

UCCSN Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes July 6-7, 1911

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July 6, 1911

A meeting of the Board of Regents was held in the Office of the Regents on July 6th. Present were Chairman Codd, members H. E. Reid and J. W. O'Brien. Absent were Henderson and Williams.

The President of the University submitted his report of his visit to the University of Virginia at Charlottesville and New York as follows:

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the instructions from your Honorable Body, Mr. Bliss and myself left Reno on the morning of the 15th of June. I arrived home this, Thursday morning, July 6th, exactly three weeks to the day from the time I left. After our interview with Mr. Mackay, Mr. Bliss left me, and arrived home, I presume, Thursday, June 29th.

We arrived in Washington, Monday morning, June 19th, and I left Monday evening for Charlottesville, Virginia, the site of the University of Virginia.

I spent a few hours at the Bureau of Standards and soon found I had not allowed enough time to satisfy myself upon the various points that were raised, and consequently I left with a promise to return before I came West.

Early Tuesday morning we were on the grounds of the University of Virginia. The Campus comprises some 200 acres, and is a natural site. It is one of great beauty which has been increased by careful cultivation. Indeed, the entire country around Charlottesville is rolling country -- hills and valleys innumerable. Two and one half miles from Charlottesville is Monticello, the home and burial place of Thomas Jefferson, a beautiful place situated on the top of a hill, the top of which was literally shaved off to provide a suitable place for his house and grounds.

Mr. Bliss had a letter of introduction to one of the Professors

and we presented it. The Professor himself was absent, but his good wife did all she could to make our stay pleasant, and gave us the opportunity to see every part of the University, both buildings and grounds. I am not surprised that Mr. Mackay was strongly impressed with the beauty of the University, and with that certain atmosphere which seems to pervade the entire University.

We were impressed with the fact that we can in time make the University of Nevada as beautiful, as attractive and as inspiring as the University of Virginia is today. In fact, the basis of the plans for the improvements and the buildings of the University of Nevada follow somewhat the plan of the buildings of the University of Virginia.

I submit herewith a number of photographs which I think will give you a fair idea of the arrangement of the buildings around the quadrangle and the provision for buildings outside the quadrangle.

The first photograph shows the Library building as it appears from the front, with the steps, platforms and so forth leading up to the Library building from the street. The location of our proposed building is similar: beginning at Ninth Street, the steps, platforms and basin for the waters of the ditch, leading from Ninth Street up to the site of the proposed Library and Administration building.

Photograph No. 2 shows the front of the Library building and the nature of the approach to it from the street.

Photograph No. 3 shows the quadrangle and the Library fronting upon the quadrangle.

I am not sure of the measurements, but will state them approximately, reserving until some future time more exact estimates. One feature to be noticed is the growth of large and majestic trees. There is a forest of elm, beech, maple, hickory, locust, walnut and other trees on the grounds. There are two rows of these trees around almost the length of the quadrangle, one upon the east side, the other upon the west side. You will notice in photograph No. 7 the flanking buildings on one side of the quadrangle. The low one story houses are for students. The plan of these was worked out by Thomas Jefferson and these buildings are probably one hundred or more years old.

The quadrangle is about 1200 feet long; ours is about 800 feet long. The width of their quadrangle is about 170 feet; ours 154

feet between walks and 240 feet between buildings.

The plan for the University of Nevada shows a similar quadrangle which already had the Mackay building at one end and provides for the Library and Administration building at the south end. All the buildings around the quadrangle to be on the plan of the Mackay building, though less expensive.

At the north end of the quadrangle is placed the Academic building, erected by Mc Kim, Mead & White, which has, in addition to recitation rooms, an auditorium which will seat about 1200 people.

Having an hour or two left at the close of the day, we drove out to Monticello, two miles and one half distant, visting the home and tomb of Thomas Jefferson.

