CHAPTER VI

Leadership of the College

The leaders of any institution can set the tone for the entire organization, affecting both those who are employed and those who use the institution’s services. Thus it is within academia as well.

The dean is a financial officer, at least developing the college’s budget, allocating operating funds, and determining a spending focus. The dean is also responsible for acquiring funding, raising money from industrial sponsors, developing donations from alumni, negotiating contracts, and encouraging faculty to obtain research grants and contracts. A Dean’s success or failure in finances affects other areas.

A dean also must be a personnel manager. Many decisions are made by section heads; but an effective dean can empower faculty, giving them the responsibility and authority to be effective, encouraging skills, and rewarding productivity. Ineffective deans, however, can stifle productivity and innovation.

And a dean is, in at least one sense, a figurehead. Often the most obvious person in the school, the dean may become a central figure for students and alumni. When faculty attract grants, for example, the dean may get the accolades. On the other hand, if educational quality is low, the dean may take the blame. It may be unfair to paint a dean with both the problems and promise of a college, but it is a reality.

The deans at the OU College of Pharmacy all have had different styles, but they all influenced the college and made it what it is today. Thirteen individuals have been Dean of Pharmacy at the University of Oklahoma. Ten of these have had regular appointments, and the other three served as Interim or Acting Deans.

The OU College of Pharmacy owes a great deal of thanks to these individuals for their leadership over the past 100 years. They have worked tirelessly to keep the school housed, equipped, and staffed and to move it forward. Although they are mentioned in earlier chapters, this group deserves a separate place in this history.

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Edwin C. DeBarr, Ph.D.

The first Dean of Pharmacy at OU, Dr. Edwin DeBarr was a well educated man for his time, having earned several college degrees. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1891 and a Master of Science in chemistry in 1893 from Michigan Agriculture College, and he received a Pharmacy Bachelors (Ph.B.) in 1892 from the University of Michigan. DeBarr also earned the a Ph.D. degree in chemistry in 1899 from the University of Michigan.¹

Dr. DeBarr was one of the University's original four faculty in 1892 and established the Chemistry Department, Chemical Engineering Department, and School of Pharmacy. He also taught biology, mathematics, French, German, botany, physics and medicine.²

Often referred to as "Daddy" DeBarr, Dr. DeBarr was Head of the Department of Pharmacy from its beginning in 1893 until 1899, when the department became a school. He was Dean of the School of Pharmacy from 1899 to 1904, then later served as Acting Dean in 1911-1912.³ Dr. DeBarr was the first instructor of pharmacy at the University of Oklahoma, and for a number of years he was the entire pharmacy faculty.⁴

In 1904, Dr. DeBarr gave up the position of Dean of Pharmacy.⁵ He was head of the Chemistry Department from its inception in 1892 until 1923, and he was a Vice-President of the University from 1909 to 1923.⁵

Dr. DeBarr was dismissed from the University in 1923 because of his close association with the Ku Klux Klan.²

Homer Charles Washburn, B.S.

In 1904, the University administration was eager to bring about renewed interest in the School of Pharmacy. At the beginning of that year, Homer Charles Washburn, who had earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan, came to Oklahoma to
head the School of Pharmacy and to be a professor of pharmacy and materia medica.  

Dean Washburn directed a major change in pharmacy education in 1907. That year the School of Pharmacy began to offer a four-year Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree in addition to the existing two-year Pharmaceutical Chemist degree.  Oscar Carl Felton received the first B.S. in Pharmacy on June 1, 1910.

In 1911, Dean Washburn took a leave of absence for one year, and Dr. DeBarr filled in as Acting Dean. Dean Washburn then resigned in 1912 to become Dean of Pharmacy at the University of Colorado.  

Charles Howard Stocking, B.S.

When Dean Washburn left in 1912, the University again went to the University of Michigan for a new dean, hiring Charles Howard Stocking, who served in that capacity until 1917.  

Dean Stocking quickly earned the respect of the students and developed an excellent reputation for the School of Pharmacy. As the 1917 edition of the student yearbook Sooner noted, "Too much credit and praise cannot be given to Dean Charles H. Stocking for his untiring and successful efforts in bringing about the conditions which have placed the School in the position which it now occupies. He has been connected with the School for a number of years and has worked for its interests and has watched it grow in numbers and in prominence until it has come to be one of the leading schools of pharmacy in the country."  

