion, and recommendations. A complete record of the testimony taken in said investigation is hereto attached, made a part hereof, and filed with the secretary of the senate for the permanent records and files of the state senate.

Likewise true copies of such record, together with this report, are being transmitted and delivered, one to the honorable governor of the state of Oklahoma, one to the president of the University of Oklahoma, and one to the board of regents of the University of Oklahoma for the permanent record and files of such officials.

This committee held its first meeting on the date of the passage of senate resolution No. 14, which was passed after request by the board of regents of the university, the same being a resolution authorizing and directing this investigation, to-wit: On March 28, 1931, and at such meeting the committee was organized with Cecil R. Chamberlain being selected as chairman, and Charles B. Memminger as vice-chairman. The taking of testimony was begun on March 30, 1931, at 8 o'clock a. m. and continued from day to day with the meetings of the committee being held at the state capitol and in buildings on the campus of the university at Norman, until April 7, 1931, at which time the taking of testimony was concluded and all witnesses discharged from further attendance.

Most of the witnesses brought before the committee for the purpose of testifying were those who had been interviewed by Alva McDonald, a special investigator appointed by the governor to carry on certain investigations at the university, and who had been engaged in such investigation from about February 9, 1931, to the date of the investigation by this committee.

McDonald had taken signed statements in writing of various and sundry persons in Norman, and elsewhere concerning matters at the university, and these statements together with a report prepared by McDonald had been delivered to the governor. At the inception of this investigation, McDonald was requested to deliver these statements, together with his report, to this committee, whereupon he obtained the same from the governor and delivered them to this committee.

These statements and his report, together with newspaper articles referring to charges of immorality and the wrongful expenditure of state funds and misuse of state property, formed the basis of the investigation on the part of this committee. For the purpose of convenience we shall follow as nearly as possible the order of the investigation as contained in the report of McDonald to the governor, a copy of which report is contained in the record.

Before doing so, however, we desire to state that McDonald stated that his investigation at the university had not been finished when the senate investigation was begun, and since this investigation was based largely upon the findings and charges of McDonald, the same must be considered in that light.

However, your committee made a complete investigation of the affairs mentioned by McDonald

and all other affairs which were brought to the attention of the committee, and your committee invited in open session any further testimony of anyone which might bear upon any immorality or irregularity in the university affairs. McDonald stated that the matters and things brought before the committee constituted everything that his investigation had been able to disclose.

First: Before proceeding with the charges of misuse and misappropriation of state and university funds and property, we desire to call attention to the charge of immorality at the university, so far as the same came to the attention of this committee.

On the first morning of the taking of testimony McDonald stated that he had no report or charge to make on the part of the student body of the university; that he was not sent there for the purpose of investigating the same; that he had made no investigation whatsoever thereof, and that he had no testimony in that particular to present to the committee.

No testimony or evidence was produced or offered before this committee touching on or proving any immorality at the University of Oklahoma on the part of the student body or faculty, with the exception of one isolated charge concerning one faculty member which is herein-after considered. Your committee, therefore, finds that insofar as this investigation is concerned any statement or report to the contrary is unsubstantiated by the evidence. It is the hope of this committee that this particular finding shall receive sufficient publicity to remove any misapprehension on the part of the public concerning this condition.

One isolated charge of alleged immorality on the part of one faculty member was brought before the committee by McDonald. This matter was considered by the committee in executive session without making record of the testimony then and there received. The testimony which was brought before the committee in this particular was indefinite, uncertain, and inconclusive, and the committee deemed the same insufficient to form the basis of further investigation on the part of this committee. The matter was presented to the president of the university by the committee, and he is acquainted with all of the facts brought to the attention of the committee. We, therefore, concluded this phase of the investigation with the recommendation that the same be referred to the president and board of regents of the university for their investigation and action, and your committee now so recommends.

We make this recommendation for the reason that the president and board of regents have been very diligent in the past in investigating any possible misconduct on the part of any university official and always have been prompt in acting for the best interests of the university, and where necessary have not hesitated to discharge any such official. The fact that the president and board of regents of the university have done this was brought to the attention of the committee and we feel that they will give this matter such investigation and action as it may deserve. We, therefore, present no further findings or recommendations in this particular.

It is the opinion of your committee that all university officials are diligent and active in obtaining and maintaining a high moral standard at the university both on the part of the faculty and student body and we desire to commend them for the same.