We arrived in New York Wednesday morning, the 21st of June. At about ten o'clock Mr. Mackay's Secretary called me up at the hotel and made an appointment with Mr. Mackay for half past one Thursday. At the appointed hour we were there and Mr. Bliss and I had a conference of about two hours and a half with Mr. Mackay. I have met Mr. Mackay a number of times for conferences and he made the same impression upon Mr. Bliss and myself, namely, that the improvement and growth of the University of Nevada lay very near his heart, and that he was one with the Regents of this University in building up and enlarging the University of Nevada. There were two questions which we said were fundamental to the growth and improvement of the grounds and they were these:

1. That we should make arrangements to have an abundant supply of water at all times for the grounds as well as the buildings and laboratories.
2. That we ought to acquire the land from Mrs. Evans beginning with the southern end of the tennis court and ending with Ninth Street. I said I felt sure that we could in time acquire this land from Mrs. Evans at a reasonable figure.

I was sure the Legislature would appropriate an amount sufficient to purchase this land. Mr. Mackay then proposed that the Regents use the ten thousand dollars appropriated by the last Legislature for the permanent improvement of the grounds to providing a permanent supply of water and then expending the remainder upon improvements on the Campus. While the wording of the appropriation allows us to do this, it might be well for the Regents to consult the State Board of Examiners and get their approval. I

stated two or three times that we needed this amount for the building of the approach from Ninth Street to Morrill Hall, and Mr. Mackay said that he would provide the money necessary for the expense of putting in the steps and so forth from Ninth Street to Morrill Hall according to the plans which were drawn up by Messrs. Bliss and Faville, and that he would have the University of Virginia as an example of the kind of work he wants to secure. I can see no reason why we cannot use this ten thousand dollars in this way now that Mr. Mackay has agreed to provide for the payment of the proposed approach from Ninth Street to Morrill Hall.

Mr. Mackay then discussed at length with us the proposed Library and Administration building. You can see in this report from photographs 2, 3 and 8, the majestic appearance, within and without, which the Library forms at the head of the quadrangle of the University of Virginia. Yet our building would be more modern, and with the same features of Colonial style, with a brick or stone cornice instead of wooden. I may say that buildings of brick with white pillars and white cornices make a very attractive style of architecture. Wherever the University of Virginia has departed from this style it has in so much lost. Mr. Mackay said that we must have the Library and Administration building at the head of the quadrangle, and he asked Mr. Bliss to prepare a water color of about three or four feet long and 18 inches or two feet wide representing the buildings as they are to be, especially showing the approach from Ninth Street, the Library and Administration building, the quadrangle flanked on each side by buildings and by trees and the Mackay building at the north end.

He has spoken several times to Mrs. Vanderbilt and to Mr. Mills. He has also spoken to Mrs. Oelrichs, and he has but little doubt that we will be able in time to get two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for this building from these sources named. He wanted the water color to put on the wall of his office and be able to show these people what they were giving their money to. This water color is to be prepared by Mr. Bliss and forwarded to him not later than the first of October after his return from Europe.

Incidental to this we touched upon the subject of a Social Hall and Auditorium. This appealed to him very strongly. He said that he would ask Mr. Flood to do his share toward a Social Hall. I feel that this work is clinched for us as expressed in my former report on my return from New York in January. I believe that the University will get these buildings and the approach to Morrill Hall and probably the building of Social Hall.

I talked to Mr. Mackay about a gardener and he promised to give it his early attention, saying that a good gardener was very hard to secure. I have also gotten Mr. Bliss to see what he can do.

In all this interview Mr. Bliss took the leading part and if nothing unforeseen happens, Mr. Mackay and his friends will see that the Library and Administration building and a Social Hall will be received by the University within a reasonable time.

On June 28th, accompanied by my son, I had another interview with Mr. Mackay and read Mr. Codd's telegram respecting bids for the Electrical building as follows:

For the Electrical Building	\$29,200.00
Installation	3,000.00
Machinery	12,500.00
Total	\$44,700.00

In the original telegram from Mr. Codd he mentioned that they had put in \$10,000 for the stone. I have two bids for furnishing Indiana limestone. The lowest of the two gives \$4311 which leaves \$5689 difference, which would make the lowest bid a little less than the \$40,000 asked for.

I asked Mr. Mackay what he knew about the Bureau of Municipal Research, Mr. Allen in charge, and he said it was a Bureau of Research for the study of Municipal questions, in which Mrs. Harriman had great interest, and which she had given for the first year's support the sum of forty thousand dollars. He said he had a letter from Mrs. Harriman asking him to make a contribution toward the expense of the Bureau for a second year. Mr. Mackay said he intended answering her letter and giving something to the support of the Bureau, but at the same time was going to say to her that he was so interested in the development of the University of Nevada that he reserved most of his contributions for that University.

