

October 19, 1951

The Board of Trustees was called to order in the Board room at 10 a.m., with the following members present: Simpson, Del Monte, Sullivan, Burwell, Hansen, Bush, Brough, Jones, Newton, and, ex-officio, Humphrey. Absent were McCracken, Reed, Patterson, and, ex-officio, Stolt and Barrett.

Mr. Del Monte called attention to two corrections which Mr. Reed wished to have made in the minutes of the September 27-29 meeting. Mr. Brough moved, Mr. Sullivan seconded, and it was carried that the minutes be approved with the following changes on page 15 under the section entitled "Power Survey": insert the words "per million B.T.U.'s" following the words "guaranteed cost" in the first line of the third paragraph, and insert the words "the year around" following the words "shall be furnished" in the fourth paragraph.

Following announcements by President Humphrey with regard to the Homecoming Sing on Friday evening and the parade and football game on Saturday, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Del Monte, and Mr. Burwell gave a report on the meeting of the Association of Governing Boards at Texas A. & M. College, from which they had just returned. Both Mr. Del Monte and Mr. Burwell reported that Mr. Simpson, who served as President of the Association during the past year, did a very excellent job of presiding at the meeting and that it was in every way the best meeting of the Association they had ever attended. Mr. Hansen read from the Texas A. & M. College student newspaper an editorial concerning the Association meeting and a news article regarding Mr. Simpson's address to the Association. Mr. Simpson stated that he felt such meetings were very beneficial to the Trustees and urged other members of the Board to attend a future meeting of the Association. He stated that the 1952 meeting would be held in Portland, Oregon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNING BOARDS

President Humphrey reported that an irregularity in the handling of a student loan had been discovered in the office of Student Organizations and Loans and that he wished to have representatives of the Business Office and of the State Examiner's Office, as well as the handwriting expert employed to investigate the case, come into the meeting and make a statement to the Board. Mr. L. G. Meeboer, Business Manager, Mr. Harold Van Blair, Supervisor of Student Organizations and Loans, Mr. Earl Banks and Mr. Joseph Heslep of the State Examiner's Office, and Mr. Ben Garcia, handwriting expert from Denver, were then invited into the meeting.

Mr. Meeboer, speaking for the group, reported that during the time Mr. Van Blair was on vacation in August, a student loan note for \$200 was issued in the name of William K. Carlson, with Minnie L. Carlson as the co-signer, and the address given as Pine Bluffs, Nebraska. When Mr. Van Blair returned from his vacation and looked over the notes issued during his absence, his suspicions were aroused by the note in question because the application was not complete. Also, upon checking he found that there is not a post office in Nebraska by the name of Pine Bluffs. Mr. Van Blair reported the matter to Mr. Meeboer, who in turn reported it to the State Examiner and to President Humphrey. Following the investigation of the State Examiner's representatives, and upon their recommendation, Mr. Ray Humphreys, Chief Investigator for the District Attorney's Office in Denver, was asked to recommend a handwriting expert. He recommended Mr. Ben Garcia, handwriting expert of Denver, and Mr. Garcia was employed. The suspicions of those concerned in the investigation pointed toward a cashier in Mr. Van Blair's office, but Mr. Garcia studied the handwriting of all persons in the organization who might have had access to the records.

Mr. Meeboer asked Mr. Garcia to give a report on his findings, and Mr. Garcia presented very convincing evidence pointing toward the fact

IRREGULARITY
IN HANDLING OF
STUDENT LOAN

that the forgery was accomplished by Mrs. Margaret Elsom, cashier for the student loan fund. Mr. Garcia's written statement of his investigation follows:

October 18, 1951

ATT: Mr. L. G. Meeboer

TO: The Board of Trustees, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

RE: Questioned Handwriting. (William K. Carlson, Minnie L. Carlson).

By a careful and close examination of the questioned signatures of William K. Carlson and Minnie L. Carlson appearing on the face of a certain note in the amount of \$200.00, dated August 20, 1951, and upon the face of a cash voucher #9, dated August 21, 1951 for the amount of \$200.00, I find that the said questioned signatures William K. Carlson and Minnie L. Carlson have all been written by one and the same person. In other words, the signer and the co-signer of the said document are one and the same person.

