

What the University Needs

Outlining the financial picture for the next biennium, O.U.'s financial vice president presents cold logic as the basis for the two-year budget request.

By Roscoe Cate, '26ba

A total operating budget of \$19,019,000 for the University of Oklahoma, including the School of Medicine and University Hospitals, for the 1951-53 biennium was recommended to the State Legislature by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The Legislature began consideration of biennial appropriations in January, hoping to finance the State's essential needs without increased taxes, but facing what admittedly was one of the "tightest" budget situations in recent years.

To support the total operating budget of \$19,019,000 for the University of Oklahoma for the next biennium, the State Regents requested \$13,084,000 in State funds, and estimated that the balance would be derived from student fees, veterans' tuition, and income from sales and services of various kinds.

For the Norman Campus, the State Regents recommended an operating budget of \$6,550,000 each year of the 1951-53 biennium, and estimated that \$5,250,000 in State funds the first year and \$5,350,000 the second year would be needed to provide an operating budget in that amount.

The Legislature began its work with a study of the complete budget proposed by Governor Johnston Murray. At the Governor's request, the State Budget Office had prepared an over-all State budget within the income estimated for the next biennium. This tentative budget under consideration by the Legislature included State funds in the amount of \$25,500,000 for higher education for the biennium, as compared to the State Regents' request for \$39,073,856.

The \$25,500,000 included in the Governor's tentative budget for higher education is approximately the same as for the 1949-51 biennium. The State Regents had emphasized the need for a substantial increase in State funds because of the very sharp decline in veterans' tuition income received by the State institutions, the rapidly increasing cost of operating supplies, the critical need for increases in salaries and wages to meet rising living costs, and the need for specific improvements in many of the

educational and service activities of the institutions.

Special attention was called to the need for more emphasis on extension and research activities during the next few years in connection with national defense and in development of Oklahoma's economic resources.

The Norman Campus of the University felt the pinch of declining institutional revenue during the current fiscal year when a reduction of the operating budget by approximately \$1,000,000 was necessary in order to stay within available funds. In order to make this adjustment many staff positions were dropped, departmental supply and equipment budgets were drastically reduced, and many other economies were inaugurated.

The serious effect of the decline in University income from veterans' tuition is shown by the fact that the income estimated from this source for the second year of the next biennium is more than \$1,000,-

000 less than the actual income from this source in 1949-50. The actual and estimated income for the present biennium and the next biennium is as follows:

1949-50	\$1,273,413
1950-51	635,562
1951-52	328,500
1952-53	226,050

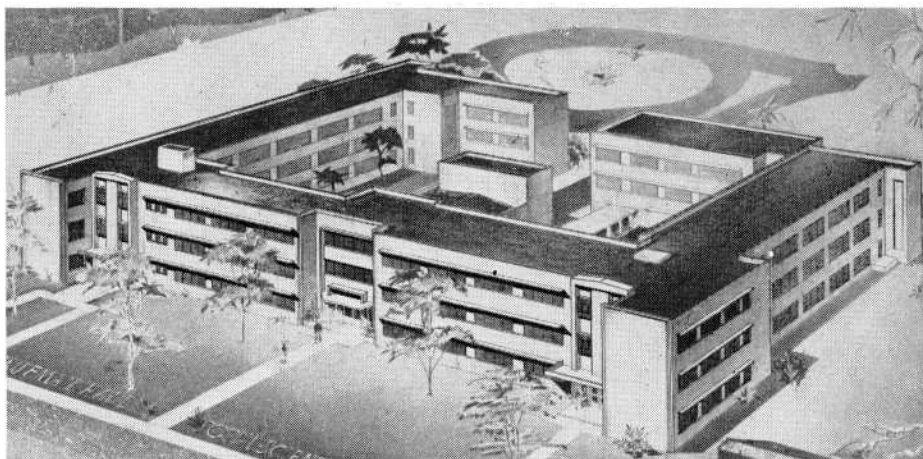
In presenting the needs of the Norman Campus of the University to the State Regents' Board prior to the session of the Legislature, President Cross emphasized that an operating budget of at least \$6,550,000 a year is necessary during the next biennium because of the need for funds to:

(1) Restore essential staff positions cancelled this year because of the sudden drop in income as compared to 1949-50.

