

# The University Takes a Cut

**R**ELENTING somewhat after tentatively giving the University a twenty per cent cut in its budget for the 1939-41 biennium, the Seventeenth Legislature late in April passed an institutional appropriations bill that effects a reduction of approximately ten per cent in expenditures for the next two years.

Other acts of the legislature directly affecting the University included the following:

1. Authorization of a \$1,000,000 bond issue for erection of dormitories at the University, on a self-liquidating basis, with the governor's consent.

2. Defeat of a proposal to authorize tuition fees for resident students. (Tuition is now charged out-of-state students.)

3. Repeal of the 10-year-old state bar act, which has the effect of permitting O.U. Law School Graduates to be admitted to practice on motion of the State Supreme Court, without taking any bar examination.

The appropriation given the University is not final, since the legislature required quarterly estimates of the expenditures proposed by departments and institutions, and gave Governor Leon C. Phillips the power to make arbitrary reductions in them.

At the close of the legislative session, when observers estimated that the state was faced with a \$12,000,000 deficit for the next biennium, Governor Phillips was quoted as follows by the *Daily Oklahoman*:

"There is not going to be any \$12,000,000 deficit. There may be some way I can stop it. We are not going to finish this administration with a deficit. Under House Bill No. 627 I have enough control over finances to yet cut out appropriations. I think we will be able to illustrate in another year we can save money in the operation of the government. I'm going to watch the departments and institutions. I can see that there might be a possibility of closing down educational institutions. I will not hesitate to do it, if it takes that. We can stop competition by educational institutions and have each one assume only a part of the field."

During the present school year, 1938-39, the University had, from all sources, a total of \$1,687,591. During each of the next two years, it will have approximately \$1,526,870 to spend, subject to slight variations in the revolving fund income, and possible reductions by the governor.

The table printed on this page shows the details of the University's budget for the next two years, as compared to the two years of the present biennium. Budget details for the Medical School and the Geological Survey also are shown.

Exact comparison of individual budget items for the various years is impossible, because this time the legislature broke down the maintenance appropriation into several divisions instead of making it in one lump

sum. Also, salaries were eliminated entirely from the maintenance fund, and placed in the general salary item.

For this reason, the apparent increase in the salary item for the new biennium is actually, in effect, a decrease, since the figure shown includes maintenance department salaries as well as faculty salaries.

The total cut in the amount of money the University will have to spend each year during the 1939-41 biennium, as compared to the present school year, is approximately \$160,000.

The Medical School appropriation was reduced from \$142,000 per year to \$132,722 for each year of the next biennium. The funds for the Geological Survey were cut from \$33,000 a year to \$19,914 a year.

Commenting on the University's appropriation, Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University, made the following statement:

"While the University has received much less than it actually needs for the next biennium, I feel that the institution has received a fair proportion of the total amount that has been appropriated. We will make the

best of the situation and carry on the work of the University as satisfactorily as possible."

Officials were unable to predict the effect of the budget reduction on faculty salaries and other phases of the institution's program until further study could be made. The amount of the appropriation for the University had remained in doubt until the closing days of the legislative session.

After first printing the institutional appropriations bill with individual salaries itemized, the Legislature finally abandoned this plan and made lump sum appropriations, although breaking the maintenance appropriation into more divisions than in the past.

The dormitory bond issue bill was fought through by State Senator James C. Nance, of Purcell, who represents the University district in the Senate, with the aid of numerous O.U. alumni in both houses. The bill was opposed, however, by Ben Huey, of Norman, Cleveland County representative, who argued that interests of boarding house keepers would be hurt.

## The Budget Picture

	Appropriated by Legislature for the University			
	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41
Salaries	\$ 968,000	\$ 968,000	\$1,070,623	\$1,070,623
Communication	-----	-----	19,650	19,650
Travel	-----	-----	9,250	9,250
Maintenance	223,780	223,780	80,697	80,697
Heat, Light, Power	-----	-----	24,200	24,200
Books and Periodicals	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Repairs, Alterations	24,240	24,240	17,500	17,500
Equipment	34,000	20,000	15,800	15,800
Repairs to Buildings	25,000	25,000	14,150	14,150
Engineering shops equipment	40,000	30,000	-----	-----
Deficiency certificate	10,000	15,000	-----	-----
Supplementary fund for student aid	-----	10,000	-----	-----
Co-operative dormitory	5,502	-----	-----	-----
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,340,522</b>	<b>1,340,520</b>	<b>1,261,870</b>	<b>1,261,870</b>
	<b>Total Funds Available for University</b>			
General Revenue	1,340,522	1,197,520	1,261,870	1,154,924
Revolving Fund	237,406	361,571*	265,000	265,000
Old Balance	50,233	-----	-----	-----
School Land	-----	88,640	-----	67,793
New College	-----	39,860	-----	39,153
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,628,162</b>	<b>1,687,591</b>	<b>1,526,870</b>	<b>1,526,870</b>
	*Including old balance.			
	<b>Medical School</b>			
Salaries	105,000	105,000	103,553	103,553
Communication	-----	-----	1,125	1,125
Travel	-----	-----	600	600
Maintenance	28,000	28,000	10,514	10,514
Heat, Light, Power	-----	-----	2,930	2,930
Medical Research	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Repairs to Buildings and Equipment	-----	-----	3,000	3,000
Equipment	-----	-----	2,000	2,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>132,722</b>	<b>132,722</b>
	<b>Geological Survey</b>			
Salaries	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000
Communication	-----	-----	89	89
Travel	-----	-----	2,000	2,000
Maintenance	13,000	13,000	2,825	2,825
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>19,914</b>	<b>19,914</b>