

# The Next Biennium

THE following letter from Dr. W. B. Bizzell, University president, to Ben F. Harrison, state budget officer, explains in detail the significant reasons for the increases requested in the University budget for the next biennium:

Dear Mr. Harrison:

I am directed by the Board of Regents to transmit the budget of the University and its related activities as follows:

The University of Oklahoma.  
The School of Medicine.  
The University Hospital.  
The Crippled Children's Hospital.  
The Geological Survey.

You will observe that on the University budget no specific increases in salaries are shown. The salary schedule of the University has always been low in comparison with those that prevail in similar institutions throughout this section of the country. The salaries at the University have been cut several times during the last four years as economy measures, and they have been further depressed as a result of the increased cost of living. The seriousness of this situation can only be understood by a consideration of the available data on the items of cost which make up the essential factors of living costs.

Commodity price indexes compiled by the Bureau of Labor of the Federal government show the following increases in price of important commodities:

	MAY 1933	JULY 1934	PER CENT IN- CREASE
Foods	59.4	70.6	19
Fuel and Light	60.4	73.9	22
Building Materials	71.4	87.0	22
Chemicals and Drugs	73.2	75.4	2
Household Goods	71.7	81.6	14

The following table shows the rates of increase in the cost of clothing and furniture taken from the well known Fairchild Price Index:

	1933		1934	
	MAY	AUG.	MAY	AUG.
Composite	69.4	76.1	89.4	87.9
Women's Wear	71.8	78.2	91.4	90.4
Men's Wear	70.7	75.1	87.9	88.3
Furniture	69.4	83.3	96.4	96.5

	PER CENT INCREASE MAY, 1933 TO AUGUST, 1934
Composite	27
Women's Wear	26
Men's Wear	25
Furniture	39

An index of the price of food may be made by the Bureau of Labor on a Retail Price basis instead of a commodity basis

makes the following comparison: Food Price Index, — April, 1933, 90; August 1934, 112; Percent Increase, 24.

Approximately 50 percent of the faculty members in the University rent the houses they occupy. Rental costs throughout the nation, as a whole, have remained almost unchanged during the last year, there being, perhaps, a slight decrease from January, 1933, to January, 1934. But a canvass of the leading rental agencies of Norman indicates that rents have increased during the past year by at least 10 percent. Those of our people who own their homes or equities in them have had no change in the cost of financing; but, on the other hand, there has been a continuous increase in the cost of repairs and upkeep. I should state, however, that taxes on real estate have decreased slightly.

As there is no retiring allowance in Oklahoma for teachers, the only protection that faculty members have is through necessary savings, investments and insurance. The reduction in salaries two years ago completely eliminated the possibility of saving on the part of most of the employees of the University and, in a number of cases, some of our faculty members were compelled to discontinue or reduce the amount of insurance that they had been carrying.

It has been the policy of the University in the past to encourage faculty members

to take leaves of absence from time to time for the purpose of making better preparation for their work. The University, like most of the other institutions of the country, provided sabbatical leaves for those who gave promise of unusual success in their teaching or research. It has been necessary to discontinue this policy in recent years. Very few members of our teaching staff have been financially able to continue their advanced study elsewhere. This is an undesirable situation and, in time, will impair the standards of scholarship in the University.

The board of regents has included in the budget a request for \$78,600, which is approximately 8 percent of the salary budget on which the University is now operating, as a means of making such adjustments in salaries as conditions seem to warrant in view of the increased cost of living, as outlined above. For the second year of the biennium, there is a request for an additional \$100,000 for new teachers and salary adjustments. As the cost of living has increased more than 20 percent and is still increasing, this seems a very modest sum to include for this purpose.

You will also observe that the budget includes requests for a few additional instructors. In the main, these are not new positions. The board of regents adopted the policy about three years ago of not filling vacancies as they occurred in the teaching staff. The increasing enrolment and the heavy teaching load in many departments make it necessary to bring the teaching personnel back to the number employed in 1930-31. Even if this is done it will still leave the teaching load too heavy for the most satisfactory work.

