

The Problem Is Apparent

Increased enrollments and the certainty of greater enrollments without a corresponding increase in physical plant facilities and faculty have created the problem. President suggests that an enrollment ceiling may prove necessary.

By PRESIDENT GEORGE L. CROSS

DURING the past century the over-all population of the United States has increased approximately six times. During the same period the number of students enrolled in colleges and universities of the country has increased more than 200 times. The amazingly greater gain shown in the college population is due to the fact that each year an increasing percentage of our young people recognize the value and need of higher education.

The trend of the past century is continuing today. For example, in Oklahoma about 37% of the high school graduates entered colleges and universities in the fall of 1953. Approximately 43% of the high school graduates enrolled in institutions of higher learning in the fall of 1954. The fact that the percentage of those of college age who enter college is increasing and the total number of young people of college age is increasing also, indicates that the institutions of higher learning face serious enrollment problems in the future.

The average age of a freshman who enters college is 18. Thus the present freshman classes in Oklahoma were born in the 1930's near the end of the depression when the birthrate of our country was very low. Less than a million and a half babies were born the year that our present freshman classes in Oklahoma were born. Shortly afterwards, however, the birthrate increased, and for the past several years approximately four million babies have been born in the United States each year. The effect of this increased birthrate is now being felt in our elementary and secondary schools. In a few years it will be felt in our colleges and universities. The number of young people of college age in the United States will double over what it is today within the next decade. In view of the fact that each year an increased percentage of those of college age decide to enroll in college, the problem of providing adequate physical facilities and faculties for the instruction of these youngsters is apparent.

The University of Oklahoma faces an almost unique problem in this regard. The problem became apparent this fall when we found it necessary to take care of 11% increase in enrollment with no increase in legislative appropriations. Neither the

physical plant nor the faculty at the University of Oklahoma is adequate to take care of the present enrollment, much less accept an increase which is certain to come each year of the next ten-year period.

Projection of the University's present enrollment trend indicates that by the second year of the 1955-57 biennium the number of students on the Norman Campus will have increased nearly one-third in five years. This is sharply in contrast with the gloomy prediction for Oklahoma college enrollment issued by statisticians for the Southern Regional Education Board. It appears that the gloomy prediction was based largely on Oklahoma's loss of population between 1940 and 1950. However, Oklahoma's population gained between 1950 and 1954, which at least partially nullifies the significance of the Southern Board's estimate. Total enrollment in public and private institutions in Oklahoma this year, according to a U. S. Office of Education report, is 22.9% higher than a year ago.

Aside from the increasing future needs, the University of Oklahoma needs additional classroom buildings to care for its *present* enrollment. The building program initiated and completed after World War II was not designed to meet the needs of the future, but to catch up with the past. Before the war, the institution had approxi-

mately one-half the square footage of classroom and laboratory space for the Norman Campus needed to meet the specifications of the North Central Association. Despite the building program that followed the war, the class and laboratory space is still definitely below the minimum required for a student body of the present size, much less increased student bodies of the future. It will be recalled that most of the construction completed on the Norman Campus was financed through the sale of revenue bonds. Less than a third of the program was paid for from money appropriated by the State Legislature.

THE University needs to greatly increase its budget for faculty salaries. This is necessary in order that additional faculty members may be employed to take care of the increased enrollment, and it is necessary also in order that we may retain the services of competent faculty members now here.

The institution is handicapped in these efforts because of its relatively low salary schedule. The inadequate salaries paid here are not so obvious at the levels of instructor and assistant professor, but are quite obvious in regard to the salaries of associate and full professors. There is no one on our faculty paid as much as the minimum salary paid to professors in many of the Big Ten institutions and in other institutions of similar quality. The result, of course, is that prominent members of our faculty are taken almost at will by the institutions with higher salaries, and it is difficult for us to retain a faculty with individuals of distinguished or even outstanding records.

A relatively late instance of a serious loss was the transfer of Professor Browder from our College of Law to the School of Law at the University of Michigan. We were paying Professor Browder our maximum of \$7,500. He started work at Michigan at \$11,500. There have been numerous other instances. Nearly every year we lose a few of our most outstanding faculty members.

Although we have the largest enrollment in the Big Seven Conference, our salary scale for associate professors and professors



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... The Problem Is Almost Unique

is next to the lowest. The average salary for full professors at the University of Oklahoma is approximately \$1,000 less than the average for full professors in three other leading Big Seven institutions.

Salary averages for professors in Big Ten institutions run from \$1,600 to \$4,100 higher than O. U. A 1955 faculty salary survey of 18 state universities and land-grant colleges in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Ohio, Texas, Wisconsin and Missouri shows the University of Oklahoma ranking fifteenth in average salary rate for full professors, and seventeenth for associate professors.

