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Minutes from the December 15, 1913 meeting of the University of Montana faculty

State University of Montana (Missoula, Mont.). Faculty

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FACULTY MEETING, DECEMBER 15th, 1913,

4:30 P. M., Room 4.

Meeting called to order by President E. B. Craighead.

Absent: Staehling, Whitlock, Corbin, Leaphart, Smith, Swenson.

Petition of Owen B. Speer to carry work in Absentia and to graduate upon completion of the work, recommended by Committee on Admission & Registration; passed for the present.

Professor Scheuch read the following communication:

"Meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs,
Thursday, October 6th.

Meeting called to hear the petition of the Sigma Nu Fraternity.

Present: Scheuch, Aber, Knowles, Bateman; also representatives from each fraternity.

Absent: Whitlock, Stewart.

The following petition was read;

"We, the undersigned, delegated by the three men's fraternities of the University of Montana, do petition the President and the Faculty to allow the fraternities, independently of any sorority, to pledge men by written bids on January 9, 1914. #101

The fraternities ask the permission to pledge on corresponding dates in future years:- or, in other words, to change the Sophomore pledging rule from a Sophomore to a semester rule. This date, January 9th, is suggested, since it is the belief of the fraternities that it will conflict less than any other date, with examinations and work. As it falls two weeks before the closing of the semester and before semester examinations, it is considered by the fraternities as the logical date on which to pledge.

The reasons for our petition given to the Committee on Student Affairs are as stated elsewhere in connection with this petition.

(Signed)

Sigma Nu Fraternity,
Earl L. Speer.
Sigma Chi Fraternity,
E. Pat Kelly.
Iota Nu Fraternity,
G. Otis Baxter.

Mr. Speer spoke for the Sigma Nu: that they were making a petition because they did not have a sufficient number of men in the fraternity to run it on a paying basis. Men are dropping in and out all the time. We are running behind about \$65 a month. This is not saying anything about what we already owe. We furnished the house and are paying for furniture on the installment plan. With the Sophomore ruling in effect it means that when we come to pledge we will have six or seven men graduating. As near as we can find out there will be only about four men coming back.

Professor Scheuch then asked what was the intention of the representatives to ask for.

Speer: We are asking that you set the date, the second Friday in January at 5:00 o'clock in the evening; let that be the date for pledging not only for this year but as a permanent time. Practically from a year ruling to a semester ruling. I do not believe myself and I do not think it is the opinion of others that we can have and conduct houses on a paying basis with the Sophomore rule in effect. If the men came back it would be all right. We had 13 men who did not come back.

The Iota Nu stated that 7 of their men did not return.

The Sigma Chi stated that 6 of their men did not return.

Scheuch: Was this an extraordinary year on account of the removal of Engineering?

Iota Nu lost all of the 7 men for this reason.

Scheuch: How would it be to ask each fraternity to make a statement of your expenses, running expenses per month per man - say from September to date?

Speer: I talked with Dr. Craighead and he took a different attitude on the Sophomore ruling after it was explained to him. Anything that I say I would like to have referred to him; that's the way I understood him.

Owsley: We think it would benefit both the University and the fraternities. We propose the second Friday of January instead of the first of the second semester because it would interfere least with study. Such a ruling would settle matters for all time. Things last year were conducted in a good manner. I think this is the best argument for the ruling.

Miss Knowles: Would other interests of the University be interfered with by this abrogation?

Dickey: We want to see some set rule here.

Scheuch: What you want is a permanent semester ruling?

Dickey: We would not oppose a semester ruling. Experience of the past showed that the fraternities cannot exist under a Sophomore ruling. If the semester is the best, we wish that ruling.

Kelly: Last year we had only a few men and our bills averaged \$40 to \$43 a month per man. We ran that house and could do it until January, but we were glad when we could pledge Freshmen. We could not have lasted a year. The fraternities here cannot stand the Sophomore ruling.

Aber: Would it be possible for these fraternities to promise not to take men from Johnson Flats?

Kelly: Our house is full up. We couldn't take another man.

Dickey: We cannot take any more men into the house.

Speer: We do want to take men from Johnson Flats, but if this question comes up, we would be glad to take them into the fraternity and to get them to board in the house.

Bateman: Do you feel sure that you would always have enough men come back in the Fall that you would not have to ask for the abrogation of this rule?

General discussion: We will stand by a semester ruling.

The extent of the rushing season was brought up by Mr. Bateman.

Owsley: The rushing season under the ruling would be a gradual affair. It could not be as strenuous as though it were conducted in six weeks.

Ade: We are all agreed that a fraternity can run one semester on three or four men.

Knowles: How many are in the Sigma Nu?

Speer: It is rather varied. Some have gone down the river and some are making their way and have to room out in town. By the end of the month, I think we shall know where we stand.

Ade: For the month of October we are about \$85 behind.

Knowles: Some of the faculty may ask if you could do without your table.

Speer: This is the only way we have to make any money. We could not give up our house because we have it under contract.

Bateman: Some of the faculty will look at this as a request for a special privilege.

Speer: We are asking for this ruling so we will not have to ask for special privileges hereafter. One member of the faculty said he looked up twenty-five universities to get the dope on this, and some had Sophomore ruling and some Semester ruling.

Kelly stated that last year the Sophomore ruling would have meant that the Sigma Chi could not have come back. This year it is the Sigma Nu.

Cameron: The Sophomore ruling was not unanimously adopted by the fraternities. It was done at the suggestion of the Faculty.

Bateman: I think it would be to your advantage to ask that the rule be changed, not abrogated.

Cameron stated that the Sigma Nu had seven seniors this year.

Bateman: Are you sure you will stand by this ruling if it is made?