Second: The report of McDonald directed certain accusations against Walter W. Kraft, who is the superintendent of utilities of the university and in such position has general charge and supervision of the physical equipment at the university with certain supervisory powers in the construction of university buildings. The charges against Kraft were, in general, that he had taken certain building material and equipment belonging to the university, and purchased by the state, and used the same in the construction of a home of his own, which he built in Norman in 1926-27, and a garage apartment built by him in

1929, and that he had used some university labor in such construction.

A complete investigation was made of this phase and the committee finds that all the building material taken and used by Kraft belonged to independent contractors engaged in the construction of various university buildings, and that he paid such contractors for all of the material used by him, and that the same was bought and used by agreement of Kraft with such contractors. None of this material belonged to the university and we cannot find where any university laborers who were receiving state pay were used by Kraft.

Such laborers as were used by him, and who may have been connected with the university, were not used during their university hours of employment and they were paid independently for their work by Kraft. Kraft produced all of the checks showing the complete payment of all the material covered in the charges against him, and of all labor used by him; and likewise the contractors who built the university buildings from which the material was alleged to have been taken, testified that they had received full and complete payment under agreement with Kraft of all such material used by him.

Only in one isolated instance do we find that Kraft used any university material, and this was in the matter of a small glass for one of the doors in his home, which was ordered by his wife. The glass was second hand glass and when Kraft offered to pay for the same the party in charge thereof at the university stated that it had no value and that it came out of the scrap pile. Therefore, insofar as the misuse of any university funds or the appropriation of any university material or property for his own use or benefit, we desire to absolve Kraft entirely.

On two occasions Kraft received something like \$750 for acting in an advisory capacity for outside construction projects. One was on the student union building at the university and the other for the city of Norman in some engineering work being done by that city. While the committee does not believe that one connected with the university should offer his services generally to the public for hire in private enterprise, yet since these two projects were more or less of a civic nature, and the services of Kraft were sought and rendered by him largely in such spirit, we find nothing irregular in his action in these particulars.

This committee is of the opinion that those connected with the university should refrain as far as possible from rendering private service and collecting fees thereof, unless such services have a beneficial relation to school or public affairs generally, such as those activities ordinarily engaged in by university officials in aiding and assisting the public schools of the state in their various duties and functions. In such undertakings, it is our opinion that it is proper for those connected with the university to maintain a direct relation with the other schools in the state and that it is proper for them to accept a remuneration therefor commensurate at least with their expenses in such duties. This conclusion is particularly applicable to those who are on state salary under contract with the university.

The committee, therefore, has no further recommendation in regard to Kraft, and, we desire to commend the work done by him at the University of Oklahoma in unifying and co-ordinating the university equipment and labor and to state that as a result of his endeavor and work at the university much saving has been achieved in the maintenance and operation of the university plant as a whole.

Third: The report of McDonald called attention to James H. Craven, who is the landscape gardener at the university and who has several employes working under him. Craven operates a private nursery just outside of Norman at his home, which is conducted largely by his wife and hired employes paid by Craven.

There was a great deal of testimony to the effect that Craven had taken quite a few trees and some shrubbery from the university grounds, be-

longing to the university, and planted the same at his own home and other yards and homes of Norman and Oklahoma City, and collected money for the same for his own use and benefit. On several occasions Craven did take trees belonging to the university to his own place, and there was testimony to the effect that on some of these occasions he used university laborers on university time.

While the committee is of the opinion that no official connected with the university should at any time or in any way take any university property of any kind or description for their own uses or benefit and never should use any form or character of university laborers, who are paid by the state, assuming all the testimony heard by this committee in connection with the charge against Craven to be true it amounted to the taking of certain discarded trees, shrubbery, goldfish, and canna bulbs, and as such is trivial.

Although the testimony revealed that on such occasions the use of university labor, or the taking of any university trees, both from a standpoint of number and value was practically negligible, we find that this action on the part of Craven amounts to an indiscretion. From the testimony of all the witnesses and of Craven we find that there was no criminal act or intent on the part of Craven and we desire to absolve Craven of any such criminal or intent entirely.

In this connection we recommend that the president and board of regents of the university enact and enforce a strict rule against the taking or using of any university property or labor whatsoever. Although the acts may be negligible, the comment thereon may be detrimental to the best welfare of the university and of the official involved therein.

