

# Minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin: August 6, 1962. 1962

Madison, Wisconsin: Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, 1962

https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/RQYWOYGVMZFOA86

Copyright 2008 Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Madison, Wisconsin Held in the President's Office Monday, August 6, 1962, 10:00 A.M.

President Friedrick presiding

PRESENT: Regents Friedrick, Gelatt, Greenquist, Jensen, Pasch, Rohde, Steiger, and Werner

ABSENT: Regents DeBardeleben and Rothwell. Regent DeBardeleben was absent due to his absence from the State. Regent Rothwell was absent due to a previously arranged speaking engagement.

President Friedrick announced that this special meeting of the Regents had been convened to consider a number of matters, relating to the position of the President of the University, necessitated by the sudden death of President Conrad Elvehjem.

Upon motion by Regent Jensen, seconded by Regent Gelatt, it was VOTED, That the Board go into Executive Session.

The Regents went into Executive Session at 10:05 A.M., and all persons left the meeting except the Regents.

The Regents arose from Executive Session at 10:30 A.M.

President Friedrick announced that, at this time, the Executive Committee, which had been designated by the Board to act in the role of a special Search Committee for the Presidency, would present its statement in this matter. President Friedrick then presented the following statement, which had been made at the meeting of the Executive Committee held on August 1, 1962: "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 Friedrick stated that this was the report of the Executive Committee to the Board of Regents, and inquired as to the pleasure of the Board in this matter.

Regent Jensen stated that the honor had been given to him and that he took great pleasure in moving the adoption of the following motion:

> That Fred Harvey Harrington be elected President of The University of Wisconsin effective August 6, 1962, at an annual salary of \$34,000; and that he have the usual perquisites of the office of the President of the University.

> > -2-

Regent Pasch seconded the above motion. Regent Stieger requested that the record show that all of the Regents seconded the motion, and it was so ordered.

Regent Gelatt made the following statement:

"I would like to comment very briefly on the motion. The loss of President Elvehjem was certainly a great blow to all of us personally, and certainly to all of us who have a feeling for this University. As the man who was chairman of the committee in the selection of President Elvehjem, I felt that loss personally very much; but I, at the same time, was gratified that we had Mr. Harrington so readily available, thanks to the kindness of the University of Hawaii. At the time,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years ago, that we set out to select a successor to President Fred, and looking back to 1946, I was happy to know that at that time the list of candidates from which President Fred was selected included the names of seven, of the ten that were before them in 1946, who were presidents of Universities by 1958. Regarding the list of four or five names that came before our committee  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years ago, I think, with the action taken today, all of them have achieved the presidency of an outstanding University. We were very fortunate to have on this campus at that time two such outstanding men. Moreover, having worked with Mr. Harrington intimately in the last four years. I have every confidence that he will do an outstanding job for this University, and that the development will continue along traditional lines; and, with the vigor and intellect he can bring, I am sure it will develop fully. I am honored to second the motion."

Regent Steiger made the following statement:

"I, personally, feel a great loss in the death of President Elvehjem, having served as President of the Board for three years under his presidency. I also am very happy to know that we will have a man to succeed him in Dr. Harrington with whom I have worked very closely. We have taken trips to other universities during my three years, and I learned to respect him and to know that he has the capabilities of making a fine president of the University."

Regent Werner made the following Statement:

"This is an historic occasion; and I am sure that we are all proud to participate in the significant action that will be taken here today. Another thing we should consider is that, in spite of the gloom and sadness that enveloped the University, this matter was handled with delicacy and solemnity by our President (of the Regents), who deserves the gratitude of the University and the state. This is now the third President of the University, in order, that we have taken from the ranks of the University; and that is something to be noted! It speaks highly of the University as a great institution. I am proud to join in seconding the nomination of Vice President Harrington to be President of this University."

