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Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin: December 21, 1936 and December 22, 1936. 1936

Madison, Wisconsin: Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, 1936

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MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Madison, Wisconsin

{ Monday, December 21, 1936, 11 A.M.
and Dec. 22, 1936

Held in the office of Regent Callahan

PRESENT: Regents Callahan, Gates, Wilkie; President Frank, Secretary McCaffrey.

The Board of Regents, at the meeting held December 9, 1936, took the following action:

of 5
300 Com.
to be read out
with copy to
of W. J. Jackson
Wingra Land Co.
C. G. Mathys

✓ "The Secretary presented a communication from Mr. J. W. Jackson, of Madison, dated December 8, 1936, with reference to the matter of acquiring additional land for the Arboretum. Upon motion it was VOTED, That this matter be referred to the Executive Committee with power to act." see Bd. Dec. 9/36 p. 17

Mr. J. W. Jackson of the Arboretum Committee was present at this meeting to present offers of three tracts of land to be added to the Arboretum.

✓ With reference to the Gay and Lulu A. Way tracts, aggregating 27 1/2 acres, communications were presented by the Wingra Land Company, Sidney L. Gay, Vice President; an option signed by Lulu A. Way and a letter from Olin & Butler, by C. G. Mathys, advising that a client of theirs will furnish the money for the purchase of the two tracts. (Way Memo. on file this mtg)

See
Olbrieh
Envelope

✓ Upon motion of Regent Gates, seconded by Regent Wilkie, it was VOTED, That the gift and the proposal be accepted, subject to the approval of title to the land by the Attorney General.

(Note: A communication from the Mayor of Madison, dated December 17, 1936, advises that the city will supply material and labor and complete the laying of water and sewer mains without cost to the University or the adjoining property.)

etc

✓ With reference to the Mortgage Securities Company tract of

approximately 53.5 acres, a letter was presented from J. W. Jackson, dated December 17, 1936, and a proposal from the Mortgage Securities Company by E. H. Carpenter, Secretary, dated December 16, 1936.

✓ Upon motion of Regent Gates, seconded by Regent Wilkie, it was

VOTED, That the deed with reversion clause of the Mortgage Securities Company be accepted in accordance with the terms of the offer, except the price to be \$250 per acre and subject to the approval of title by the Attorney General.

✓ The Committee then took up the matter of arranging for the postponed meeting of the Board to consider the Presidency of the University. Regent Wilkie stated that he thought it should be a public meeting and should be held as soon as practicable, which was agreed to by the other members of the Committee.

✓ President Frank stated that he does not know when he can be ready, but will prepare his statement with the utmost speed; that he would advise the Committee in forty-eight hours as to the date when he could be ready.

Meeting adjourned to Tuesday, December 22, 1936, at 4 P.M.

Tuesday, December 22, 1936, 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Regents Callahan, Gates, Wilkie; President Frank, Secretary McCaffrey.

President Frank read the following statement:

I have spent yesterday afternoon and to-day analyzing the work that will be involved in preparing a response to the assertions regarding my administration made in the Wilkie document.

Since that document challenges the efficiency of my administration over the last eleven years, I owe it to the Regents, to the repute of the University, and to the citizens

of Wisconsin to include in my response a complete and factual summary of the progress of the University in its various parts during these years. The citizens of the state will expect and may rightly demand that this record be introduced.

This cannot be done without adequate time for assembly of facts. The unanimous action of the Regents was that this matter be not dealt with hastily but as promptly as adequate time for my response would permit.

I have roughly outlined the fields and materials I must cover and have listed the sources from which the data must be assembled. Several University offices are closed or partly closed and several officers of the University absent for the holidays. This makes it impossible for me to secure immediately much of the materials that must be presented if the Regents are to have an honest, accurate, and complete picture before them.

I have no desire to delay discussion of the matter in hand one hour beyond the time it is possible to prepare a clean-cut and complete response. The earliest date at which it is at all possible for me to complete this document of response will be the next regular meeting of the Regents on January 20, 1937. The time between now and then is actually too short for the amount of work involved, but I shall make every effort to meet that date. I cannot be ready for any earlier date.

