

O. U. and the War

By President Joseph A. Brandt

The University president answers questions heard most frequently

Have the Army and Navy "taken over" the University for training purposes?

No, not at all. On the contrary, every Army or Navy man sent here is a student in the University of Oklahoma, enrolled by the University, and taught by University professors. Except for the fact that they are subject to military discipline and responsible in military matters to their commanding officers, in all other regards the students of the Army and Navy are like any civilian student, so far as the University of Oklahoma is concerned. Furthermore, most of the Navy students were already in civilian status at the University of Oklahoma, or in other Oklahoma colleges. All of the Army trainees were either high school graduates, some were graduates of select preparatory schools, or college men sent here for training.

What is the status of the young men assigned to the University campus in the Army Specialized Training Program and the Naval Training Program?

As I just said, they are students of the University of Oklahoma. The Navy R.O.T.C. men continue their regular courses, that is, some are going to be newspaper men, others lawyers, many engineers. They will continue and get their degree. All V-1 and V-7 students may continue toward their degrees if they so desire. Those in the special V-12 program, of course, will take the Navy curriculum. However, the Navy curriculum is essentially a civilian curriculum and no changes are made in the courses given for the Navy, as against those given by the University. That is the reason, of course, why we are combining the Navy and civilian terms. The Army trainees, because they go to school twelve weeks and take a special curriculum, do not attend classes with civilians. The men will be here for varied lengths of time, those in the Navy, in general, being here for a longer period of time. In both cases, the Army and the Navy regard men sent to the Army Specialized Training Program Units, or the Navy College Training Units, as primarily college students. The Army has granted to the Army Specialized Training Program, the third highest priority, it being succeeded only by Officer Candidate School and Aviation Cadet Training. The N.R.O.T.C. men will have the status of midshipmen, and so will the medical students of the University's medical school.

How are these young men selected?

They were selected by screening boards. The Army trainees consisted of enlisted reservists who had been in college and who

had been sent to various camps for a thirteen weeks' processing, or college men who were found to be qualified for advanced training. In the case of the Navy, the N.R.O.T.C. proved the basis, and of course the V-1 and V-7 also were a large part of the nucleus for the V-12 Training Program. The additional trainees for the Navy came from high school students who had successfully passed the V-12 test given last April, and from a limited number of men who qualified by screening out processes in the fleet.

What effect does their presence on the campus have on housing facilities for other students?

Practically none. The large dormitory units have been taken over by the University for housing the trainees. Most of the better, privately owned rooming houses continue to take University students, and will do so this fall. We will, ourselves, take over a considerable number of fraternity houses and large houses, and operate them for civilian students. We especially will do so for freshman men and freshman women. We are already seeing the effect of the smaller units in the Roberta Lawson House for freshman women. The morale is much higher, and the personal attention that the girls get from the University Counselor is naturally much greater than before.

What steps have been taken by the University to assure civilian students living quarters of regular University standards?

Curiously enough, the living standards of students in the University of Oklahoma this fall will be higher than ever before. Most of the sub-standard houses which we had to use during the period of greatest enrollment have gone into the National Housing Agency conversion program. Better houses have stayed with the University and are still available. There is space, for instance, among these privately owned houses for a thousand civilian men, not to count the other houses the University has leased, or is in the process of leasing. The fraternities, as you know, asked that their activities be frozen as soon as any of the houses were taken over by the University to house trainees. This was done by the University in fairness to the fraternities which had patriotically given up their houses. Many of these houses will be available either for additional housing for trainees or for University students, either men or women. Furthermore, the National Housing Agency is building for the University seven dormitories and a dining room, and a recreational center for nine hundred students. It is to replace the hous-

ing removed from the University by virtue of the conversion program, since most of the houses being converted had formerly housed University students. These dormitories will be fire-proof, and after the war we hope to use them for the housing of all freshman men in the University. The Counselor of Men and the Counselor of Women have taken charge of the general matter of assignment of student housing. I can say now, positively, that we will have not only ample housing for University students, but the best housing we have ever had.

How much have the Naval bases near Norman affected the student environment at the University?

Practically not at all. The Naval bases are not a part of the University of Oklahoma, as some people mistakenly believe. The Navy USO Centers are down town, and many of the enlisted men either utilize the facilities on the bases for their entertainment, or go to Oklahoma City. Some few do use the University corner, but it is a very small number, indeed.

Have conditions been such as to require any abnormal restrictions on students in the campus area?

Not at all. As a matter of fact, it has been positively amazing how little the life of students at the University has been affected by the Naval installations around Norman. The students have their own social life, and such special events as are given for the cadets of the Navy are under strict supervision and chaperonage under what is known as the cadet plan, in which the specially selected girls are taken in buses provided by the Navy to the dances, a limited number a month, and brought back to the campus after a stated period. The campus area has remained essentially campus.

Are recreation facilities maintained exclusively for students?

Yes. Occasionally the University sponsors certain social activities for Navy personnel, but it is in accordance with the generally accepted USO standards. Miss Ina James has done a marvelous job, and so has Miss Virginia Reinecke, in seeing that the rights of University students have been fully maintained. Of course, the Army and Navy students are students in the University, and will have the same use as civilian students of any of our facilities on the campus.

What is the fall schedule of the University?

The State Regents for Higher Education set as a starting date for all Oklahoma in-

stitutions of higher education the general date of "on or about" September 13, thus giving each institution leeway to meet its own particular problems.

