

Trend to Tuition

INCREASED gravity of the state government's financial situation during the last two months has brought about a marked change in attitude toward the long-considered establishment of tuition fees at the University of Oklahoma and other state-supported educational institutions.

During the last session of the Legislature, State Senator Charles B. Duffy, '22law, of Ponca City, anticipated the problem in his capacity as chairman of the Senate appropriations committee and he actually introduced a bill that would have specifically authorized the collection of tuition fees. The measure did not receive enough support to be seriously considered at that time.

The general impression among observers was that most legislators considered it politically unwise to enact any legislation that would be a handicap to the "poor boy from the forks of the creek" wanting to get a college education. The bill died.

But in recent months, as the state's general fund income failed to increase as hoped for, and the amount of the prospective deficit for the 1939-40 fiscal year began to grow, state officials started a determined hunt for additional sources of revenue.

TUITION fees to help pay the cost of the educational institutions emerged as one of the most reasonable sources of new revenue. The concensus seemed to be that if a reasonable provision were made for waiving the fee in a limited number of cases where worthy students were unable to pay tuition, that no undue hardship would be caused.

The *Daily Oklahoman* discussed the problem editorially as follows:

FREE COLLEGE TUITION

Governor Phillips raises a timely question: Is it the state's moral duty to give all applicants a college education, free of tuition?

Fifty-one out of 93 American state colleges and universities charge tuition. That fact alone isn't conclusive, but there are others.

Free education is accepted as a democratic formula, on the ground that society owes each child an even start and equal opportunity. But there must be a limit, and there is a growing conviction that some states, including Oklahoma, have made the limit too generous.

College and university attendance in the United States increased from 114,372 in 1900-01 to 1,350,000 in 1937-38—almost 1,000 per cent. The burden on state taxpayers has become enormous. Even where tuition is charged, there is no pretense that the student pays actual costs. Large appropriations are chiseled from reluctant legislatures in all states, to make up deficits.

It is arithmetically obvious that society cannot give every boy and girl a higher education. Only one in 18 goes above high school.

This fact alone produces a curious maladjustment in Oklahoma, where the state, through its school aid program, seeks to do for common and high schools what the local community does not do for itself. Why should the state also shoulder such a huge burden for higher education?

It is obvious, also, that a large proportion of those enjoying the blessings of higher education aren't particularly keen about it, but go through the motions—oh, well, because it's the customary thing in their set. (Yawn.) Why should the taxpayer subsidize them, in most cases giving to those who already have? In any event, no one can pretend that the principle of equal opportunity actually works out to the extent of handing everybody a college education on a silver platter. If it did prevail to the extent that every young person took advantage of it, the public treasuries would immediately go to smash.

There has got to be a lot of belt-tightening and budget-balancing, all along the line, and it looks as though the whole subject of the financing of higher education is due for a complete check-up.

One of the most outspoken criticisms of the tuition proposal was published in the *Sapulpa Herald*, which stated editorially:

A move afoot to charge tuition for students at the University of Oklahoma to raise revenue may look good from a financial viewpoint, but it knocks the tradition of free higher education winding, so to speak.

The suggestion has been made that one dollar per hour for student hours enrolled at the university be charged. That would be raising money rather fast for on the basis of 5,000 enrolled students averaging 14 hours each the revenue would be \$70,000 a semester, or \$140,000 a year, looking at it from a general viewpoint.

But such tuition plan is seen as the possible beginning of expanded tuition plans. Perhaps most students could afford that extra \$15—although it amounts to one month's room rent and a week's board bill.

It appears that the financial aspects of O. U. are about to overshadow the cultural purposes. The situation has almost arrived to where the university needs not a faculty of crudite professors but a corps of financiers, budgeters and shrewd auditors.

When education becomes secondary to money programs in universities the time has arrived for finding the common denominator to such crises. O. U.'s situation seems to be this and the hunt for the common denominator seems on—but in many aspects the hunt is synthetic.

Most any way the tuition plan for O. U. is looked at, as tentatively proposed, it appears unfeasible and inadvisable.

OKLAHOMA is one of the very few states that does not assess a tuition fee at its state university. The most complete compilation of tuition fee schedules at major institutions of the nation that could be obtained by University officials last month contained only one state university—that of Arkansas—that failed to charge a tuition fee of all arts and sciences students, both resident and non-resident. Even Arkansas charges tuition from resident students in the School of Law and the School of Medicine, and charges every

Received of Connor Larry W. 9-16

Notice

All bills must be paid at the Cashier's Office, Room—Ad- ministration Building.

This instrument does not become a receipt until validated and your enrollment is incomplete until payment has been made.

Subject	Amount
Botany	
Chemistry	
Geology	
Home Economics	
Journalism	
Physical Edu (M) (W)	3
Physics	
Physiology	
Zoology	23-124
Accounting	
Statistics	
Sec. Science	
Education	
Engineering	
Art	
Applied Music	
Law Notes	
Pharmacy	
Non-Residence	
Incidental	
Graduation	8 50
Military Science	
Student Ticket	
Receivable	
Total	23 50

Original

Checked: J. L. Lindsey, Comptroller

By: FH

ADMITTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

The form above shows fees paid by an arts and sciences junior at the University this Fall. Laboratory fees cover cost of material used. Student ticket is optional. The incidental fee, required of all students, covers service received at Infirmary, Library, Union.

student \$10 a semester as a "building fee" to help retire building bond issues.

The following table shows the tuition fees at a number of state universities outside Oklahoma.