The report of McDonald covered the matter of a boiler or furnace which was removed from the home of the president of the university and later taken to the private nursery belonging to Craven. This furnace later was returned to the university. We find this furnace was delivered to Craven with the understanding that if he could use the same for the purpose of heating his hothouse, he was to pay the university the sum of \$45 for the same. It was delivered to the home of Craven, but never was set up or used and Craven ascertained that he could not use the same and returned it to the university in keeping with his original agreement.

The testimony revealed that the furnace had been in use many years in the home of the president of the university and that the value of same would not properly equal that which Craven agreed to pay for it in case he could use it. This transaction was under instruction from the state board of affairs to the effect that any outworn, obsolete, or discarded property belonging to the university could be sold by the university. During the time that this furnace was at Craven's home it was kept in the basement thereof and the condition of the same was as good at the time it was returned as when it was taken to his place.

We find that Craven has done excellent work in landscaping the campus of the university. At no time or occasion has Craven sold any property whatsoever from his private nursery to the university, and does not use any of his own time which belongs to the university in behalf of his private business.

Fourth: The report of McDonald called attention to Miss Edna McDaniel, who is dean of women at the university. It was charged that she padded certain expense accounts on trips which she had taken in behalf of the university and that at least on one occasion she made a side trip at the expense of the university for her own private affairs.

A careful check of this matter was made by the committee and we find that the apparent discrepancies in the accounts of Miss McDaniel were due to the failure on her part to properly itemize the individual expenditures on such trips. For instance, we have in mind one occasion which showed \$7.50 for meals on the diner of a train

for one day. An examination of this matter revealed that this account did not represent the meals for one day, but it represented all the money spent by her on two different days on that train in going and returning.

In other words, the total amount shown by her as expended for meals for the entire trip was not out of line and the apparent discrepancy was due to failure on her part to make a detailed itemized account of each meal. Since that time, the system in this regard has been changed at the university and each and every expense made by anyone traveling in behalf of the university must be shown on a separate receipt and accounted for on a detailed statement.

Since the institution of this system we find no discrepancy in her accounts and we are of the opinion that there was no wrongful expenditure on her part and that the entire affair may be accounted for on the basis of the above explanation. We find that there were certain university employes working under Miss McDaniel who were inclined to hold a prejudice against her, and that such persons had made a good many statements concerning the conduct of her office to which they did not testify before the committee. A number of house-mothers in charge of rooming houses and sororities of the university testified that Miss McDaniel had co-operated with them in a sincere effort to enforce the rules and regulations governing the university student life and activities.

We desire to recommend that any and all expense incurred by anyone connected with the university for and in behalf of the university should be itemized in a detailed manner and receipts taken for each and every expenditure, as the system now in use requires.

Fifth: Mention was made in the report of E. R. Kraetli, secretary of the president of the university and secretary of the board of regents, and W. K. Newton, teacher in the school of business, to the general effect that these two officials had used their own time and influence in behalf of certain private business.

However, McDonald stated to the committee that he had not been able to verify any reports which he had received on these two officials and that he had no charge to make against either of them. A sworn statement by each of these two officials was admitted to the record for the purpose of clarifying their position and in order to clear any possible misunderstanding as to such reported activity. The committee advises that these statements are true and that any such reports on these two officials are unfounded, as indicated by McDonald himself.

Sixth: The last official covered by the report of McDonald is Fredrik Holmberg, who is dean of the college of fine arts. The testimony revealed that Holmberg is a director of the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra of Oklahoma City, composed of various musicians in and around Oklahoma City, including some of the faculty members of the university college of fine arts and some of the students of the college of fine arts. The university symphony orchestra acquires the music through purchase by state funds appropriated to the university for that purpose. Likewise, the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra purchases music out of its own private funds.

A practice has grown up between these two symphony orchestras of exchanging music purchased by each in order that both organizations may have the benefit of all of the music purchased by both organizations. The investigation by McDonald revealed that the music purchased by the university was used by the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra, and hence the inference was drawn that university funds were being used for the purchase of music used solely by the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra, and that the same was done under the order and direction of Holmberg.

A careful examination into all expenses incurred by the university for this purpose was made by the committee and we find that the exchange of music between the two organizations

is about even. We find that there is nothing improper in this interchange and that as a matter of fact the same inures to the benefit of the university in that it places at its disposal music purchased by the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra.

The testimony revealed that Holmberg receives about \$1,000 or \$1,500 a year on the average, for his services in conducting the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra. It did not reveal that he used any university time for this purpose, and since the work done by the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra is in line with that done by the university symphony orchestra in the creation and extension of music appreciation generally, we cannot condemn this activity on behalf of Holmberg.