Upon further examination of the said matter, I find that the initials, OK, OCS, lmt, are not the authentic initials of the original author O. C. Schwiering, the said initial and markings on the two questioned documents have been imitated or copied. In other words, the documents are forged.

Throughout the investigation of the said matter I have taken sample handwritings from the following: Mr. L. G. Meeboer, Mrs. Elaine A. Ferguson, Mr. Leo M. Thomas, Marian K. White, Elliott G. Hays, Harold Van Blair and Joseph Heslep. I have also taken the sample handwriting from all of the employees who have access to these particular records and departments. These steps were taken for the process of elimination.

Throughout all of the writings of the said samples, I have found the writing of an individual whose handwriting and handprinting is identical with the said forged documents.

The author of the said identical handwriting characteristics is Margaret Elsom. The identifying handwriting characteristics are as follows:

1. The angle value of the writing: The angle value or the slant of the handwriting and handprinting is found to be identical throughout the questioned and the sample handwriting of Margaret Elsom.
2. The terminal points of the writing. It is habitual with the author to bring the terminal strokes of her writing to an abrupt stop. In other words, the finished line of each word is brought to a blunt point. While with a great many writers it is quite habitual to bring the said strokes to a sharp point.
3. The dots above the letter "i": At this point of my investigation I find an unusual characteristic in the forged signatures of William

K. Carlson. The forged signature itself is written in a rather clumsy and labored style and manner, while the dots of the said letter "i" are rather small and neat. This is an unusual handwriting characteristic of any writer. If a person is in the habit of writing in a clumsy and awkward style the rest of the punctuations would also appear to be of a clumsy habit, including the line quality of the handwriting.

4. The capital letter "K": It is habitual with the author to print the letter "K" in a forward slant, furthermore the buckle of the said letter carries a loop at the point of intersection and a small inward loop at the base of the buckle. This characteristic is plainly found throughout the sample handwriting and handprinting of Margaret Elsom.

5. The small letter "s": A certain amount of variation is found in the sample handwriting of the author in the writing of the said letter. But, a close examination will reveal that identical points can be found after comparing the word "Bluffs" from the questioned document with the words "checks" and "Mrs." from the sample handwriting of the author.

6. The capital letter "P": It is quite habitual with the author to write the said letter with a forward slant and with a rather narrow loop. This characteristic is found to be identical in both writings.

7. The capital letter "B": The outline of the characteristic found in the letter "P" is carried to a certain degree in the said letter "B". Thus proving that the said characteristic is quite habitual with the author. Observe the staff of the said letter "B". It is written in a forward slant, in addition to the slant the lower half-loop carries its own significant characteristic. Observe the small inward curve within the lower half-loop. Again this characteristic is found in the sample handprinting.

8. The small letters "on" from the name Carlson: The writer has the habit of completing the letter "o" and continuing to the succeeding letter "n" with a straight horizontal line. This habitual characteristic is found in both the questioned and sample handwriting of Margaret Elsom.

9. The small letter "r": In the parlance of a handwriting expert, the letter "r" consists of two shoulders, the right and the left shoulder. In this particular case I find the said letter written with a left shoulder only. This point of identity is found in both the questioned and sample handwriting of the author. To further substantiate my opinion that both questioned and sample have been written by the same person, observe the inward curve at the terminal point of the letter "r" in the name "Carlson" from the questioned, and compare the same point with the words "Rattenbury" and "Harold" taken from the sample handwriting.

10. The double letters "L" from the name Carlson: A slight degree of variation is found in the sample handwriting of the author. However, in spite of the variation found in the said writing, the author has the habit at times to write the letter "L" with a closed loop. In the sample handwriting I find the words "Bluffs", "Williams", "welfare", "Carlson", with the closed letter "L". The same characteristics are found in the questioned signatures of the name William K. Carlson and Minnie L. Carlson.

11. The small letter "u" from the name Bluffs: The said letter is found to be identical in formation and style taken from the sample handwriting in the address of "Pine Bluffs, Neb." and also from the same address appearing on the questioned document.

