

The members of the Board of Trustees of Ottawa University met December 2, 1930, and at this meeting the resignation of President Smith was received and the following expression of appreciation was made:

"In taking action concerning the resignation of President Smith the members of the board were deeply appreciative of the splendid service he had rendered in the state in harmonizing the Baptists of Kansas and bringing new allegiance to the University. He has rendered a great piece of work in this respect. The school is on the hearts of Kansas Baptists as it has not been for many years."



# SMITH RESIGNS AS O. U. HEAD

**EFFECTIVE AT CLOSE OF  
PRESENT SCHOOL YEAR**

**Trustees Express Appreciation of  
His Work—For Stronger Foot-  
ball, Fees Reduced Chand-  
ler Offers \$50,000**

The most important matter presented at yesterday's special meeting of the board of trustees of Ottawa University was the resignation of Dr. Erdmann Smith as president of the University, effective at the close of the school year, June 30. He stated that although he would be glad to give much time in soliciting money for capital funds of the institution, he is unwilling to continue soliciting funds for operation. The resignation was accepted by the board, with regret. Dr. Smith said he could not announce his future plans at this time. June 30 will complete Dr. Smith's seventh year as president. A committee was appointed to seek a successor.

Yesterday's meeting of the board was called three months earlier in the year than is customary, to consider finances, the budget for the year 1931-1932, and other matters.

## **O. U. In Good Condition**

During the period of the presidency of Dr. Smith, Ottawa University has received in cash, gifts averaging over \$4,500.00 a month, and he is leaving in the treasury of the institution pledges yet to be collected amounting to over \$261,000.00. Approximately \$25,000 of this is in the form of certain receivables for which the institution has already qualified.

It was recognized by the trustees that during the six years for which records are complete Ottawa registered almost as many students as in the previous eight years and sent out only seven fewer graduates than in the previous 11 years, and that capital assets were increased by a little over \$133,000.00.

## **Express Appreciation**

With his resignation President Smith expressed his appreciation of the devotion of time, thought, and money given to the interests of the institution by the members of the executive committee, the support and cooperation which had been given by the trustees, the hearty response of the constituency, the cooperation of teachers, the support of the city of Ottawa and especially the aid given by the Ottawa Herald. In closing his report to the trustees President Smith said, "I shall be glad to help you to the limit of my ability because I believe Ottawa has been and is now one of the outstanding Christian colleges of the United States when measured by what she has given to the world."

In taking action concerning the resignation of President Smith the members of the board were deeply appreciative of the splendid service he had rendered in the state in harmonizing the Baptists of Kansas and bringing new allegiance to the University. He has rendered a great piece of work in this respect. The school is on the hearts of Kansas Baptists as it has not been for many years.

### **For Stronger Football**

On the recommendation of President Smith, the trustees approved a vigorous program in athletics especially football, the details to be worked out by him and the executive committee.

### **Tuition and Fees Cut**

The trustees adopted the recommendations that the tuition and incidental fees be reduced from \$6.00 to \$5.00 per credit hour for the second semester of this session, the only remaining regular fees, registration and student activity to continue without change.

### **Dr. Cassidy as Field Agent**

Dr. Geo. W. Cassidy, of Wichita, was requested by the board to undertake the collection of \$25,000.00 between January 1, 1931, and May 31, 1931 from pledges which have been secured since Dr. Smith became president.

President Smith was relieved of the burden of soliciting funds for operation for the remainder of his tenure and was asked to continue the administration of the affairs of the college just as he would had he not offered his resignation.

It was voted also that Ottawa University put on a first class exhibit at the Northern Baptist Convention to be held in Kansas City, Mo., the latter part of next May.

### **Chandler Offers \$50,000**

A climax of the meeting occurred when Mr. C. Q. Chandler, of Wichita, announced an offer of \$50,000.00 on conditions to be stated later by him.



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
of  
O T T A W A U N I V E R S I T Y .

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In response to the call for a Special meeting , the members of the Board of Trustees of Ottawa University met in Administration Hall , Tuesday 10, A.M. December 2nd , 1930.

W.C.Coleman , Chairman of the Board , called the meeting to order , and W.P.Blunt , of Cawker City , led the Board in prayer .

The following members of the Board were present : W.C.Coleman , C.Q.Chandler , Arthur Willis , J.V.Mitchell , C.G.West , Ben Bowers , E.M.Carr , G.W.Cassidy , J.S.Hendersen , W.A.Rose , P.O.Hegberg , Fred P.Martin , J.T.Crawford , Guy Wimmer , F.O.Hetrick , W.A.Elliott , Nort Atkinson , G.F.Allen . Sitting in with the Board Deans W.P.Behan and W.B.Wilson.