-3

#### Regent Pasch made the following statement:

"I might say, Mr. President, that, as one of the new members of the Board of Regents, it has been my privilege and my pleasure, not only to have worked with and to have lived with, in this community, our now departed President Conrad Elvehjem, but to have lived with and worked, while on the Board during the past year, with our newly elected President, Fred Harrington. I was terribly shocked, upon picking up a newspaper on my trip south, to learn of the untimely passing of our President; and yet, it was my real, sincere hope that we might, somehow, continue the chain of progress and development here at the University which we were enjoying under the administration of President Elvehjem by being able to convince Fred Harrington and The University Board of Regents in Hawaii. In the first instance to convince Dr. Harrington to return to our campus, and secondly to convince the Board of Regents of Hawaii that we needed him. I consider both of these matters to be difficult assignments, in that certain commitments had been made that might have made it impossible to convince that Board (Hawaii) that they should release President Harrington, and it might have been impossible. I am happy today that both of these matters have been resolved; and also happy that, at our last meeting, all of us, individually and collectively, had an opportunity to express our appreciation for services rendered by Fred Harrington to the University and for the contributions he has made to our University and our state while Vice President. It is good that he knew these sentiments before he was elected President of the University. I join the rest of the members of the Board of Regents in my great feeling that we will continue to keep this a great University under the leadership of Fred Harrington and the administration with which he will be surrounded."

#### Regent Jensen made the following statement:

"I would like to extend the remark that I made last Wednesday as to our happiness in the belief that the faculty and the deans were in accord with our judgment. Several days have since passed, and it seems quite apparent there is an overwhelming sentiment on the part of this selection as a university-wide action being taken today. I think it is a splendid testimonial to President Harrington."

President Friedrick put the question on the above motion, and it was voted unanimously. President Friedrick read two letters, one from Regent DeBardeleben and one from Regent Rothwell, both of whom were unable to be present at this meeting (copies on file). Regent DeBardeleben in his letter requested that he be recorded as voting in favor of the appointment of Fred Harvey Harrington as President of the University of Wisconsin and in favor of the establishment of the salary of Dr. Harrington, as President, at \$34,000 on an annual basis. Regent Rothwell in his letter requested that the record show that he enthusiastically supported the election of Dr. Fred Harrington as President of the University of Wisconsin. President Friedrick ordered that these two communications be made a matter of record of this meeting.

-5

#### President Friedrick made the following statement:

"May I say that the unanimous action of this Board of Regents is, I think, a significant action for the whole state of Wisconsin. I am quite sure that Dr. Harrington is one who recognizes the fact that the University of the State of Wisconsin serves not only the students who have the privlege and advantage of attending the University on this campus or Milwaukee campus and the Extension Centers, but that the University serves all of the people of this state.

"I come from the segment of our society where most of the people in it have not had the advantage of a University education; just as I have not had that advantage. Nevertheless, I, and all of these people, have been served by this University in many ways. The fact that this university has trained people who serve us--that it has trained teachers who teach our children; that it has trained doctors who administer to us and to our families; that it has trained engineers who have served us in many, many ways; that it has trained people who know how to manage industry--all of these--and, yes, it has trained people who know better than I how to manage organizations of labor--all of us, and, for that matter, those far beyond the boundaries of the state of Wisconsin, have the advantage of this University. I am quite sure that under the leadership of Dr. Harrington it will not only be continued, but extended.

"It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the Regents and the people of the State of Wisconsin, to congratulate Dr. Harrington as President."

President Friedrick shook hands with President Harrington. Pictures were taken of President Friedrick, President Harrington and President Emeritus E. B. Fred.

President Emeritus E. B. Fred made the following statement:

"Members of the Board of Regents of the University and friends of the University, I am honored to have the privilege of speaking to you as an emeritus member of the University faculty.

"This is an occasion when we should all be thinking of the future. Yet in my case, I hope you will permit me to look back over the almost fifty years of my association with the university.

<sup>11</sup>As our new President will tell you, since history is his major interest, "What's past is Prologue." It was never more true than in my experience of fifty years at the University. With a one-semester appointment to substitute for a colleague in Bacteriology, I was immediately impressed with the vitality and vigor of this institution. You may say it was a case of 'love at first sight!" But the feeling endured and I can assure you, Mr. President, that this is truly a wonderful State -- wonderful in many ways -- climate, soil, lakes, and so on. But best of all are the people of Wisconsin.

° -6

They are always ready to try the new and unexplored -- and they are equally ready to support the individual who will make that exploration. Through thick and thin, they will let him make an honest effort to carry on a strong forward-looking program.

"This is what I have found at Wisconsin in my almost 50 years of service. You, too, will find this is true. I extend to you, Mr. President, my warmest congratulations and a pledge of support. Please feel free to call upon me at any time. I thank you."