I reminded Mr. Mackay that I had sent a letter to Mrs. Harriman which she had graciously read and turned over to Mr. Allen for answer, stating she could make no gift for this purpose. Mr. Mackay said he had read my letter and that it was a very excellent one indeed; he said "Don't you want to take up this matter personally with Mrs. Harriman? If you do I would be glad to give you a personal letter of introduction to Mrs. Harriman." I said, "If you will do this I would greatly appreciate it and would seek an interview with Mrs. Harriman some time in the Fall

after the Summer vacation is over and we have all gotten back to our accustomed work."

I still have faith that the University of Nevada is going to receive the sum of \$50,000 for the farm.

I would suggest to the Board of Regents that they quietly, with the assistance of two or three of the agricultural men, look around and get an option upon a farm for a year, and in the meantime we can see what can be done.

Land is growing valuable and if the owners of the farm get the idea that the University wanted the land they would probably put up the price.

RECAPITULATION:

It might be well to set forth the sums which the University of Nevada is reasonably sure of securing:

1. The building of steps, platforms and basin and so forth from Ninth Street to Morrill Hall, the amount to be paid by Mr. Mackay	\$ 10,000.00
If it exceeds \$10,000 Mr. Mackay will provide more.	
2. Library and Administration building From friends	\$250,000.00
3. Social Hall From friends	\$ 50,000.00
4. water, trees and other improvements on the grounds	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$320,000.00

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES:

I returned to Washington and spent one day, June 26, with Dr. S. W. Stratton, Director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures. Dr. Stratton assured me that he would like to cooperate with us and promised to give the University a complete set of weights and measures, and suggested that in the organization we should take for our deputy some man with tact and discretion who is specially capable in Physics and Electrical Engineering.

The outline of our work for the Laboratory, as laid down by Mr. Stratton, is as follows:

weights Commercial, Assayers
Length Commercial, Engineers' Tapes
Capacity Commercial
Electrical Commercial
Plutometric ... Gas, Electricity

The field as outlined by Mr. Stratton is a large and very important one.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA:

The University is subdivided into the Academic Department and the Professional Department.

Under the Head of the Academic Department is the College and the Department of Graduate Studies.

Under the Professional Departments are the Department of Law; the Department of Medicine; the Department of Engineering, consisting of Civil, Mechanical, Mining, Electrical and Chemical; and the Department of Agriculture.

According to their list, there were registered in the College, 344 students.

In the Department of Graduate Students	30
In the Department of Law	183
In the Department of Medicine	78
In the Department of Engineering	91

These numbers show the University of Virginia is not making the showing that would be expected of it, but we are to remember that they have suffered the loss of attendance since the war and are just gradually recovering now. It is a good University and has many lessons for us which from time to time I will endeavor to present to you.

I gave the thanks of the Board of Regents to Mr. C. B. Zabriskie for the gift of a scholarship of \$200 to be known as the Herbert H. Howe Scholarship.

I take pleasure in announcing two new scholarships which I secured. One a scholarship of \$100 by Ralph S. Stubbs, to be given

each year as long as he is able. The other scholarship for \$100 from Ray Richards. Whether he will continue this scholarship after this year or not he does not say.

I am very anxious to get as large a number of students as possible at the University at the beginning of the year. A letter just received from the Adjutant General's Office says that if we do not have 150 students at the inspection next year they will not detail an army officer from the active list. I am putting forth every effort to secure all the students that I can. I need not remind you that the name of our State, unjustly criticized in many respects, is yet held in high esteem. We are meeting some opposition in this State on the ground that it is not safe to send children here. I suggest that we continue our policy of last year and put our advertisement in the papers of the State and of California east of the mountains, setting forth some of our advantages.

The Supreme Lodge of Odd Fellows have elected to accept the Otto Hartung bequest under the conditions he has imposed. This means that they are to build in Washoe County an Orphans' Home to be named the Royal D. Hartung Home, and then the Directors are to be paid annually the income from his Estate.

On motion the President of the University was authorized to prepare and have published proposals for the Electrical building and for the Dam.

No further business appearing, the Board adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

A. A. Codd
Chairman

Geo. H. Taylor
Secretary