The University of Oklahoma has the largest enrollment in the Big Seven and the smallest budget for current operations. The basic per student cost at the University (eliminating extension and research) is more than \$200 below the Big Seven average of \$779.

The University of Oklahoma should not continue to accept increasing numbers of students unless additional construction and operational funds are made available. Such a course during the next few years would result in an institution of less than second class quality.

If adequate funds cannot be available to develop and operate the institution, steps should be taken to select in some orderly way the limited number of students that can be accepted. Perhaps a state-wide system of testing and counseling should be developed in the high schools with the objective of advising students as to where they could attend college in Oklahoma most effectively.

Such a program should not be thought of as one in which students would be told where they may go to college; the purpose would be merely to advise them. There should be many instances where certain high school graduates might as well attend one of the junior colleges for two years, or possibly take their entire program at one of the four-year colleges.

This state-wide testing and counseling program might well be developed and administered by the State Regents for Higher Education. It could not, of course, be a project of any one institution of higher learning in Oklahoma.

Last fall between five and six hundred freshmen who came to the University of Oklahoma to enroll found sections in English, chemistry and mathematics filled completely. Many of these youngsters went elsewhere. Under these circumstances, it is almost certain that several were turned away who should be in the University for the best interests of the state.

Roll Call

Brief news stories by classes of alumni of the University of Oklahoma

1900-'10

DEATHS: The magazine was recently notified of the death of Winchester W. Green, '10bs. Death occurred August 15, 1954. Green was living in Walla Walla, Washington, at the time of his death.

Charles R. Lambert, '05pharm, Plainville, Kansas, died June 22, 1954, after a prolonged illness.

1911-'20

Lloyd W. Maxwell, '12ba, is with the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency in Seoul, Korea. In a letter to the Alumni Office he said: "My staff is being moved from Pusan to Seoul, Korea. Mrs. Eva Ives Maxwell, '15ba, is still in Tokyo, hoping the time will come when she may join me in Korea. Under present conditions I hop over to Japan to see her about once in three months. I fear that she cannot be present at the 40th annual Reunion of her class this year. Probably we shall be back in the United States before the 45th Reunion of my class in 1957. Best wishes to all of our friends at the University."

V. E. Monnett, '12geol, director of the O.U. School of Geology, has been elected to honorary membership in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

John Jacobs, '16ba, track coach at O.U., received the Track-Coach-of-the-Year award presented annually by the Rockne Club of Kansas City in March. He has been track coach at Oklahoma since 1922.

Harvey L. Allen, '17ma, retired as a teacher at the California Military Academy in 1954. He is living at 642 W. 28th St., Los Angeles 7, California.

The new governor of Arizona is a native Oklahoman. He's Ernest W. McFarland, '17ba, former

school teacher, judge, and U. S. Senator. Governor McFarland was born at Earlsboro, Oklahoma in 1894 and attended public schools there. He worked his way through college as a janitor, grocery clerk, insurance salesman and law librarian. After serving in preliminary political posts, he was first elected to the Senate in 1940. He served as majority leader during the closing days of the Truman administration, but was beaten in the Republican sweep of 1952. He came back in 1954 to win the governorship.

Ned Shepler, '18, Lawton publisher, has been elected president of the Board of Trustees of the McMahon Foundation of Lawton.

Dr. Maurice H. Merrill, '19ba, '22Law, research professor of law, has been named to membership in the National Academy of Arbitrators. The Academy is composed of national leaders in the field of labor-management arbitration.

ADDRESS CHANGES: John A. Bryan, '11ba, Nelson Route, Antlers, Oklahoma . . . Dr. Logan I. Evans, '16med, 33 Jefferson Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut . . . Harry H. Ambrister, '18ba, Purcell, Oklahoma . . . Miriam Anna Crenshaw, '19ba, R.R. 1, Meadows-of-Dan, Patrick County, Virginia . . . Esther Turvey, '19ba, '19bfa, 1118 Western, Topeka, Kansas . . . Florence Bigler Simmons, '20ba, 549 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas.

1921-'30

R. Place Montgomery, '25Law, and his son, John D. Montgomery, '50ba, have formed a partnership for the general practice of law in Hobart, with offices in the First National Bank Building.

Mrs. Ethel Vanderwork Crouch, '29ba, 2622 San



The Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers' President's Cup is passed by outgoing President Floyd Zook to incoming President W. F. Hildebrand, '37eng, Tulsa, during the annual meeting of the state society. Also seen is Mrs. Zetta Ponton Wolfe, '26, of Oklahoma City.