President Harrington made the following statement:

"Thank you, Dr. Fred, Mr. Friedrick and other members of the Board of Regents. I came to this University twenty-five years ago this week as an instructor. I have been at Wisconsin only half the time that Dr. Fred has been here; but I had a two-semester appointment, twice as long as his. Like Dr. Fred, I have come to feel that this is my university.

"In serving this University I have come to realize that its presidency is a position of the highest public responsibility.

"I realize, therefore, that the President of the University does not represent any single discipline. He represents them all. He represents the humanities and the social sciences, and the biological sciences and the physical sciences.

<sup>17</sup>I realize, too, that the President of this University does not represent any single college or any single campus of this University. He represents them all: the College of Engineering, the College of Agriculture, the College of Letters and Science and all the others; the Milwaukee Campus, and the Center System, as well as Madison.

"I realize, too, that the President of the University cannot and does not line up with any political group, or any economic group, or any social group. He lines up with them all, for the responsibility of this University is to all the citizens of our state and to other states as well.

"It has been my great good fortune to have worked in the administration of our past two presidents. Dr. Edwin B. Fred, who has just spoken to us, and Dr. Conrad Elvehjem, who has just passed away. I would like, on this occasion, to express my gratitude to these two great men, and my admiration for them. I would like, also, to emphasize what they have taught me, that the President of our great University cannot succeed by himself - that he needs the support of this Board of Regents, that he needs the support of our faculty, including the other members of the administration; and the support of the other employees of this University, of our students and alumni, of all the friends of this University, and of all the citizens of this state.

"The President of our University needs this support. I am confident that he will have it. Thank you."

-6-

-7

President Friedrick inquired whether there was any further business to come before this meeting. The Secretary suggested that the Regents might want to consider, in view of the action taken, a further revision in the By-Laws of the Regents. He noted that the By-Laws had been amended at the July meeting of the Regents to repeal, as of September 15, 1962, the section relating to the Vice President of the University, and to make effective, as of September 1, 1962, the section relating to the Vice President-Academic Affairs. President Harrington noted that there was now a changed situation with respect to the order of succession, and the effective dates of offices, from what had been contemplated at the July meeting of the Regents. He read the following letter, which had been addressed to him under date of August 3, 1962 by Dr. Robert L. Clodius:

"On the recommendation of past President C. A. Elvehjem, the Regents of the University have appointed me Vice President -Academic Affairs to be effective September 1, 1962.

"I know it is sometimes <u>pro forma</u> that administrative appointees offer their resignations to a new president. However, it is my strong conviction and belief that the chief executive of the University should, indeed, have the opportunity to choose his associates in the administration of the University.

"Therefore, I wish to express my willingness to withdraw the previous acceptance of the position of Vice President -Academic Affairs and to reaffirm my desire only to serve the University in whatever capacity you may wish. Sincerely, R. L. Clodius."

President Harrington stated that it was his wish that Dr. Clodius remain in the administration; and that, therefore, as his first action as President, he would present the following recommendation:

> That the appointment of Robert L. CZodius as Vice President -Academic Affairs, be amended to become effective August 6, 1962 instead of September 1, 1962.

Regent Steiger moved adoption of the above motion, the motion was seconded by Regent Rhode, and was voted.

Regent Steiger moved the adoption of the following resolution, and the motion was seconded by Regent Greenquist:

That the action voted by the Regents on July 14, 1962 amending the By-Laws of the Board of Regents be amended to provide that the new Section 4, Chapter IV of the By-Laws of the Board of Regents be effective August 6, 1962; and that Section 4a be repealed as of August 6, 1962. A called vote was taken on the above motion with Regents Friedrick, Gelatt, Greenquist, Jensen, Pasch, Rohde, Steiger, and Werner voting "Aye"; there were no "Noes". The motion was declared carried.

President Harrington stated that formal statements could not be made at this time with reference to the memorial service which will be held for President Elvehjem and to the many other actions which will be taken later with reference to his service to the University. He noted that many suggestions already had been received with reference to tributes to President Elvehjem; and that a report would be made on these later. He asked Dean Luberg to report further regarding the proposed memorial service. Dean Luberg reported that preliminary plans were being made as to the place and form of the memorial service for President Elvehjem, although the exact nature of it had not been formalized; and that the Regents would be informed regarding the arrangements that were made.