(2) Reinstate the regular program of current repair and maintenance which was severely curtailed this year because of lack of funds.

(3) Restore departmental supply and

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THIS architect's drawing shows how the new Social Sciences Building, now under construction, would be joined to Kaufman Hall (the left portion of the drawing) by the proposed auditorium unit which is shown in the center.

Located on the South Oval, the Social Sciences Building is shown as the right portion of the drawing. A proposed ad-

ditional unit is at the right rear of the drawing.

The majority of the lecture class departments of the College of Arts and Sciences will be centralized in this large classroom building in an efficient and convenient way. The over-all plan will bring together for the first time many departmental faculties which in the past have been scattered over the campus.

Ed Fleming, '14, and Mrs. Fleming (Gertrude Buxton, '12ba).

Calvin Smith, '40m.ed, Wewoka school superintendent, also signed up as did Justice Wayne Bayless, '20Law, and Mrs. Bayless, Oklahoma City; L. A. Cowling, '40-'42, Eufaula; Louis 'Tree Top' Sharpe, '42bus, and Mrs. Sharpe (Ruth Garnett, '41bs), and his parents, all of Checotah; Dr. Floyd Simon, '43med, Clinton; Norman F. Kroutil, '33ba, Yukon; Sam Goldberg, '21, Wilburton; O. A. 'Dutch' Brewer, '17ba, '20Law, and Mrs. Brewer (Gladys Mabry, '20), Hugo; Norman Brillhart, '17ba, and Mrs. Brillhart (Mildred Colby, '22fa), Madill; Charles F. Foster, '22, and Mrs. Foster (Margaret McKinley, '22-'23), Van Endicott of the University Press, and Lloyd Lockett, '41ba, and Mrs. Lockett, Norman.

Col. Jerome J. Waters, Jr., came by wearing his lucky Texas hat, and Boyd 'Bronco' McGugan, '50geol, the Sooners' All-American sub, got a big welcome and congratulations for a victorious year at Hennessey where he is football coach. Several other all-time Sooner greats on hand to see the modern version of football were C. V. 'Brick' Lisman, '05-'07, Midland, Texas, Roy Spears, '14ba, McAlester, and Ray Courtwright, '14ba, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Max Fischer, '49bus, Norman, representing a recent era of the gridiron and his pretty wife also were counted among those present.

Best estimates were that there were 15,000 Oklahomans—and probably there were many more—in New Orleans the weekend that saw O.U. end its victory march at 31. You don't see them all on a trip like this, but on the other hand you don't go more than a few steps before you run on to a Sooner emblem. And you're happy you are a Sooner, too.

University Needs . . .

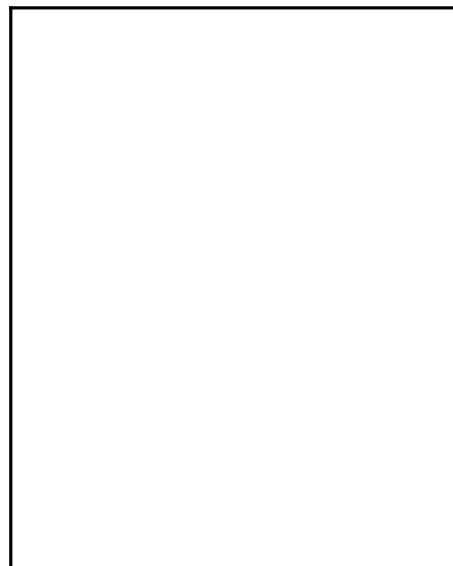
maintenance budgets to at least the 1949-50 level, and provide additional amounts to meet price increases. The University's Purchasing Office estimates that most items of laboratory supplies and other teaching supplies have increased 20 per cent in the last six months.