Under Dean Stocking's leadership, a major curriculum change occurred in
1913. In accordance with requirements of the New York State Department of Education and the recommendation of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, three separate plans of study were offered by the School. A new three-year curriculum in pharmacy was added to the two- and four-year programs already in place. The new three-year curriculum led to the Pharmaceutical Chemist degree (Ph.C.), and the two-year program was now called the Pharmaceutical Graduate (Ph.G.) program. The four year curriculum remained as it was, leading to the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree.10

Dean Stocking received national recognition for the School by having it registered as an approved school of pharmacy by the New York Department of Education in 1916.11 Dean Stocking retired from the University in 1917 after five years as Dean.3

Howard Storm Browne, M.D.

The fourth Dean of the School of Pharmacy was a resident of Oklahoma from Tonkawa and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. Before becoming Dean, Howard Storm Browne earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1911, the Pharmaceutical Chemist degree in 1912, and the Master of Science in 1913, all from OU.12

During his brief tenure as the Dean of the School of Pharmacy, Browne continued his education in the College of Medicine. Dean Browne took a leave of absence during the first half of 1918-19 to complete the work required for the Doctor of Medicine degree, and D.B.R. Johnson served as Acting Dean.13 Dr. Browne then returned to the School of Pharmacy and held the position of Dean until September 1, 1919. At that time, he resigned to enter the practice of medicine and D.B.R. Johnson became Dean of the School of Pharmacy.3

David Byars Ray Johnson, M.A.

David Byars Ray Johnson joined the faculty of the School of Pharmacy in 1918. He became Dean of the School of Pharmacy in 1919
and held that position for the next thirty years, the longest tenure of any Dean of a School or College at the University of Oklahoma.

Dean Johnson received a Pharmaceutical Graduate (Ph.G.) degree in 1906 and a Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) in 1914, both from Valparaiso University in Indiana; then he came to the University of Oklahoma where he received his Master of Arts (M.A.) in 1918.¹⁴

During his lengthy service, Dean Johnson worked tirelessly to improve the status of pharmacy both within the University and across the state. He was a member of the National Formulary Committee and United States Pharmacopoeia Revision Committee for several years. He also served as a member of the University of Oklahoma Publications Board for 26 years.¹⁴ In 1927, Dean Johnson was president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). As president, he recommended in his inaugural speech that, "As soon as possible a four year course in pharmacy be adopted by all Schools of Pharmacy."¹⁵

The 1935 Sooner was dedicated to Dean David B. R. Johnson with the following caption: "Dean Johnson serves the students of his school as advisor, instructor and friend and the students of the University at large as their representative on the Publications Board. He is loved and respected by all who come into contact with him. His advice, assistance, and encouragement have been indispensable in the preparation of this edition of the Sooner yearbook."¹⁶

When Dean Johnson retired in 1949, his thirty years of service saw OU's Pharmacy School grow to the fourth largest in the nation.¹⁷ In 1950, Johnson ran unsuccessfully for a seat the in the state senate.

Ralph William Clark, Ph.D.

In 1949, Dean Johnson retired and the University of Oklahoma School of Pharmacy was searching for a new Dean for the first time in 30 years. The man chosen was Dr. Ralph William Clark. Dr. Clark served as Dean for the next thirteen years.¹⁸

Dr. Clark attended Cornell College at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, for two years and then the Department of Pharmacy at the University of
Wisconsin, Madison. The University of Wisconsin awarded him the B.S. in Pharmacy in 1922, the M.S. in Pharmacy in 1929, and the Ph.D. in 1933. In those years, he was actively employed at Williams Drug and the Wisconsin General Hospital at Madison. While at Madison, he was Secretary of the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Association. As Secretary of WPhA, he founded Wisconsin Druggist. His first postdoctoral employment was as professor of pharmacy at North Carolina University. In 1937, he left NCU to join Merck, the drug manufacturer. This connection carried him to 1944, when he accepted the position of corporate manager of all prescription shops for R. H. Macy and Company. Two years later, he accepted the position of professor of pharmacy at the University of Kansas and, in 1949, he came to the University of Oklahoma to become Dean of the School of Pharmacy. In 1962, he became Dean Emeritus and Professor of Pharmacy, and in 1971 he fully retired.18

Pharmacy was first organized as a Department of Pharmacy at the University of Oklahoma in 1893. It was elevated to the School of Pharmacy in 1899. In Dr. Clark's second year as Dean, another name change and increase in status occurred. On September 25, 1950, a reorganization from School to College was approved by the Oklahoma State Higher Education Regents, and the proper name of the school became the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy.5

Ella Blanche Sommers, Ph.D.