S U M M A R Y

1. The slant of the handwriting and handprinting.
2. The terminal points of the writing. The blunt ends.
3. The fine and delicate dots above the letter "i".
4. The capital letter "k".
5. The small letter "s".
6. The capital letter "P".
7. The capital letter "B".
8. The letters "on" from the name Carlson.
9. The small letter "r".
10. The letters "L" from the name Carlson.
11. The small letter "u".

It is quite true that in all handwriting investigations it is possible to find a few handwriting characteristics that are not identical. As in this case it is impossible to connect or identify the forming of the small letter "i", or the forming of the capital letter "W". It must be understood that in this case it was the deliberate attempt of the writer to disguise the general appearance of the writing so as to avoid all suspicion.

I am of the opinion that the questioned handwriting appearing on the face of a certain note in the amount of \$200.00, dated August 20, 1951, signed William K. Carlson and co-signed Minnie L. Carlson is a forged signature. I am also of the opinion that the sample handwriting and handprinting of Margaret Elsom is identical with the questioned handwriting and handprinting appearing on the said note. In other words, Margaret Elsom is the author of the questioned handwriting and handprinting appearing on the questioned documents.

The handwriting characteristics are sufficient in number to substantiate my theories and opinion.

(Signed)
BEN GARCIA
Handwriting Expert.

Mr. Garcia added that he felt he might discover further evidence that Mrs. Elsom was the author of the forged documents when he made thorough examination of the typewritten note and receipted voucher which ordinarily would have been typed in Dean Schwiering's office but which he believed had been typed on Mrs. Elsom's typewriter.

After a thorough discussion of the matter, during which it became evident that those present felt rather confident that Mrs. Elsom was

the author of the documents in question, Mr. Sullivan moved, Mr. Burwell seconded, and it was unanimously carried that Mr. Meeboer, Mr. Van Blair, Mr. Garcia, and representatives of the State Examiner's Office and the bonding company call Mrs. Elsom in for a conference immediately, and that she be told of the suspicions which had been aroused by the irregularity of the loan in question, of the investigation that had been made and of the fact that the findings of the handwriting expert pointed to her as the author of the forged documents. The Board further decreed that she be suspended immediately from her position, being paid to the time of her suspension, and that if she signed a statement admitting guilt she would still receive no immunity from prosecution, if the facts warranted such prosecution. The visitors then left the meeting, with instructions to report the results of the conference to the Trustees later in the day.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 to permit the Trustees to go to the Field House for lunch, served by the Laramie Chamber of Commerce in connection with the Southeast Wyoming Hereford Sale. When the Board re-assembled at 1:30, President Humphrey was asked to write a letter of appreciation to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for the excellent lunch. Mr. McCracken joined the meeting at 2 p.m.

President Humphrey asked that attention be given next to his Report. Mr. Newton moved, Mr. Sullivan seconded, and it was carried that approval be given to the appointment of Miss Evelyn M. Klinckmann as Instructor in Physical Education and Zoology in the Northern Wyoming Community College, effective October 8, 1951, at a salary rate of \$3,504 for the academic year 1951-52.

Mr. Del Monte moved, Mr. Newton seconded, and it was carried that Dr. W. C. Reusser be granted a leave of absence without pay for the

APPOINTMENT

Klinckmann

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Reusser

period July 1 to July 18, 1952, which, with the month's vacation to which he would be entitled, would permit him to accept the invitation of Syracuse University to teach there six weeks during the summer of 1952.

1. Agricultural Substations, Powell. Mr. Sullivan moved, Mr. Burwell seconded, and it was carried that the amount of \$550 be appropriated from the unappropriated balance in the Sales Fund to permit the additional insurance coverage needed for the Powell Station.

2. Atomic Energy Research Contract. Mr. Burwell moved, Mr. Newton seconded, and it was carried that the amount of \$720 be appropriated to provide for a research assistant in physics, in fulfillment of the University's contract with the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

3. Business Manager's Division.

a. Business Manager's Office. Mr. Del Monte moved, Mr. Sullivan seconded, and it was carried that an appropriation of \$167.31 be authorized to cover the cost of purchasing accoustical tile board for use in soundproofing the Business Manager's office.

b. Cashier's Office. Mr. Sullivan moved, Mrs. Bush seconded, and it was carried that an appropriation of \$594.19 be authorized to permit adjustments in the Cashier's office for payment of earned vacation to Melvin Johnson, Cashier, and the employment of a part-time clerk-cashier for the period until the new cashier begins work, necessitated by the resignation of Mr. Johnson.