Vice President Peterson reported that the University of Wisconsin Foundation had announced a collection of funds for the establishment of a memorial fund for President Elvehjem. He stated that as far as he knew there had been no specific use indicated for this fund, but that probably the first use of the fund would be for a portrait of President Elvehjem.

President Friedrick reported the receipt of additional letters, expressing sorrow at the untimely death of President Elvehjem; and stated that these letters would be filed with the papers of this meeting, together with other similar letters which had been received.

Vice President Peterson called attention to the fact that the State Medical Society had established a lectureship in memory of President Elvehjem.

President Friedrick recalled that there had been some discussion in a meeting of the Executive Committee that it would be appropriate to send a letter, signed by each one of the members of the Board of Regents, to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, expressing gratitude for the cooperation which they had given.

Regent Jensen suggested that, in preparation of such a letter it should note that the Regents adopted a resolution expressing profound thanks to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii in making this gesture at the time of our great need.

-8-

-8

Upon motion of Regent Jensen, seconded by Regent Gelatt, it unanimously was

VOTED, That a letter, to be signed by each Regent, be sent to the Regents of The University of Hawaii expressing our profound thanks and our resolve to remember always their kind and courageous generosity in our hour of great need.

(Copy of letter referred to above is attached as Exhibit A.)

In reply to an inquiry, the Regents were informed that it was still planned to hold the meeting of the Executive Committee scheduled for 1:30 P.M. on Tuesday, August 14, 1962; and that the next regular meeting of the Regents was scheduled at 9 A.M., September 14, 1962.

Upon motion made by Regent Stieger, seconded by Regent Pasch, it was VOTED, That the meeting of the Board be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Clarke Smith, Secretary

## THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN Office of the Secretary 171 Bascom Hall Madison 6

August 14, 1962

Mr. Herbert Cornuelle President of the Board of Regents The University of Hawaii Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear President Cornuelle:

Please convey the greetings of the Regents of The University of Wisconsin to the Regents of The University of Hawaii, and present to each of them a copy of this letter expressing our unanimous resolve to remember always their kind and courageous generosity in our hour of great need.

The death of President Conrad A. Elvehjem came as a sudden and tragic shock to Wisconsin. Our personal loss was great. He shall never be replaced in our hearts. The loss to the University was one which could have harmed it for years to come, if it meant a break in administrative continuity at this critical time. We are in the midst of preparing a budget request and a long-range building program which may well determine the future quality and progress of this University.

As vice president, Dr. Fred H. Harrington had aided President Elvehjem in these preparations and in other crucial administration actions now under way. President Elvehjem had designated Dr. Harrington as the person best qualified to act for him in his absence. On Dr. Elvehjem's death, a poll of the University Committee of the faculty and of the Deans of the University revealed unanimous agreement that Dr. Harrington has the unique ability to provide the administrative continuity required--that no other man was so qualified. We Regents all concurred.

When advised of this complete agreement, Dr. Harrington gave us permission to request release from his commitment to The University of Hawaii presidency. Your appreciation for our problem, the generosity of your sacrifice, and the concern you demonstrated for a sister institution by granting his release will go down in the annals of our Board as an example of the high confraternity among institutions of higher learning so essential to the educational future of the people of our nation. As the newest state in the union your star is lustrous and your action illustrious. It is our hope that we can measure up to the high standard of cooperation which the Board of Regents of The University of Hawaii has set in this instance.

Dr. Harrington indicated to us quite frankly that he was extremely reluctant to lose the opportunity which you offered him as your president. He told us of the vigor, the strong support, and the high goals of The University of Hawaii. He is certain that, with the direction your Board has set. The University of Hawaii has a future of great promise. The altruism you demonstrated in your response to our request certainly substantiates his estimate.

EXHIBIT A

# THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Jacob F. Friedrick, President of the Board Ellis E. Jensen, Vice President of the Board

Arthur DeBardeleben

Gilbert C. Rhode

Charles D. Gelatt

Angus B. Rothwell

Kenneth L. Greenquist

Carl E. Steiger

Maurice B. Pasch

A. Matt. Werner