In 1942, just after World War II started, Dean D.B.R. Johnson was having difficulty finding faculty for the College of Pharmacy because of the war. He found a drug store owner in Edmond, Oklahoma, who not only had a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, but also held the Master of Science degree—Blanche Sommers. Dean Johnson offered Sommers a faculty position and she accepted. As Sommers later said, "I was ready for a change again and thought I'd teach for a year to see what it was like." She was a member of the faculty of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy for the next thirty-seven years.19

Dr. Sommers earned the B.S. in Pharmacy in 1930 and the M.S. in
1931 from the University of Oklahoma. In 1954, she earned a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.\textsuperscript{20}

In 1962, Dean Clark retired and the University President, Dr. George Cross, appointed Dr. Sommers as Acting Dean until a new dean could be found. She served as Acting Dean in 1962-1963, returning to teaching when Loyd Harris became dean. In 1971, she was appointed Assistant Dean of the College of Pharmacy and served in that capacity until she retired in 1978.\textsuperscript{19}

In 1977, Dr. Sommers was named a David Ross Boyd Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Oklahoma.\textsuperscript{21}

\section{Loyd Ervin Harris, Ph.D.}

In 1920 a young man named Loyd Ervin Harris received a Ph.G. degree from the OU School of Pharmacy. He would serve as Dean of the College of Pharmacy from 1963 to 1970, having a longer association with the College of Pharmacy than any other person.

After completing the Ph.G. degree in 1920, Dean Harris earned the Pharmaceutical Chemist degree in 1922, Bachelor of Science in 1922, and Master of Science in 1924, all from the University of Oklahoma School of Pharmacy. He then went to the University of Wisconsin and received his Ph.D. in pharmaceutical chemistry in 1926.\textsuperscript{22}

Dean Harris first became a faculty member of the OU School of Pharmacy in the fall of 1921, teaching pharmacy and later chemistry.\textsuperscript{23} The College catalogs through the years listed Dr. Harris as a Professor of Pharmacy.

The United States entered World War II in December 1941; three months later on March 1, 1942, Dr. Harris joined the army. He was discharged in 1945 and took a position at Ohio State University
College of Pharmacy. He was recalled to active duty in 1951, and after serving for two years returned to Ohio State where he became Acting Dean of Pharmacy in 1956. He returned to the Inactive Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel, and was promoted to Colonel in 1961.

In July of 1963, Dr. Harris returned to Oklahoma to become Dean of the OU College of Pharmacy. He held that position until his retirement in August of 1970. While Dean, Dr. Harris presided over many changes at the College. For example, the pharmacy curriculum was changed from a four- to a five-year program, and the clinical pharmacy program was established for the senior year. Also during Dean Harris's tenure, the decision was made to move the College to Oklahoma City to become part of the Health Sciences Center. Dean Harris was also instrumental in initiating continuing education for pharmacy in Oklahoma.

Dean Harris has known every dean of the College of Pharmacy during its first hundred years. As Dean Emeritus, he has attended and contributed to many college functions.

Charles William Blissitt, Ph.D.

When Dean Harris retired in 1970, the University chose Dr. Charles William Blissitt to succeed him as Dean. Blissitt received his B.S. in Pharmacy in 1954 from Mercer University and his Ph.D. in 1958 from the University of Florida.

Before coming to Oklahoma, Dr. Blissitt taught at West Virginia University in Morgantown. During that time, he was elected mayor of Morgantown. He then became Dean of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy and from there came to Oklahoma.

Dr. Blissitt emphasized research, working to establish a research environment in the College of Pharmacy. He therefore chose faculty not only for their teaching but also for their research abilities. Five faculty members hired by Dean Blissitt have continued for more than twenty years to serve in teaching and research at the OU College of Pharmacy: Drs. Robert A. Magarian, Walter F. Stanaszek, Casey P. Robinson, Loyd
V. Allen, and J. Thomas Pento. Dean Blissitt resigned as Dean in 1975 and from the College in 1977.\textsuperscript{21}

**John R. Sokatch, Ph.D.**

In 1975, John R. "Jack" Sokatch, Ph.D. was appointed Interim Dean of the College of Pharmacy. Dr. Sokatch was the only non-pharmacist to serve as Dean of the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Sokatch received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan in 1950 and his master's in 1952 and Ph.D. in 1956 from the University of Illinois, studying bacteriology for both graduate degrees.\textsuperscript{26}

At the time of his appointment as Interim Dean of Pharmacy, Dr. Sokatch was Associate Dean of the Graduate College and Associate Director of Research Administration at the OU Health Sciences Center. Dr. Sokatch chaired several committees involved in planning and directing the growth of the Health Sciences Center, including pharmacy's expanding role in the health care delivery team.\textsuperscript{26}

The appointment of Dr. Sokatch as Dean of Pharmacy marked the first time the College's leadership was based at the Health Sciences Center campus. Administratively, this brought pharmacy into the mainstream of health care educational and helped in the move of the College from Norman to the Oklahoma City campus.\textsuperscript{26} Later Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the College of Medicine, Dr. Sokatch is now Research Professor of Biochemistry.