4. Military Department. Mr. Sullivan moved, Mr. Burwell seconded, and it was carried that an appropriation of \$744.50 be authorized to permit provision of a new classroom in the west end of the Armory for use by the Military Department.

President Humphrey presented next a recommendation from the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts for amending the regulations of the

BUDGET CHANGES
Agricultural Substations
Powell

Atomic Energy
Research Contract

Business Manager's
Division
Business Manager's
Office

Cashier's Office

Military Department

REGULATIONS,
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

College to include provisions for granting a second bachelor's degree. Mr. Del Monte moved, Mr. Brough seconded, and it was carried that the following regulations be approved:

A second bachelor's degree may be earned in the College of Liberal Arts by meeting the following conditions: (1) at least 45 additional hours beyond the first bachelor's degree; (2) an interim of one year between the two degrees; (3) fulfillment of all the College requirements; and (4) fulfillment of such additional provisions as are specified by the department in which the student is majoring for the second degree.

Mr. Burwell moved, Mr. Brough seconded, and it was carried that the proposed regulations of the College of Commerce and Industry be approved as presented. (A copy of the regulations is on file in the President's Office.)

For the information of the Board of Trustees, President Humphrey presented an insurance progress report from the office of the Business Manager indicating that bids on Comprehensive Liability insurance and the Comprehensive Dishonesty, Disappearance and Destruction insurance policies would be received on October 29 and that a report would be presented to the Board of Trustees at the next meeting.

Also for the information of the Board, President Humphrey presented Business Manager L. G. Meeboer's report on the salaries in the 1951-52 budgets for self-sustaining accounts which reflected an increase of more than fifteen per cent. This report was presented in accordance with the request of the Trustees at the September meeting.

In view of the questions raised by the Trustees at the September meeting with regard to the high cost of garbage disposal listed in the budgets for the self-sustaining accounts, President Humphrey presented a report from Mr. L. G. Meeboer, Business Manager, written in explanation

REGULATIONS,
COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY

INSURANCE
PROGRESS REPORT

SELF-SUSTAINING
ACCOUNTS BUDGETS

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

of the situation. Mr. Meeboer reported that an investigation had revealed that neither the City of Laramie nor private draymen and truckers in Laramie would be interested in entering into a contract with the University for garbage disposal. He stated that it was his recommendation and the recommendation of the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and the Assistant to the Dean of Men that, effective November 1, 1951, the garbage disposal unit be turned over to the Housing Units and that they operate the truck and pay the direct costs. Following some discussion, it was moved by Mr. Brough, seconded by Mr. Burwell, and carried that the recommendation be accepted, with the admonition that every economy possible should be effected.

For the information of the Board of Trustees, President Humphrey presented financial statements revised as of September 30, 1951, and a Wyoming War Memorial financial summary, prepared in the office of the Business Manager.

President Humphrey reported that he had received one copy of the specifications for the boiler needed in the Power Plant, prepared by the firm of Lutz and May. He stated that the specifications had been examined by Mr. C. B. Jensen and Mr. E. D. Hereford of the Buildings and Grounds Department and that, to his best knowledge, they were in order. It was moved by Mr. Burwell, seconded by Mr. Newton, and carried that the specifications be approved and that bids be received by the Board of Trustees at 2 p.m. on December 14.

Consideration was given next to the question of selecting an architect for the building authorized by the Board of Trustees for the Buildings and Grounds and Property departments. President Humphrey stated that he felt an architect should be employed to prepare a sketch for the

FINANCIAL REPORTS

POWER PLANT

ARCHITECT FOR
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
BUILDING

entire building as it would eventually be constructed and to prepare detailed plans and specifications for the unit for which a contract would be let in the spring. It was the feeling of some members of the Board that it would be desirable to employ the same architect for all buildings on the campus rather than to employ a different architect for each building. A number of different ideas were expressed, but it was finally moved by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Burwell, and carried that, in order to insure uniformity of design and general excellence of construction, the firm of Porter and Bradley be engaged to prepare plans for the proposed Buildings and Grounds building and that they be requested to secure, if practicable, the assistance of reputable architects, or architect, in the state to assist with the work.