	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
University of Arkansas	\$ 20*	\$ 30 to \$100
University of Colorado	66	132
University of Illinois	70	125
University of Indiana	77.50	112.50
University of Iowa	100	140
University of Kansas	50	150
University of Michigan	110	150
University of Minnesota	60	120
University of Missouri	60	80
Purdue University	102	202
University of Texas	50	**
University of Wisconsin	55	255

*A "building fee" used to retire building bonds.
**Same as charged Texas students in university of student's home state.

A committee appointed by the Association of Oklahoma Colleges and Business Officers has made a study of the tuition fee problem and has worked out a proposed law that would have some flexibility, and still would be fair to the various groups of institutions that differ greatly in size.

The proposed bill would authorize the regents of each state institution to fix

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Mannen), Blanche Carleton Herron (Mrs. J. Arthur Herron), Katherine Wey Maddox (Mrs. Gaiser D. Maddox), Ralph V. James, Harry E. Moore, Allie Smith Moore (Mrs. Harry E. Moore), Earl Sneed, Jr., Joe Fred Gibson, Perry Hackett, Jack I. Laudermilk.

1935

Homer R. Heck, Marion Hauck Gibson (Mrs. Joe Fred Gibson), Max Gilstrap, Charles Byron Bolar, Ann Victoria Durand Hughes (Mrs. Henry C. Hughes), Mary Gittings Laudermilk (Mrs. Jack I. Laudermilk).

1936

Stewart Harral, C. Dan Procter.

1937

Faye Hall Hodge (Mrs. Oliver Hodge), Cornelia Lynde Sneed (Mrs. Earl Sneed, Jr.), Leonard B. Allen, J. F. Malone, Owen Townsend, Boyd Gunning, Sam Pack, Ralph Kenyon, Clifton Bell, Doyle Watson, Lloyd Earl Schilberg, Esther Hutcheson Schilberg, Vern R. James, Oma Wilson James (Mrs. Vern R. James), Wilson Wallace.

1938

Eleonore Aderhold Gunning (Mrs. Boyd Gunning), Jean Bloch Pack (Mrs. Sam Pack), Otis T. Bourns, Bruce Inman, Alfred Naifeh, Hubert Gibson, Clyde Patrick, R. L. McLean, Denny Fitzgerald.

UNDERGRADUATE

Harold Reedy.

HONORARY

Dr. S. W. Reaves, Dr. William Schriever

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Trend to Tuition

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

tuition and other fees to be paid by the students, but would provide that all students resident of Oklahoma with freshman or sophomore classification would pay an incidental fee of not less than \$15 a semester, and all other students resident of Oklahoma would pay not less than \$25 a semester.

The bill would require all state educational institutions to charge a minimum non-resident fee, which would be not less than \$50 per semester for institutions having an enrolment of 3,000 or more students, and \$25 per semester for institutions having an enrolment of less than 3,000.

It was proposed that institutions be permitted to make rules for waiving or refunding fees to students maintaining high scholarship, or to those who, maintaining satisfactory scholarship, are in need of financial assistance, provided that not to exceed five per cent of the total students enrolled might have their tuition waived or refunded.

The committee believed that provisions such as those outlined above would tend to prevent any one institution or any group of schools from gaining unreasonable advantage because of differences in fees.

A tuition fee system by which the amount charged would be based on a certain amount per credit hour also has been considered.

The committee preparing a tentative tuition fee measure also has been work-

ing on a proposed bill to abolish the "revolving funds" of the state educational institutions and replace them with an "institutional fund" for each institution.

The institutional fund would include cash representing the income of the institution, cash representing income of auxiliary enterprises of the institution, cash held in trust or agency by the institution, and cash representing endowment principal and income.

The bill would also provide regulations for disbursements from the fund, and would limit the purposes for which such funds could be used. One of the principal changes would be to specifically authorize the use of this fund to pay part of the institutions' salary budgets.

It is pointed out that if tuition and other fees should be collected, considerable income would be received and that the logical use of it would be to take care of part of the salary budget, which in most cases comprises about three-fourths of the entire budget of an educational institution.

Gov. Leon C. Phillips, '16law, called a meeting last month of heads of departments and institutions to consider possible means of reducing state expenditures in the present fiscal year. E. P. Ledbetter, '14law, president of the University Board of Regents, was appointed chairman of a budget committee that was instructed to work further on the problem.

Other Sooner alumni on the committee included Lloyd Noble, '21ex, Ardmore; member of the University Board of Regents; Harry Simmons, '24, Wewoka; Mac Q. Williamson, '10ex, Oklahoma City; Joe C. Scott, '28ex, Oklahoma City; and D. E. Martin, '32, '32law, Tulsa.

Possible effects of the budget study by this committee on the University's program for the 1939-40 school year were still uncertain in mid-September. Faculty members were worried over possible salary reductions from a present scale that already is far below national standards. Department heads found it difficult to make plans for the year when they were uncertain as to how much money would be available.

University officials, who deal personally with students day after day and know how family budgets are often strained to the utmost to send a boy or girl to the University, are naturally not very enthusiastic about charging a stiff tuition fee.

But they recognize the logic of it, under present conditions. And if it can help to stabilize the University's finances and help to remove some of the constant fear of salary cuts and budget reductions—eliminate some of the uncertainty that hurts the institution's morale and damages its efficiency—then they believe tuition will serve a valuable purpose.

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ALUMNI NEWS NOTE

TO THE EDITOR: Here is a vacation news item for *Sooner Magazine*. (Other news is welcome, too.)

Clip this out and mail to *Sooner Magazine*, Union Building, University of Oklahoma.