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University of Montana Faculty Senate

12-7-1911

Minutes from the December 7, 1911 meeting of the University of Montana faculty

University of Montana (Missoula, Mont. : 1893-1913). Faculty

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A special meeting of the Faculty was held at 5:00 P. M. on the call of the President. Absent: E. F. A. Care, R. H. Cary, Hill, Palmer, Phillips, Plew, Stoutemyer, Whitlock.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The President read a notice concerning the granting of leaves of absence for the holiday vacation, and asked for suggestions in regard to policy of granting these leaves.

Leaves of
absence

Professor Plant informed the Faculty that the Scholarship Committee desired general scholarship reports on all students on December 21.

The President spoke of the meeting of the State Teachers' Association, and in this connection about extension lectures that might be given during the holidays.

After a brief discussion of plans for the summer school it was moved by Book and seconded by Harkins that a committee of five, with the President as chairman, be appointed to prepare plans for the summer school. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Summer
School

The President stated that the wishes of Mrs. E. L. Bonner concerning the scholarship which she had founded were to the effect that she wished the "best" student out of the freshman class to be awarded the prize. It was not to be construed that the "best" student signified the one having the highest scholarship, but other factors might enter into the award. Moved by Rowe and seconded by Book to refer the matter to the Scholarship Committee for a report the following Wednesday on regulations that might be desirable to follow in awarding the scholarship. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Bonner
Scholarship

The President stated that the purpose of calling the special meeting of the Faculty was to present a communication about which the faculty should know nearly as soon as he. The following letter was then read:

December 7, 1911- Continued.

President C. A. Duniway, Missoula, Montana.

My dear Sir:- I am instructed by the state board of education, in executive session, to notify you that the following resolution was unanimously adopted. "That President Duniway's contract not be renewed on September 1, 1912."

*Action of
State Board
of Education
concerning
President
Duniway*

Very truly,

W. E. HARMON,

Sec. Ex. Session."

Helena, December 5, 1911.

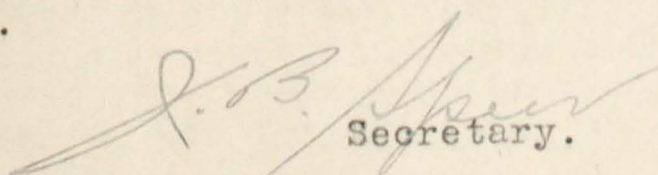
"This is a matter," said Dr. Duniway, "which, by this action of transmitting to me, ceases to be confidential, and, as it affects the university, I wanted all of you to know before it became general property in newspapers or in any other way. I think, perhaps, it is due to you to say that the receipt of this letter is my first intimation that such action was in contemplation or that it had been taken. I was not informed of it in Helena; I was not called before the board; there was no conference with me in Helena. Therefore, I can say nothing about the reasons for the action. Moreover, it would not be proper for me to say anything about them. By the terms of this letter it is assumed that I should remain to September 1, 1912. Therefore, I shall endeavor to administer the affairs of the university, as in the past, with proper loyalty to my superiors, the state board of education. If any explanation is to come, it must come from those who have taken action.

"My whole duty to you, as members of the faculty, is not done unless I take up one point more. The university is bigger than any man or any set of men, any faculty or any board, and I hope that, so far as is in our power, collectively or individually, we will not have our judgment or feelings so disturbed that it will in any way interfere with the welfare of the university. It is going to be a difficult year, the rest of the year, difficult for me and difficult, I suppose, for you; difficult in our relations with the students and the public; but the only thing to do, I believe, is to take time to consider the situation and be sure to do only what is best. So I would like to close this communication to the faculty by reminding you again that the same obligations I impose upon myself, I think rest on you, in whatever contingency, to give devoted and loyal service to the university while you are members of the faculty.

"I might have waited, perhaps, 24 hours to give you this information- although there seems to be no reason for delay--and probably would have done so, except for one thing. I have engagements in Spokane for the Inland Empire Teachers' association and with the University club of that city, which require me to leave Missoula tonight, and I cannot be back until Saturday evening. I wanted you, as colleagues, to know the facts, not to get them by indirection or in gossip. I have nothing more to say at this time."

On the suggestion of the President that a motion to adjourn was in order, it was moved, seconded and unanimously adopted that the Faculty adjourn.

Meeting adjourned.


Secretary.