(4) Bring the faculty salary average up to at least \$4,500 to preserve the faculty standard of living which has been hard hit by rising costs, and in order to keep key staff members who are being attracted by higher salary scales paid by other institutions.

(5) Increase the salary scale of nonacademic staff members in order to prevent losing a high proportion of the available

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competent workers to Oklahoma City defense installations and business firms.

(6) Meet the cost of paying the prevailing rates for construction and repair labor which is necessary in order to compete with contractors and with defense installations close to Norman.

(7) Meet the increasing need for supplementary retirement benefits for persons retiring under terms of the State Teachers' Retirement System.

(8) Improve the University's library services to the minimum level recommended in a recent survey report by Ralph R. Shaw, outstanding library consultant, who reported that the University Library is far below standard in terms of staff, reading room space, stack space, and book collections.

(9) Make remedial services of the Reading Laboratory, Speech Clinic, Guidance Service and other individual services for handicapped students available at something less than the actual cost price, in order to encourage wider use of such remedial services.

(10) Increase University-sponsored research so that the University can make a greater contribution to the economic development of the State in its special fields.

(11) Increase extension services in order to meet the demand for a large variety of extension services now offered by the University on a relatively small scale. The State Regents' Board was told that if the University is to be given a fair chance to win the public approval it must have as a tax-supported institution in order to receive adequate financial support enough State funds to render services to the general public of the State in reasonable proportion to the extension budgets of other comparable institutions supported by the State.

Although declining enrolment during the next few years will result in some financial savings, the class sections that can be eliminated and the staff savings that can be made are almost entirely in the freshman and sophomore years, in which the class sections are quite large and the teachers are in the lower salary brackets.

In addition to the request for operating funds for the next biennium, the State Regents reported a need for \$1,850,000 for higher education as a supplemental State appropriation for 1950-51 to compensate for loss of veterans' tuition income and to compensate for the lower State appropriation for higher education in the second year of the present biennium as compared to the first year. The State Regents also reported a need for \$2,212,000 for the State System to complete the repair and modernization program which was started with funds from the \$36,000,000 State Building Bond

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Issue; and a need for \$11,575,990 to complete the capital improvements program presented to the Special Session of the Twenty-Second Legislature and partially financed by appropriations from the State Building Bond Issue.

As the University faces the critical 1951-53 biennium, which at best will be a period of preparation for possible all-out war, the institution's basic problems might be summarized briefly as follows:

(1) To obtain adequate financial support from the State to maintain its staff and facilities during the transition between declining enrolment and the build-up of defense training programs on college campuses;

(2) Provide adequate salary scales to meet rising costs of living (virtually no salary increases have been possible since the Fall of 1949); and

(3) Prepare for the great increase in college enrolments expected by 1956 or 1957 because of the accelerated birth rate that started in the early '40's.

University . . .

housing tiff which has been seething since last September was brought to an abrupt end December 20 when Federal Judge Stephen S. Chandler, '18, ruled in favor of the University.

Chandler dismissed a student's suit challenging the University's right to force him to live in a college housing project.

John Gayle Pettus, 23-year-old student from Searcy, Arkansas, charged the University's order for him to move into campus housing violates his constitutional rights.

Judge Chandler, in upholding the University, said "the sole question is whether the board of regents, in requiring students to live in its dormitories, is depriving them of any rights guaranteed them by the fourteenth amendment."

"It is," Chandler ruled, "a privilege offered upon condition."

He cited U. S. Supreme Court rulings involving the Universities of Mississippi and California to show such housing orders do not violate the U. S. constitution.

The fight stemmed from a 1946 order by the regents ordering University officials to keep campus housing as nearly full as possible. Purpose of the order was to protect bondholders who financed construction of the new dormitories.

At the beginning of the spring semester the University announced that senior men, who were previously exempt from the housing order, must live in campus housing if space is available.