Speer: We have figured for two months to find some way out of this without asking for a change in the ruling.

The boys stated that they would be glad to answer any arguments against the petition for which they were asking; that they had chosen this date because it would interfere the least with university work and examinations.

Professor Scheuch again suggested that the boys make brief statements in writing for the use of the committee in presenting the matter to the faculty.

Meeting adjourned. "

To the President and Faculty:

On November fourth, the following members of the Committee on Student Affairs (Scheuch, Aber, Knowles, Bateman present; Whitlock and Miss Stewart absent) met with the representatives of the three men's fraternities.

Of Sigma Nu, Messrs. Speer, Ade and Cameron;

Of Iota Nu, Messrs. Dickey and Baxter;

Of Sigma Chi, Kelly, Owsley, C. Molchoir;

to hear the reasons for the petition of the above named fraternities to be allowed to change the pledging date from June 1914 (as demanded at present by the Sophomore rule) to the second Friday in January at 5:00 p. m. This date was chosen as interfering least with studies and final examinations.

The reasons for the petition (appended hereto) are to be found at length in the appended report taken from the notes made by Miss Davis.

The summary is as follows:

Expenses of Sigma Nu Fraternity for Fiscal Month of October:

Telephone	\$2.50	Armitage,	\$28.00
House Rent	55.00	Cameron	28.00
Fuel:		Speer,	28.00
Coal	20.00	Ade,	28.00
Wood	6.00	Sewell,	28.00
Sawing Wood	1.50	Dowd,	13.00
Reinhard	1.00	Gilchrist,	9.00
Light	8.55	Smith,	5.00
Water	2.50	Metlen,	23.00
Cook	45.00	Young,	28.00
Spuds	2.50	Tope,	16.00
Laundry	4.99	Simpkins,	5.00
House Manager	6.00	Watkins,	<u>20.00</u>
Payment on furniture	25.00		259.00 (Assets)
Payment on Piano	10.00		
Groceries	85.00		
Meat & Butter	<u>65.00</u>		
	340.54 (Bills)		
	<u>259.00</u> (Assets)		
	\$ 81.54 (Deficit)		

(Submitted) Earl L. Speer.

To Whom it May Concern :

We, the members of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, do hereby submit our second statement of our condition.

At present, we have six men rooming in the fraternity house, two of whom pay no room rent. One, the house manager, who gets his room rent free in remuneration for services given to the fraternity; the other, the janitor, who gets his room rent free for work formerly done by Freshmen.

Four of the six men rooming at the Fraternity House take their meals at the fraternity, the other two work for their board outside of the fraternity. Two men not rooming at the house take their meals at the house, making the total number of men at the table, six.

Dec. 15th, 1913.

Joseph E. Tope (Treasurer)

(a) The financial statement of the Sigma Nu Fraternity shows the chapter to be running behind (an approximate amount) \$65 per month. They, and the chapters of the other fraternities believe it possible for a chapter to run behind to such an amount for the first semester, if at the end of that time they are allowed to initiate new members.

Under the peculiar conditions at the University it is also their belief that the benefits derived from a Semester ruling are just as beneficial to the University and to the fraternities as those obtained from a Sophomore rule. Therefore taking into consideration the financial conditions which may occur to any fraternity at the beginning of any year, they favor a change to a Semester rule.

The Committee on Student Affairs met again December 3rd, 1913 to discuss the Petition herein. No definite action was taken and the matter was referred to the Faculty. "

Professor Bateman's motion duly seconded "that the petition be not granted".

Motion discussed by Professors Jesse, Jr., Bateman, Lennes, Scheuch, Elrod, Kirkwood, Carey, Miss Knowles, Phillips, Thompson, Dr. E. B. Craighead.

Professor Lennes's motion seconded "that the motion before the house be laid on the table"; unanimously carried.

Motion by Professor Lennes, seconded:

(a) "That the Sophomore rule be suspended to one semester.

(b) "Pledging shall not take place until the first Monday after the close of the first semester."

(c) "No Freshman shall be pledged until he shall have earned twelve University of Montana credits; (in case of specials, six credit hours)."

The Sophomore rule was suspended only for the men's fraternities.)

Motion unanimously carried. "

Pledging
Men's
Fraternities

Professor Kemp read the following communication:

"Montana Agricultural College,
Bozeman, Mont. Dec. 10, 1913.

Professor W. W. Kemp,
University of Montana,
Missoula, Montana.

My dear Dr. Kemp:

Sabbatical Year.
In accordance with the agreement we had when we were talking over the matter of a joint committee of our two institutions on the subject of a sabbatical year for the faculty members, I brought up the proposition at the last faculty meeting here on Dec. 3rd, and the plan was received with enthusiasm, a resolution being passed providing that President Hamilton on his return, if he approved the plan, should appoint such a committee at this end of the line. I talked the matter over with him this morning and he approves entirely, and will appoint the committee at once, saying that he believes that such a committee can be very useful in gathering statistics of usage in other state institutions, and in preparing the case for presentation to the State Board. He began by naming me as chairman for our end of the line, and suggested that I write you at once and report progress, and ask for your cooperation in getting the matter under way shortly.

I shall hope to hear from you soon of progress at your end of the line, and sincerely hope that much may come of a plan which seems to me to have much promise in it.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. F. Brewer."

Motion by Professor Elrod, duly seconded, that the President appoint a committee of the Faculty members to cooperate with the Faculty Committee of Montana Agricultural College unanimously carried. President Craighead appointed the following sabbatical committee: Rowe, J. P., Elrod, M. J., Kemp, W. W.

On motion by Professor Elrod, Faculty meeting adjourned.

J. D. Ramsey
Secretary