Classwork in the University will begin in the Fall on September 6, 1943. The Freshman period will start, however, on September 1 and registration will be held September 3 and 4. Women's fraternities begin their Rush activities on the last two days of August. During the war, at the request of the fraternities themselves, men's fraternities will have no rush or pledging.

The University's Calendar is divided into trimesters, or three 16-week periods. The Autumn Session beginning September 1 will be completed on October 28th, thus permitting all students, except graduating seniors and pre-medical and pre-dental students, to continue with the Winter Semester, which starts classwork on November 8. Registration for the Winter Semester will be held on November 4, 5, and 6.

The advantage to the student, particularly the 16- or 17-year-old boy, is obvious in this calendar. In the Autumn Session he may complete as much as nine hours work and in the two following full semesters, he will complete one full year's work. Thus, in 40 weeks, a beginning student may complete what he would normally do in almost a year and a half of work. Under the calendar inaugurated by the State Regents of Higher Education in 1942, many seniors would have received their degrees on December 23, 1943. In order that these students and such others now enrolled in the University who have to complete their work on December 23, the University will have a special Second Autumn Session starting November 1 and ending December 23. However, no new students may enroll in this special session.

The Spring Semester will begin March 2 and be completed June 27, 1944. Thus, new students (or students now on the campus) may enroll on these dates:

September 3 and 4, 1943—Autumn Session.

November 4, 5 and 6—Winter Semester.
March 2, 3, and 4—Spring Semester.

Will regular University courses be offered in all the standard fields of higher education?

Yes. The University owes an obligation to the State and to the United States for maintaining intact the regular source of supply for the various professions, and even though our Law School enrollment is greatly reduced, we are continuing it without interruption. It was a grave mistake in the last war to interrupt the training of lawyers.

Can sixteen and seventeen year old boys expect to secure any advantage by attending the University for a short time before being inducted into military service?

The Government is very desirous, and so are we, and so are intelligent parents, that the sixteen and seventeen year olds get as much advanced education as they can before induction. As a matter of fact, the

Government has recognized this in the A-12 program. We expect later on to have a number of boys under eighteen, who successfully passed the A-12 examination, to be sent to the University as civilian students by the Government. Those who did not pass the examination by the same token will have better prepared themselves for the task that they face in the future. Furthermore, if the war lasts a long time, under the accelerated program a student will gain immeasurably in going to school now, because when he comes back a much older person, perhaps, his stay in college will be that much less and he will be enabled to enter the life of business or profession much earlier by going to school now.

What has been the guiding principle in determining the University's contributions to the war effort?

The University felt from the very beginning that the best contribution to the war effort would be continuing to be a univer-

The University's Schedule

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sity. For that reason, we set out from the very beginning to have just two programs, the Army Specialized Training Program and the Navy College Training Program. This would insure that men of university level only, be assigned to the campus. It would mean that there would be no disruption of the University as such. The result has been amply worth while because there was no disruption whatever when Army men came to the campus, and even less disruption when the Navy men put on their uniforms. All of the Navy men came here as civilian students, most of them, of course, were already in the University of Oklahoma, others came from the Oklahoma A. and M. College, the University of Tulsa, Texas Tech, and other institutions. The Navy's program and the University's program are quite the same, so there is no change there at all. The Army's program is the University's program except it is condensed and speeded up into 12 weeks instead of 16 weeks. We have always felt that we had a primary obligation to the taxpayers of the State, and we have always wanted to keep here the finest surroundings for girls. We have succeeded in doing this to an extent even beyond our fondest expectations.

Is there a prospect of any permanent benefits to the University from the Army and Navy Training Programs?

The programs, of course, are transitory. They are, as a rule, for the duration plus six months in length. They, of course, should lead after the war to the training

of veterans whose college training was interrupted. And, of course, indirectly, the fact that our housing space has been taken by the National Housing Agency resulted in the construction of the new dormitories, which will give us the finest dormitory plan for men in the state. Our task after the war will be to complete the plan for women's dormitories, adding to those we already have. There will probably be some benefit to the University in the fact that we are obtaining a great deal of experience in training people of a common, high level, because all of the men sent here in the armed services are the cream of the college crop throughout the country. We will probably learn that we can modify our curriculum considerably and profit by the modification. There will, of course, be some physical improvements on the campus that result from the training programs that will be permanent in nature.

How has the war affected the cost of attending the University for the average student?

Cost of tuition—none. Rooms remain amazingly low in cost. The cost of food, however, has gone up, not considerably, but appreciably above the cost two or three years ago. Even so, the cost of board and room in Norman is probably lower than any where else in the state, except in similar college communities.

What about fraternities?

The fraternity men, when we approached them in regard to renting their buildings, were unanimous in demanding that we freeze the activities of fraternities, such as rushing, pledging, dances, and so on, and no fraternity would negotiate with us until we made an agreement to this effect. So, as soon as we rented the first fraternity houses for the services, we complied with our agreement with the fraternity men and froze the activities of the fraternities. Certain fraternities are continuing to go on, even though they have no rush activities, and three or four are living in one house. We are encouraging this because we, of course, want the fraternity system to resume after the war.

What about sororities?

They are not affected. They will continue as they have in the past. Perhaps the greatest change is the fact that they have doubled the number of rushees they have ever had before.

Has the University outlined special courses for training young people to take jobs important to the war effort?

Beginning in 1940, the University instituted courses designed to fit men for work in war industries. Among such courses were oxy-acetylene and arc welding, for work in aircraft industry and ship building. These courses were given in the engineering shops under the direction of Professor Robert A. Hardin. More than nine hundred students have completed this course and have been placed in the various shipyards and aircraft industries over the country.