The University has never had sufficient maintenance to operate the departments satisfactorily. The 30 percent reduction in

	PRESENT YEAR APPROPRIATION	REQUESTED FOR 1935-36	REQUESTED FOR 1936-37
<i>University:</i>			
Salaries	\$763,955.57	\$983,659.42	\$1,083,659.42
Maintenance	214,000.00	306,966.13	248,966.14
<i>Medical School:</i>			
Salaries	72,000.00	90,000.00	90,000.00
Maintenance	12,000.00	16,395.28	16,395.28
<i>University Hospital:</i>			
Salaries	113,000.00	183,552.00	183,552.00
Maintenance	71,500.00	153,010.00	153,010.00
Clinic building and storeroom		50,000.00	
<i>Crippled Children's Hospital:</i>			
Salaries	54,000.00	105,296.00	105,296.00
Maintenance	71,000.00	131,439.00	131,439.00
<i>Crippled Children's Hospital Annex:</i>			
Salaries		12,644.00	12,644.00
Maintenance		43,950.00	43,950.00
<i>Geological Survey:</i>			
Total budget		28,850.00	33,150.00

maintenance during this biennium has made it impossible to buy any new equipment. There is not only need for increasing the equipment in the several departments of the University; but due to the fact that our funds are so limited during this biennium, it is imperative that funds be provided for replacing much equipment that is no longer usable. A request is being made, therefore, for an increase of \$34,966.13 in the appropriation for this purpose. This makes the total for the maintenance of all departments of the University only \$248,966.13, which certainly is a modest sum for operating a university with a student body in excess of 5,500.

We have requested \$58,000 for additions in the power and heating plant. Our power plant building is entirely inadequate and we would renew the request for a new building and equipment were it not for the fact that classroom and laboratory needs are so great that whatever funds are available must be used for the expansion of our teaching facilities. It is absolutely imperative, that a generator and a new boiler be provided. The last appropriation that was made for power plant equipment for the University was in 1925. For four

years, the plant has been operated above the rated capacity of the equipment with no stand-by equipment of any kind. Likewise our power equipment has been overloaded from 25 to 35 percent.

No requests have been made for buildings in this budget, but the University will expect to share in any building program that is devised by the fifteenth legislature. The last building for classroom and laboratory purposes was erected in 1926. Since that time the enrolment has increased by more than a thousand students. I think I am safe in saying that there is no college or university in the country that is attempting to perform the educational service on such limited facilities. Every foot of available space is being utilized at the present time to the limit. It has been necessary to conduct evening classes as well as to maintain a six-day week, in order to adjust the space to the demands made upon it. It is inconceivable that the University can continue to function for another biennium without a building program, and I sincerely hope that one may be devised that will relieve the present situation.

The budget, as submitted herewith, provides for a total increase for the first year of the biennium of approximately \$230,000 and approximately \$330,000 for the second year of the biennium above the amount available for salaries and maintenance for the University at the present time. We all feel that this sum is very modest when one considers the demands that are being made upon the University for educational service. This total is more than \$300,000 below the appropriation that was available when the student enrolment was only slightly above 4,200. The budget has been prepared in the light of economic conditions that prevail and it is sincerely hoped that every dollar of this sum will be allowed.

Sincerely yours,

W. B. BIZZELL,  
President.

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#### Sullivant Calls 65 of 77

Otis Sullivant, 24ex, star political writer for the *Daily Oklahoman*, must have set some sort of a record in predicting how Oklahoma counties would vote in the recent gubernatorial race.

He predicted, on the eve of the election, that W. B. Pine would carry 21 counties. Actually, the Republican nominee carried 18 counties.

Sullivant called the winner in 65 of the 77 state counties. He gave seven counties to Pine that actually voted for E. W. Marland. They were Washington, Noble, Tulsa, Wagoner, Okmulgee, Creek and Blaine. Sullivant gave Marland five counties that went Republican. They were Woodward, Dewey, Rogers, Mayes and Cherokee. In the other 65 he predicted the winner.

His prediction of Marland's lead also was very close.

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## W. B. BIZZELL

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