

Planning the Budget for 1941-43

UNIVERSITY alumni were called upon to help spread information about the University's budget needs for 1941-43 when President W. B. Bizzell and Regents President Lloyd Noble, '21, addressed the Executive Board of the Alumni Association on the morning of Homecoming Day.

Although details of the budget request to be presented to the Eighteenth Legislature early next year were still undetermined because of the uncertainty of state and national affairs, the general policies to be followed in making up the request have been agreed upon and were described to the alumni board by President Bizzell.

The objectives to be sought are:

1. Readjustment of salaries to bring each faculty member's salary to the scale called for by his rank, but no general salary increase.

2. Increase in the number of faculty members to eliminate inefficiency resulting from overcrowding of classes.

3. A building program for the campus, which has not had a building constructed with state funds in the last eleven years.

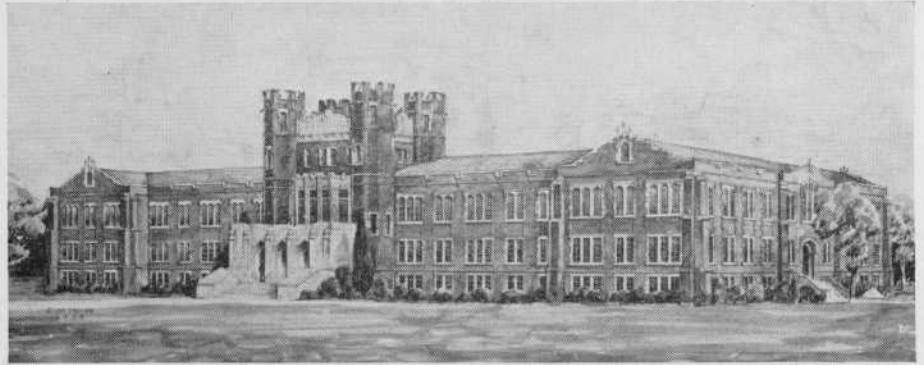
President Bizzell announced that the budget request for salaries and maintenance probably will be about \$1,800,000 for each year, which would be considerably less than the \$2,100,000 requested from the last legislature, but substantially more than the amount now being spent.

The tentative outline of the building program includes a petroleum and mineral industries building which would connect with the present Engineering Building in a single architectural unit, facing north; an Education Building to be erected on the South Oval; an addition to complete the Geology Building; and an addition to complete the Pharmacy Building, which would provide space to be used for physics and chemistry work.

"Ever since I came to the University nearly sixteen years ago I have wanted to get the physics department out of the Administration Building and move the Registrar's office and the dean of administration down on the main floor where visitors can find them," Dr. Bizzell said.

A Home Economics Building also is badly needed, he said, but the other buildings probably will be sought first.

The present Engineering Building at the University was erected in 1924 as the first unit of a proposed three-unit building. At that time the enrolment in the College of Engineering was 485, and the building was designed to accommodate approximately 500 students.



One of several tentative plans for enlarging facilities of the College of Engineering is shown above. This plan calls for an extension to the east from the north end of the present Engineering Building. The main entrance would face north toward Boyd Street. Plans were drawn by Joe E. Smay, director of the School of Architecture.

Since that time, the enrolment in the college has increased to 1,700. Engineering classes have been squeezed in wherever a little space could be found on the campus, including part of the West Wing of the Stadium.

Additional classroom and laboratory facilities are badly needed to take care of the present program of the college, and also to permit additional work in the field of mineral industries. There is a widespread movement in Oklahoma to establish more basic industries in the State, and the experience of other states has been that industrialists frequently look to their institutions of higher learning to assist them in solving their problems.

Responsibility for training engineers for specialized positions in the national defense program also has put additional burdens on the College of Engineering in the last year.

Describing the reasons why a readjustment of the salaries of faculty members is desired, Dr. Bizzell commented that "During these hard years when we have had a decreasing amount of money and increasing number of students we have got our salary schedules out of balance."

"In order to hold a good man," he said, "we have raised his rank and have not raised his salary, so that we have assistant professors on salaries of instructors, and we have full professors on the salaries of associate professors, and so on. In fact we have got our former salary scale into a perfectly chaotic situation. That isn't good for the University. What we are proposing to do in this budget is to readjust these salaries and bring them within the regular schedule."

The budget request is to include pro-

vision for about twelve to fifteen additional faculty members to reduce the teaching load.

"At the present time we have 301 men and women who are actually doing the teaching of the University," he said. "In 1929-30, as I recall, we had 324. And we now have a thousand more students than we had then.

"It's easy to see what that has done to us. I showed the Board of Regents a few weeks ago a report on the size of classes. We have mathematics classes with thirty to sixty students in them. We have many with more than forty students in them.

"Such a large class gives the instructor an impossible task. Students have to be staggered in their recitations. One will be at the board working a problem while two or three others stand back and just watch the procedure because there isn't room for all of them to work. We have about eighty or ninety class sections that are too large for the kind of instruction we are trying to give. It seems so obvious to me that we need more faculty members that I can't see that it is open for debate."

Discussing the maintenance budget of the University, President Bizzell pointed out that the maintenance budget some years ago was \$325,000 a year, while now it is only \$80,000 a year.

Governor Leon C. Phillips, '16law, told newspapermen last month that he believed the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma A. and M. College would need increased appropriations for the next biennium.

Budget hearings will be conducted jointly by House and Senate committees, as was done in the last Legislature, the governor said.