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Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin: July 31, 1962, continued on August 1, 1962. 1962

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MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Madison, Wisconsin

Held in the President's Office

Tuesday, July 31, 1962, 2:45 P.M.,
Continued on August 1, 1962

President Friedrich presiding

PRESENT: Members of the Executive Committee, Regents Friedrich, Jensen, DeBardeleben and Steiger. Regents Gelatt, Greenquist, Rohde, Rothwell, and Werner, also present.

The Executive Committee went into Executive Session, acting as the special Search Committee for the Presidency pursuant to the action voted at the Special Meeting of The Regents of the University of Wisconsin on July 31, 1962, and all persons except the Regents left the meeting.

The Executive Session of the meeting
of the Executive Committee
recessed at 7:30 P.M., July 31, 1962,
subject to reconvening upon
the call of the President.

The Executive Committee reconvened,
in open session, at 12:17 P.M.,
Wednesday, August 1, 1962,
in the Office of the President.

President Friedrich presiding

PRESENT: Regents Friedrich, Jensen, DeBardleben and Steiger.

President Friedrich stated that the Executive Committee was designated by the Board of Regents to act in the role of a special Search Committee for the Presidency; and that the Executive Committee now had the following statement to make. President Friedrich presented the following statement of the Executive Committee:

"The Executive Committee of the Board of Regents has consulted the representatives of the faculty on the University Committee, with the senior dean and the dean of the senior college and heard from them the result of a canvass of the deans of the University, and has received from these groups on both the Madison and Milwaukee campuses the unanimous recommendation that Vice President Fred Harvey Harrington be named President of the University.

"The Executive Committee was joined by all other members of the Board, save one who could not attend but whose sentiments were ascertained, and the Regents gave unanimous support to Dr. Harrington for our highest office.

"Informed of this total University support, Dr. Harrington indicated that he would accept the presidency if he were released from his commitment to the University of Hawaii.

"This committee contacted the president of the Hawaii Board of Regents and that board was canvassed.

"We are deeply grateful to members of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii for their release of Dr. Harrington. The University of Wisconsin will long remember Hawaii's kindness in our great hour of need. The sudden death of our beloved president, Conrad Elvehjem, at this critical point in the University's development, has forced upon us this early action.

"We hope that the family and the many friends of Dr. Elvehjem understand our concern for unbroken continuity in the University's administration and interpret our anxiety to fill the presidency immediately as an indication of this University's dependence on President Elvehjem. Further evidence of our respect for our late leader can be seen in our recommending as his successor, the man he designated as the person best qualified to administer the University in his absence.

"The Executive Committee, acting in its role as a special Search Committee for the Presidency, will recommend to the Board of Regents, at a special meeting at 10:00 A.M. next Monday, that Dr. Fred Harvey Harrington be appointed president of The University of Wisconsin."

President Friedrich shook hands with Dr. Harrington and said, "Official action, of course, of the appointment of Dr. Harrington will be taken at the special formal Board of Regents meeting on next Monday."

Dr. Harrington made the following statement: "Thank you, Mr. Friedrich and fellow Regents of Mr. Friedrich. I am, of course, greatly honored to be chosen by your committee for the presidency of the University of Wisconsin; and, as your statement says, I have agreed to accept this position if the Board of Regents formally offers me this position next Monday. In so indicating, I would like, first, to thank the Regents of the University of Hawaii for their very generous and kind agreement to relieve me of my obligation to go to Hawaii. I would not, of course, have asked for relief from that obligation, nor would I have been willing to have you ask for it, but for the sudden and unexpected tragic death of our President. But, with that death, the emergency at the University of Wisconsin seems to force me to recognize my own long obligation to this great University; and I am, therefore, prepared to follow President Conrad Elvehjem, who has, of course, been a distinguished chief executive of this University.

"My wife and I were looking forward to going to the University of Hawaii, which we think has a great future. We regret that we have caused Hawaii a serious problem by our accepting a different future; but we wish Hawaii well and are sure that the future can be worked out satisfactorily there. Since the situation is not yet a formal one, I should terminate my statement there, but with a final word that, of course, the position of President at the University of Wisconsin is one of great responsibility and, if I am appointed to this position, I will do all I can to carry on the traditions of this great institution and to help us move forward to a greater future. In doing that, I think, I would be carrying on the work of Conrad Elvehjem and doing as he wished for the future of this University."

Regent Jensen made the following statement: "I should like to say that our committee felt it would take some time to ascertain the attitudes and feelings of our faculty, our deans, and our administration; and, while in our own minds we thought very highly of Dr. Harrington, especially in the past four years, when we saw his work, we wanted very much to know the feelings of the faculty and the deans, and we thought it would take a little time. We were amazed to find the unanimity of feelings that existed in the University Committee, unanimous without reservation, and this committee embraced most of the great fields of learning of this University and is composed not only of men in the social sciences and the humanities but also in the natural sciences. This unanimity also embraced all the deans, with the exception of one who could not be reached due to a situation of this being summer. Therefore, we found that we could act with more dispatch than we had hoped for earlier in the day.

"I think it is well to stress that the recommendation we are making known to you in public today is with the knowledge that the other Regents feel as we do and concur in our judgment, including Regent Pasch, who could not be with us yesterday.

"So, I for one, want to say, Mr. Harrington, that the amount of support that is yours is remarkable; and I think that I am not speaking wrongfully when I say that you have the good wishes of the faculty, of the deans, of your fellow administrators, and the entire membership of this Board. I think the confidence we have invested will be warranted."

Dr. Harrington expressed his thanks following Regent Jensen's statement.

President Friedrich inquired whether there was any further business to come before the Executive Committee. There being none, and upon motion of Regent DeBardleben, seconded by Regent Steiger, it was VOTED, That the meeting of the Executive Committee be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 P.M.

Clarke Smith, Secretary