Regent Wilkie then read the following statement and moved its approval:

Yesterday President Frank was asked by committee members if December 30 would give him enough time to prepare his statement in reply to the criticisms made. He stated that he was unable to give an answer one way or the other to that without considering the matter for forty-eight hours. He was then asked if January 6 would give him time enough and he again stated he could not say then, but would give us an estimate in forty-eight hours. We then asked him to report by late this afternoon. The action taken yesterday was taken unanimously by the committee and concurred in by President Frank, expressing the conclusion that the meeting should be as soon as practicable. This afternoon at four-thirty the President has delivered to us the letter attached hereto. We are satisfied that to fix January 6 as the date gives ample time to the President to prepare and complete his statement. The President has available all the records and business staff for his assistance. The criticisms were publicly made on the sixteenth and filed and for the most part at least have been long known

See above on bk 270

to him. Moreover there are further facts in the matter which should promptly be brought forward in meeting in respect to the criticisms. The entire matter should be promptly heard, considered, and decided and this is in the best interests of the University as well as President Frank. This is particularly true in the light of publicity which may tend to give wrong impressions before the public hearing and thereby injure the University and because at this meeting further time may be given, if necessary, for full consideration. Much publicity had a widespread start before the President of the Regents was in a position to speak due to his understanding with the President. We are also definitely of the opinion that this matter should be publicly taken up and if possible decided one way or the other in advance of the legislative session. The University has a very important legislative program including special requests for appropriations for the second semester of this school year and also the requested biennial appropriations for 1937-39. We feel definitely that the University should move forward toward these objectives at the opening of the session with the present question already heard publicly and disposed of one way or the other. It is difficult to find a date agreeable to all regents and we feel that regents must arrange to adjust their other engagements so as to be here at that time. If it develops that January 7 and 8 would be more convenient for regents, we are willing to change the date accordingly provided that this is at once ascertained in order to give proper notice. We are satisfied that the action of the entire board taken at the last meeting did not contemplate any such delay as to wait until the next regular meeting, and for that reason this committee was called upon to act. In fact our special appropriation should be available for the second semester beginning early in February. We regret that we cannot accede to President Frank's request.

✓ The action of the committee is that the date of the next meeting is set for January 6, 1937, at 10:00 A.M., which meeting will be public and the secretary will at once give notice thereof to each regent. The secretary will telephone each regent at once and if it is found by him that January 7 or 8 will be more convenient for regents, the secretary will immediately call this committee within two days from date hereof and the committee will then pass on the question as to change of date to January 7 and 8 instead of 6 and 7.

Motion for approval was seconded by Regent Gates and adopted by a two to one vote. Regents voting "Aye", Gates, Wilkie. Regent Callahan voted "No" and stated that January 20 was not very far away and the delay would not cause much damage; that he did not wish to force the hand of anyone involved in the hearing.

*Interested about
fund book*
✓ The Secretary presented communications from Carl J. O'Hornett

of Tulsa, Oklahoma, with reference to purchasing the lease which the University holds on 40 acres of land at Chickasha, Oklahoma. Upon motion of Regent Gates it was

VOTED, That the Secretary and Professor Twenhofel be authorized to negotiate with Mr. O'Hornett with the idea of retaining a small interest in the lease and securing a payment of approximately \$10,000 cash.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRUST FUND COMMITTEE

1. ✓ That the bequest to the University in the will of the late Howard Teasdale, of Sparta, Wisconsin, be accepted in accordance with the terms of the will. (copy on file)
Adopted.

2. ✓ That the interest rate on the loan of the Young Men's Christian Association of the University be reduced from 5% semi-annually to $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ semi-annually, effective January 1, 1937, with the understanding that ten payments of \$200 each will be continued each year, as heretofore.
Adopted.

3. ✓ That the sale of three \$17 bonds of the Blytheville Water Company, at not less than \$60 and interest, be approved. (Huber Estate)
Adopted.

4. ✓ That a loan of \$5,500 to ^{Jr} Ralph E. Campbell and wife, for a period of five years at a net rate of $4\frac{1}{2}\%$, on their residence property appraised at \$24,300, be approved. (4133 Manitou Way)
Adopted.

5. ✓ That the purchase of the Clarence J. Koch mortgage on the property at 408 Chamberlain Avenue, Madison, from Eldon B. Russell, on a net basis of $4\frac{1}{2}\%$, be approved.
Adopted.

Upon motion of Regent Gates, the recommendations of the Trust Fund Committee were approved.

At 6:45 the meeting

A D J O U R N E D.

M. E. McCaffrey,
Secretary.