President Smith stated the purpose of the meeting and placed into the hands of the members of the Board and elaborate Report of the present situation , giving detailed account of many things concerning the affairs of the University. Various matters of very great interest and value were contained in the Report.

W.A.Rose , Treasurer , gave his Report , and placed in the hands a comprehensive statement of the financial affairs of the institution. He called particular attention to the last page of the Report which gave the "estimated indebtedness" and the "estimated income". He saw no way to finance the school after February unless some way was provided by the Board.

At 10.30 the Board adjourned and attended the Chapel service for thirty minutes . W.C.Coleman spoke to the students.

Following the chapel service the Board went to the Nelson Hotel for luncheon , reassembling for business at 1.30 p.m.

Two students of the University appeared before the Board and gave their observations and impressions of the situation on the Campus .

They made two suggestions :

1-The football situation was discrediting to the College . The College spirit was at lowest ebb. Something should be done to boost athletics .

2- The tuition should be lowered , as criticisms had arisen , detrimental to the College .

On motion the Board went into Executive Session . The students , Jack Smith , and Prentiss Pemberton , were then asked to make fuller statements concerning affairs on the Campus , and were subjected to many questions on the part of the Board .

It was their opinion that there was no great demand for dancing and fraternities . Such criticisms concerning the social life of the students came from students of the city .

There was some criticism of the administration , to what



~~extent they could not say, although it was considerable.~~

The Report of President Smith was accepted, and on motion by C.Q.Chandler, and seconded by W.O.Blunt, the resignation of Dr.Smith was accepted by vote of the B card.

Members of the Board expressed their high regard for Dr.Smith, but thought that the situation was such as to demand radical changes.

On motion by F.O.Hetrick, the Board voted to relieve Dr.Smith of all financial responsibility and that he be free to give himself to school matters on the Campus.

On motion by G.W.Cassidy the Board instructed W.C.Coleman and Secretary W.A.Elliott, to serve as a Committee to nominate a Committee to secure a President for the institution.

At this juncture C.Q.Chandler addressed the Board and made an offer to double his previous conditional gift, raising it to \$50,000. No conditions to the offer were stated, that to be left to further consideration.

With this offer Mr.Chandler addicated his willingness to pay the salary of G.W.Cassidy in raising \$25,000 or more on outstanding pledges.

On motion by Elliott, Dr.Cassidy was invited by the Board to undertake the raising of the amount, which amount is necessary to tide the School over the second semester.

Dr.Cassidy took the matter under consideration.

(December 10. A recent letter from Dr.Cassidy states his willingness to undertake the raising of the above amount, Mr.Chandler to pay his salary, ~~and expenses~~. W.A.Elliott.)

On motion the Board unanimously voted an expression of appreciation of the generous offer of Mr.Chandler, and pledged every assistance in raising the amount.

At this juncture a Committee ~~consisting~~ consisting of J.T.Crawford, was appointed to confer with President concerning the action of the Board and to invite him back into the session if he cared to return.

Dr.Smith returned and pledge his allegiance to the School and offered every assistance to its program.

On motion the Board voted to reduce the ~~incidental~~ <sup>tuition</sup> fees per Semester from \$6.00 to \$5.00 to become effective with the second Semester.

On motion the Board expressed itself in sympathy with the proposal to inaugurate a more vigorous policy in the matter of athletics.

The Board voted to express its appreciation of the two students, Jack Smith and Prentiss Pemberton, in the frank statement of conditions on the Campus.



On motion the Board instructed the Chairman and Secretary of the Board to prepare an expression of appreciation of President Smith . The resolution follows :

On motion by J.T.Crawford , the Board by vote authorized the holding of the Summer School , if in the judgment of the authorities it was justified.

On motion , the matter of the Quinn refund of tuition , was left to the Treasurer to adjust , suggesting that the refund be applied on Mr. Quinn's unpaid note to the School.

The matter of publicity was left to the Executive Committee.

Suitable exhibit at the Northern Baptist Convention , Kansas City, in May , was approved .

The Board approved the granting of the Degree of Doctor of Divinity on J.F.Watts , Lawrence, Kansas , subject to the recommendations of the Faculty.

Board adjourned with prayer by C.Q.Chandler.

W.A.Elliott,  
Recording Secretary