**Rodney D. Ice, Ph.D.**

In July of 1976, the OU Board of Regents appointed Rodney D. Ice, Ph.D., as Dean. Nationally known in the area of nuclear pharmacy, Dr. Ice became Dean August 16, 1976, during the College's move from Norman to the OUHSC in Oklahoma City.\textsuperscript{27}

Dean Ice received his baccalaureate degree in pharmacy from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1959. He practiced in community pharmacies in the state of Washington and owned and managed his own pharmacy for five years before returning to school.
He entered graduate school studying bionneutronics and public health at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, where he earned an M.S. degree in 1965 and Ph.D. in 1967. After finishing his graduate studies, Dr. Ice taught at Temple University College of Pharmacy for four years and at the University of Michigan for five years before coming to the University of Oklahoma. 28

Dean Ice was one of the initial group to develop the national certification program in nuclear pharmacy through the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties. Explaining his perception of the College, Dean Ice said, "OU has the potential for being one of the finest Colleges of Pharmacy in the country. Supporting this potential is the fact that the University has given full support to the College in bringing about the recent move from Norman to Oklahoma City. The College has been fully accepted into the HSC campus physically and financially."28

H. Richard Shough, Ph.D.

In 1982, Dean Ice went on sabbatical leave and Assistant Dean H. Richard Shough, Ph.D. was named Acting Dean. Dean Ice resigned in 1983, and Dr. Shough became Interim Dean, serving until January of 1985 when a permanent replacement was appointed. 29

In 1978, H. Richard (Dick) Shough left the University of Utah, where he had taught for ten years, to join OU as Assistant Dean and Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry. While at Utah, he was instrumental in establishing a nuclear pharmacy
program and taught primarily immunology, anti-infective therapy, and natural products. He also participated in the administration of student affairs, space management, and alumni relations.\textsuperscript{30}

Dr. Shough is a native of Ohio and was licensed as an apprentice pharmacist at age 16. He took his prepharmacy studies at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and earned his B.S. in pharmacy in 1964 and his Ph.D. in 1968 from the University of Tennessee. While at Tennessee, he worked in community pharmacy. In graduate school and at Utah, he conducted research on the chemistry and biochemistry of the ergot alkaloids.\textsuperscript{30}

As Interim Dean, Dr. Shough coordinated the completion of the Henry D. and Ida Mosier College of Pharmacy Building. With the move into the new structure, the College was no longer scattered in converted homes along N.E. 14th Street but was reunited again under one roof.

Dean Shough has been Associate Dean of the OU College of Pharmacy since 1982. His work in academic affairs and alumni relations at the University of Oklahoma have been very beneficial to the College.\textsuperscript{30}

\textbf{Victor A. Yanchick, Ph.D.}

The University needed a permanent replacement for Dean Ice to head the College of Pharmacy. Just south of the Red River in Texas they found a candidate qualified to fill the post—Victor Andrew Yanchick, Ph.D.

Dr. Yanchick is a native of Illinois. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Iowa, where he specialized in hospital pharmacy. From 1962 to 1964, during the interim between completing his baccalaureate degree and beginning work toward the master's, Yanchick served as the assistant chief pharmacist with Silver Cross Hospital in his hometown of Joliet, Illinois. While working toward his doctorate at Purdue, he held the position of Assistant Instructor and Manager of the Student Health Center Pharmacy. After serving
on the faculty at the University of Texas for six years, he was promoted to associate professor. Although his major interests were clinical and hospital pharmacy, he moved into administrative work when he accepted the position of Acting Assistant Dean at Texas in 1971.31

Then in 1973, Dr. Yanchick was appointed Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas College of Pharmacy. His responsibility was to develop the curricula for baccalaureate, master’s, doctoral, and professional degrees. He supervised and evaluated all aspects of the undergraduate curriculum, scheduled classes, and managed the goals and teaching resources of all educational functions provided by the College.32 In 1980, Dr. Yanchick was promoted to Associate Dean.

Dean Yanchick's goal is to place the OU College of Pharmacy among the top-ranked in the nation. His leadership philosophy is designed to link the present to the past. Yanchick's mission is to vault the college into the 21st century with high-tech knowledge and research, while retaining a hold on the values and humanistic qualities of pharmacy's early days.33

"There's no reason for this college not to be one of the top five colleges in the country because of the physical resources we have here," Yanchick contends. "This is one of the finest health centers in the world from a physical standpoint. The resources here are just phenomenal. These resources," Yanchick notes, "enticed me to accept the deanship on January 1, 1985."33