

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
EMERITI ASSOCIATION  
FIRST YEARS

The fastest growing cohort in higher education is the retired faculty, staff, and administrative personnel. In addition, many other people supportive of the organization objectives are steadily reaching retirement age each year. This dramatic development is gradually attracting attention in the academic world, but it has yet to command the attention that it merits. Administrators are slow to resist change, overcome institutional inertia, capture imagination and suggest innovative ways to skillfully utilize this educational resource.

Retirement once meant permanent separation or exit from productivity from the academic scene. This no longer is the case. Many people are surviving into their eighties and nineties still alert, and in possession of their talents, expertise, and experiences. Many are capable of continued professional service and could provide a rich readily available professional resource.

The twenty-first century will bring with it new academic emeriti policies which will include new visions and venturesome flexibility, by academic administrators, offering new opportunities for the emeriti.

In 1986, a rather large group of active faculty members retired from Oklahoma State University with a brief inconspicuous ceremony, a certificate and a kind word. Later, we learned that once retired our names were removed from the University records and we ceased to exist as far as the University was concerned. It was at this time when President Lawrence Boger was boasting that Oklahoma State was a great University and the things that make a great University.

It was in 1987, one of this active group of retirees composed a letter to then President Boger, stating that the entity which determines the greatness of a University was how The University treated its retired faculty. It was not long after that letter reached Dr. Boger that a response was received from Dr. James Boggs, Academic Vice President & Provost, asking Dr. Robert L. Henrickson to chair a committee challenged to determine if the retirees would be interested in being organized. This committee consisted of Jeanne Agnew, Ken McCollom, and Richard Jungers. Within a few weeks the committee agreed that a majority of the faculty desired to be part of an association.

The first meeting of the Interim Emeritus Faculty Association was held April 15, 1988. Those who attended gave enthusiastic approval of the concept organization that had been mailed to all retirees that could be located. During the meeting it was suggested and approved to add four new members to the steering committee. As a result of faculty interest, additional faculty members were appointed by Henrickson. They were Frances Stromberg, Walter Starks, Eric Williams, and Lynn Gee. The enlarge steering committee initiated action during the last part of April 1988. Challenges of the steering committee were to prepare a draft of the Constitution and By-Laws, determine an appropriate name, suggest dues, develop program ideas, suggest how often to meet, and etc.

A meeting was held May 31, to review the Proposed Constitution and By-Laws, consider the Organization Name, develop a mailing list, dues, News Letter, membership for the telephone book. The interim Officers agreed to meet again June 6, 1988, in 101 Whitehurst Conference Room. A follow-up meeting took place on June 29, 1988. In keeping with the proposed Constitution and By-Laws, and in keeping with the approval of the Executive Committee, Henrickson, appointed the following to serve as Counselors of the Emeritus Faculty Association. They were Lynn Gee, Richard Leftwich, Idella Lohmann, Wayne Miller, Jeannie Agnew, Mary Lou Sare, Walter Stark, Frances Stromberg, Bill Taggart, and Eric Williams.

A discussion of proposed dues was initiated by Treasurer Richard Jungers during the July 6, 1988 meeting. After some debate, the interim Association approved \$10.00 dues for the annual fee and \$100.00 for the Life Membership fee. The Life membership was considered tax exempt when made out to the O. S. U. Foundation. The Interim Officer and Counselors met September 1, at 9 A. M. in 101 Whitehurst Conference Room. During this meeting, it was confirmed that the next meeting would be held October 20, 1988, at 9 A. M. Case Study Room I, in the Student Union. Coffee and donuts were furnished by the Stillwater, National Bank. Dr. John R. Campbell was named President of the University May 8, 1988. Therefore, the Officers and Counselors kept President Campbell fully informed of the Association progress. Dr. Campbell was invited to speak at the October 20, 1988 meeting. Plans for the new Association and the opportunity to become acquainted with Dr. Campbell caused the attendance to fill the meeting room.

The November 30, 1988 meeting was again held in Case Study Room 1 with approximately 140 people in attendance. Additional chairs were carried in to seat those who came to the meeting. Stillwater National Bank continued to furnish coffee and donuts prior to the meeting.

The final meeting of 1988 was held December 7. Treasurer Dick Jungers reported that 75 members paid annual dues and 19 paid life memberships for a total of 94 members. The treasurer had \$2670.00 in the fund with \$1900.00 of that in the O.S. U. Foundation Account from the Life Memberships. The planned meetings for January 10, and February 7, 1989 would involve Tax Implications by Jim Gunn and Education Employee Group Health Insurance.

A meeting of the Association was set up for January 10, 1989 for the purpose of hearing about financial planning after retirement. Considerable time was given to a discussion on handling IRA's, Tax Shelters after the age of 70.5 years of age. The treasurer reported that the Association had grown to 89 annual members and 27 Life Members for a total of 116. The treasurer held \$924.94 in the checking account and \$2,700. 00 in the Foundation.

During the February 7, 1988 meeting, Henrickson, Chair appointed Jim Plaxico, Dick Leftwich, and Robert Fite to serve on the nominating committee. The council was to consist of nine members with three being elected each year. They were to serve a three year term. The President, Vice-President, and Treasurer were to serve one year. The program involved State Health Director, Wagner.

The March meeting of the Association was held In Case Study Room II, March 9, 1989 at 10 A M. Treasurer Jungers reported 156 members, the Association had \$3,200.00 in the endowment account in the Foundation, \$101.25 in the cash account and about \$1000.00 in the Stillwater Savings and Loan Account. Items of business involved sending someone to the 5th Annual Conference on Retirement at University of Washington, Seattle May 12-13. Henrickson was authorized to attend at no expense to the Association. He did attend. On March 15, 1989, R. L. Henrickson and Richard Jungers finalized the Endowment Agreement with the OSU Foundation.

The monthly meeting of the Association was held April 19, 1989 with 50 person in attendance. Dick Jungers was hospitalized and unable to report on the status of the Treasurer Accounts. Henrickson, noted that Vice-President Boggs will continue to look for physical space on campus for the newly formed Association. Henrickson asked the Faculty Council for three rotating seats on the faculty Council. Before closing the meeting, Henrickson, thanked the Association for his term of office and expressed appreciation to John Tate for the specially made walnut gavel presented to him as a symbol of the office. The Office of Chair and the gavel was presented to Jim Plaxico as the new President.