It could hardly be expected that Holmberg would give of his own time and expense without some remuneration and it is the opinion of the committee that this work done by Holmberg is in line with his university functions and duties, in like manner as if he were working with the other schools of the state, which practice we have herein before commended. The remuneration received by Holmberg in this capacity would not more than repay him for his own expenses and time incurred. He testified that he used some of the money received from the direction of the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra for the purchase of music both for the use of the Oklahoma City organization and the university organization.

We feel that this activity on behalf of Holmberg is similar to the various activities engaged in by the university in sending out its instructors and officials over the state to aid and assist in various other school functions and duties in extending the work of the university and in assisting the other schools and school children of the state. We further find that Holmberg gives a great deal of his time in the organization and extension of fine art work in the schools of the state and only draws therefor his expenses connected therewith. He has organized and perfected a state system of fine arts work which is of some benefit to the state. For these reasons, we recommend that this activity on the part of Holmberg should not be discontinued.

In the taking of testimony, reference was made to telegrams which were sent out by Holmberg to various music houses and organizations pertaining to the work of the Oklahoma City symphony orchestra and which were apparently charged to the university. A careful check and examination of which was made out of the office of the treasurer and auditor of the university and it was ascertained that the charges for all such telegrams were repaid to the university if they had been paid by the university in the first instance. It was satisfactorily revealed that it is a practice at the university for those officials connected with the institution to send out telegrams and telephone calls for their private business and charge the same to the university.

A copy of each such telegram is sent to the university, and if it does not contain university business, the person so sending the same pays the amount thereof to the university at the end of each month.

This is done in order to expedite such matters and for the convenience of the telephone and telegram companies. So far as the committee was able to ascertain, there has been little or no abuse of this system and the records of the office of the treasurer and auditor of the university contain a complete check and report on each item thereof.

Last: At various stages in the investigation, inferences were drawn and statements made that some of the officials concerned in the investigation had threatened and coerced some of the witnesses who had made statements to McDonald in an attempt to force a change in their testimony, or to have the witnesses reveal the contents of their statements to McDonald.

Some of the witnesses did testify that Kraft and Craven had used abusive terms concerning the testimony or their statements, and had threatened

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to discharge them on a basis of such statement. Some of these instances revealed that the witnesses, testifying to such threats, had been discontented for sometime, while others apparently had been in agreement and showed no such discontent or prejudice. Kraft and Craven testified that they had talked with a number of persons whom they understood had given statements and had requested them to explain the nature and contents of such statements and had admonished them to tell the facts about the various matters.

They denied, however, that they had threatened to discharge any of such persons or had used any form of abuse or coercion in an attempt to affect a change in their testimony. In one particular instance a witness made a statement to McDonald to the effect that he had done certain work for Kraft on state's time. Thereafter Kraft produced and exhibited to him the check with which he had paid the witness for the work and the witness recalled that Kraft had paid him out of his private funds for this employment and that his former statement was incorrect in that regard.

This check was introduced and is contained in the record. All of these things considered in the light of the entire testimony, the committee is unable to state that any form of force or coercion was used by any of the parties concerned in the investigation on any of the witnesses. It is possible that any conversation had with any such witness by any such official with a view of ascertaining the contents of such statements made to McDonald by them might be considered by such witnesses as an unwarranted attempt to have them reveal the substance of the testimony which they expected to give, while at the same time the sole purpose of such questioning by such officials might have been with an honest intention to ascertain what the witnesses actually knew.

We do find that a number of the witnesses made written and signed statements to Mr McDonald, containing certain purported statements of fact to which the witnesses did not testify under oath before the committee. Be this as it may, the only evidence and testimony which the committee could consider, in arriving at the findings, conclusions, and recommendations herein, is that which was made under oath, before the committee in open session, and on the basis of such evidence and such evidence only, it has been our attempt to conduct this investigation in a judicial manner with fair and impartial treatment to everyone concerned.

All parties concerned in this investigation, including Mr McDonald, were represented at all times by able counsel, and it is the desire of the committee that such counsel be thanked by this committee for the aid and assistance given in this investigation and the fair manner in which they conducted their part of the same. On a basis of statements which Mr McDonald received, we cannot say that his report and conclusions, or the conclusion of any other persons from a reading thereof, were unwarranted. As Mr McDonald has stated repeatedly his investigation was not ended when this investigation by the senate committee began, and had he continued with his investigation to a satisfactory conclusion, it is possible that he would have reached the same conclusion which was reached by the committee and contained herein, on a basis of all the testimony and evidence brought before the committee.

