

The Advisory Council System

[Association Progress]

THE county advisory council system adopted experimentally by the University of Oklahoma Association in the spring of 1937 has definitely proved its efficiency. In adopting the plan of having a five-man council in each county of the state, in principal cities of the United States and foreign countries, the Executive Board and the alumni secretary were seeking a plan of organization that would fit the needs of O.U. alumni, and experience has shown that the plan adopted is probably the best one for this particular organization.

Some of the older eastern universities, with smaller graduating classes, have found that alumni activities might be carried on satisfactorily by strong class organizations. This setup is not practical for the O.U. alumni association because of the fact that graduating classes run well over a thousand and there is comparatively little class spirit.

Some alumni organizations operate largely through social clubs in major cities. This seems to work fairly well when the alumni are concentrated in comparatively few localities, but is not practical for O.U. because the Sooner alumni scatter widely.

Still other associations operate chiefly through a general council that co-ordinates the activities of constituent groups composed of the alumni of the various professional schools, most of the activities being carried on separately by alumni of the various schools. Since the alumni of the O.U. professional schools are just beginning to show interest in separate identity, this plan also did not appear practical.

The remaining alternative, and the most logical one for the University of Oklahoma, appeared to be a geographical system, with an advisory council in each county. This plan fits rather well into the constitutional government of the University of Oklahoma Association, since the members of the executive board are elected to represent geographical districts.

Since many alumni do not understand how the advisory councils function, Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird has answered a series of questions presented herewith:

Q. What does a County Advisory Council consist of?

A. It consists of a chairman and four members, generally selected so that they represent more than one city in the county.

Q. How are they selected?

A. They are appointed by the executive board and the executive secretary, an effort being made to select men and women

who have definitely shown an interest in serving the best interests of the University, and who are good citizens in their home communities.

Q. What is the chief reason for having these councils?

A. To have a responsible committee in each of the 77 counties in the state, to which the alumni association particularly, and the various agencies of the University in general, can turn for counsel and advice and assistance in all matters of importance to the University and the alumni association.

Q. Do the councils have social activities?

A. No. Alumni in some cities do have social clubs, but these are organized on local responsibility. All official contacts from the Alumni Office are made through the advisory council members. Occasionally a council will sponsor a luncheon or dinner meeting for a speaker from the University.

Q. Do the councils have any political purposes?

A. Emphatically *no*. A study of the list of council chairmen and members will readily show that the memberships represent all political faiths and creeds, people who are engaged in all different types of professions and occupations, and graduates and ex-students who represent nearly all the classes in the history of the University. The council members are chosen strictly for the service they can render to the University and the alumni association.

Q. Are the councils supposed to "high-pressure" members of the legislature?

A. No. They are occasionally requested to tell their friends and acquaintances various facts about the University's financial needs, in order that the people may know the truth about their state university. This is a long-term program of spreading information, and not a pressure campaign.

Q. How do the councils function?

A. The Alumni Office sends out bulletins to the council chairmen and council members, keeping in touch with them regularly. The Alumni Office acts as a clearing house, giving the council members information about the University, and in turn, receiving from them valuable counsel about how the University can better serve the state. Many important suggestions that led to such improvements as modernization of the Graduate School's program, and streamlining of the Summer Session were received through advisory council members. The council members, scattered all over the state, are in a position to point out occasionally weaknesses in the University's program that perhaps are not realized by persons on the campus.

Q. Do the advisory council members from all the counties ever convene?

A. At least once a year, generally on Homecoming Day, all county advisory council members are invited to meet with the Alumni Association's Executive Board. A member of the University administrative staff reports on current progress and problems of the institution, and the council members are invited to make suggestions for advancing the University's program.

Q. What about councils outside the state?

A. Advisory councils have been appointed for most of the major cities in the United States where there are groups of O.U. alumni. Councils at Chicago, New York, St. Louis, Kansas City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Dallas have been partic-

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Ranking of the Classes
In Life Members

CLASS	RANK	NUMBER OF LIFE MEMBERS	PER CENT OF LIFE MEMBERS
1904	1	2	14.39
1914	2	20	12.05
1910	3	9	11.54
1912	4	14	11.38
1908	5	6	11.32
1913	6	14	10.85
1909	7	4	9.52
1911	8	7	8.43
1915	9	16	8.38
1906	10	3	8.11
1907	11	3	7.14
1917	12	14	5.32
1916	13	10	4.59
1920	14	17	4.39
1919	15	9	3.54
1922	16	16	3.11
1921	17	13	2.83
1918	18	6	2.63
1923	19	15	2.62
1924	20	18	2.57
1930	21	18	1.74
1925	22	12	1.61
1926	23	11	1.56
1928	24	12	1.42
1937	25	16	1.31
1929	26	12	1.17
1927	27	8	1.15
1932	28	12	1.06
1934	29	11	1.03
1931	30	9	0.83
1933	31	9	0.82
1938	32	10	0.78
1935	33	6	0.57
1936	34	2	0.17
Undergraduate		1	
Honorary		2	
Total living life members		367	

The Advisory Council

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ularly active, and many others are working regularly in the interests of the University.

Q. Are suggestions for advisory council appointments welcomed?

A. By all means. The Alumni Office greatly appreciates suggestions from alumni as to outstanding citizens who are willing to devote some time to the interests of their University. It is highly desirable to have on hand a good list of prospective appointees, so that vacancies that develop can be filled quickly.

Life memberships

Four new Life Members were added to the roster during the last month, bringing the total to 367.

The new ones are Dr. Roscoe Walker, '09, Pawhuska physician; Ralph V. Miller, '24bus, head of the commercial department in Central High School at Oklahoma City; E. H. Durkee, '25ex, county surveyor and engineer at Norman; and Albert Follmar, '38bus, lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Dr. Walker received a B.S. degree from the University in 1909, and later received the M.D. degree from Columbia University, New York City. He is the father of Roscoe Walker, freshman law student in the University who has been a regular on the Sooner basketball team for the last two seasons. Young Walker is believed to be the first son of a Sooner "O" man to win a varsity letter. Dr. Walker was catcher on the Sooner baseball team in 1907.

In sending in his initial payment on a Life Membership, Dr. Walker wrote Alumni Secretary Beaird as follows:

"Enclosed you will find first payment on a Life Membership which I hope will help a little to carry on the fine work you are doing. I have two boys enrolled down there and would hate to see the teaching facilities hurt by the State's misdirected economy."

Mr. Miller was head of the commercial department of Enid High School from 1924 to 1938, when he moved to Oklahoma City to take a similar position in Central High School. He has served as president of the State Commercial Teachers and as secretary of the northern district of the Oklahoma Education Association. One daughter is a junior in the College of Business Administration in the University.

Mr. Durkee has served as both city and county engineer in Norman, and has been the elected county surveyor for many years.

Albert Follmar, lieutenant in the U.S. Marines now stationed on the U.S.S. Lexington, was active in the University R.O.T.C. and was chosen the outstanding non-commissioned officer in 1936. He later served as major and was a member of Bombardiers. He was intramural boxing finalist in 1937.

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The Logical Place for Alumni Gatherings

The Oklahoma Memorial Union, in addition to serving the student body of the University, is designed to meet the needs of alumni groups. Excellent facilities are available for luncheon or dinner or all-day meetings of alumni committees, class groups, or other organizations.

Alumni planning a meeting of this kind are invited to write to T. M. Beaird, manager of the Union, or Homer Heck, assistant manager, for definite arrangements. It is best to make reservations well in advance, as there is a steady demand for use of the dining rooms.

The Oklahoma Memorial Union

University of Oklahoma, Norman