We desire to state that Dr W. B. Bizzell, the president of the University of Oklahoma, has shown a complete willingness to co-operate in this investigation and it has been his purpose to arrive at the true facts covering all phases of the same. He has been present at all the sessions of the committee and has advised and counseled with the committee and the individual members thereof. We desire to thank the president of the university for his co-operation with the committee.

Conclusion: As a brief summary of the record consisting of 1,308 pages of testimony and exhibits, your committee finds that the charge of flagrant cases of immorality and the misuse of thousands of dollars of state funds is not substantiated in fact.

We further find that the administration of affairs at the university is in the hands of officials who are competent and who are sincerely and honestly devoted to the true purpose of higher education. We, therefore, recommend that the supervision and guidance of the university affairs be left to the board of regents and president of the university, free from interference.

Without further findings and conclusions, your committee recommends that the report submitted herewith be adopted by the senate and the committee discharged.

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NATIONAL GEOLOGISTS' PRESIDENT

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States." His doctor's thesis on *Studies in Minor Folds* was published as a book by the University of Chicago Press in 1920. Collaborating with C. A. Merritt he wrote a bulletin for the Oklahoma geological survey on *Physical Characteristics of the Arbuckle Limestone*. His bulletin on *The Simpson Group of the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma* was published last year by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Several of his papers were published by the Illinois Academy of Science and the Oklahoma Academy.

The Oklahoma geological survey will soon publish his bulletin, *The Simpson Group of the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains*, upon which C. A. Cooper and Rex McGehee are working with him. The new map will be included in the bulletin.

And so Doctor Decker works on. Hard work is a joy to him. He will always smile and patiently help students who come to him for assistance. Students love him. They are quick to return his courtesy. They willingly exert extra effort to do well in his classes. Most of Doctor Decker's time and energy are spent for students—but there's always time for the flowers. They keep him young.

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ALUMNAE LEADERS

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Lucia Loomis Ferguson is the second of the group born in the Indian Territory, Choctaw nation, at old Boggy Depot. Little can be said of opportunities in that section for a white child of that period, except that there were few distractions, no recreations—but a whole world of time to think and read.

This is what Mrs Ferguson did—became an inveterate reader, which habit has grown stronger, if anything. She took her high school work in a convent in Texas; then she majored in music at Hardin College, Missouri, and received

her degree in music from the University of Oklahoma in 1908.

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If work can be made better by love, then the work of Frances Smith Catron, '26 arts-sc., has been refined many degrees by her love for music, and therein lies the secret of her success. This year marks the silver anniversary of her coming to Ponca City to become director of music in the city schools.

Mrs Catron is nationally known in musical circles, being president of the Southwestern supervisors conference, and a member of the board of national federation of music clubs.

She is solicitous for the advancement of her pupils and the extension of music into every grade and high school in the state. To that end she is selling music to Oklahomans, not only in its vocational aspects, but for its culture and as a means of expression and achievement. Mrs Catron was one of the organizers of the state federated music clubs, and later became president of the organization when choral music was made the goal for every high school in Oklahoma.

Largely through her influence, contests in group singing have been made a part of the annual interscholastic meets.

Born in Linneus, Missouri, Mrs Catron received her early education in the public schools there. Later, she was graduated from Central college, Lexington, Mo., in piano, voice and dramatic art. She has also studied in New York, Chicago, and the University of California. In 1926 she took a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Mrs Catron has been influential in developing the music department of the Ponca City schools into one of the best small systems in the United States, having ten assistants in the department, with Mrs Catron as director.

Students from the school have taken part on outstanding musical programs, state and national.

So much for work she has already done. As for work now in progress, her everyday program would tax the endurance of half a dozen women—until her friends ask "How do you accomplish so much?"

Possessed of a happy philosophy of life, she rejoices in her work and secures her greatest relaxation through it. She has traveled and studied extensively. In the summer of 1929, she represented the United States at the first Anglo-American conference of music supervisors held in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mrs Catron has one son who also attended the university. Her husband died a number of years ago.

The promotion of music in the public schools of the state has brought appreciations from hosts of music lovers to Mrs Catron.

Through work, worlds of it, each of these women has contributed her part