Speaking for the committee appointed in July to study the question of granting leaves of absence to faculty members wishing to become candidates for public office, Mr. Brough, chairman of the committee, reported that considerable investigation had been made but that the committee wished to get reports and recommendations from the deans and make some other investigation before presenting a final report.

President Humphrey reported that Professor W. O. Clough of the English Department had completed the task, assigned to him in 1946 by the War History Committee, of writing a history of the University of Wyoming during the war years. He stated that he felt Mr. Clough's work, entitled "A Land-Grant College in War," should be mimeographed, bound, and distributed, or that it should be printed and distributed. It was the feeling of the Trustees that it would be much better to have the work printed, and President Humphrey was asked to prepare a distribution list, to secure bids on the printing, and to present a further report to the Board at the December meeting.

FACULTY MEMBERS
AS CANDIDATES FOR
PUBLIC OFFICE

"A LAND-GRANT
COLLEGE IN WAR"

Mr. Meeboer, Mr. Van Blair, and Mr. Heslep were called into the meeting to report on their conference with Mrs. Margaret Elsom. They stated that Mr. Garcia, Mr. Banks, and Mr. Hunt (representing the bonding company) were also present at the conference. Mr. Meeboer stated that they had told Mrs. Elsom they were not making any accusation against her but that the evidence they had been able to collect pointed toward her as the author of the forged documents, and that she might make any statements she wished to make. Mrs. Elsom denied having received the money and stated that she did not wish to make any further statement until she had an attorney. She refused to sign any statement. When asked if she would be willing to submit to a lie detector test, she stated that she would be. In accordance with the Board's instructions, Mr. Meeboer stated, Mrs. Elsom was suspended from her position immediately.

After some further discussion, during which it was revealed that Mr. Garcia had taken the note and receipted voucher to Denver with him for an analysis of the typewriting on those documents, and during which Mr. Meeboer was directed to notify the bonding company in writing of the irregularity appearing in said loan, it was the feeling of the Board that nothing further could be done until the bonding company had had an opportunity to take whatever action it wished to take. Mr. Meeboer was directed to contact Mr. Sullivan for advice as to future action that should be taken.

President Humphrey read a letter which he had received from Mr. Hiram Hunn, attorney for the owners of the land which the University considered purchasing for the Archer Station, indicating that the owners were not willing to accept the price of \$25 per acre offered by the Board for the land and also that they did not wish to renew the University's lease on the land. The Trustees stated that they did not wish to take any further action in the matter.

IRREGULARITY IN
HANDLING OF
STUDENT LOAN

PURCHASE OF LAND
FOR ARCHER STATION

President Humphrey next read a letter from President Emeritus A. G. Crane expressing appreciation for the Board's willingness to pay his expenses to the meeting of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities in Houston, Texas, on November 11-15, and expressing his regret that it would not be possible for him to make the trip.

For the information of the Board of Trustees, President Humphrey reported that he had received from Mr. J. P. Steele a check for \$2,500 covering his pledge to the Wyoming War Memorial.

Consideration was given next to the question of purchasing, for the University Dairy, land owned by Dr. A. F. Vass near the University Agronomy Farm. President Humphrey reported that, although Dr. Vass had told Dean Briggs he would be willing to accept the price set by a board of evaluation consisting of a representative selected by the University, a representative of his own selection, and a third representative selected by the first two, he had informed Mr. Sullivan (the representative named by the University) that there had been a misunderstanding and that he was not willing to accept the recommendation of such a board. After some discussion, Mr. McCracken moved that President Humphrey be authorized to appoint a committee of three to make an appraisal of the land, and that the recommendation of the appraisers be presented to the Board of Trustees for action at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen and carried.

President Humphrey reported on a letter which he had received from the Wyoming Highway Department concerning the additional right-of-way requested by the Department through the Gillette Farm. He stated that it was the recommendation of Mr. Fay E. Smith, Land Coordinator, that he be authorized to discuss the matter with Dr. G. H. Bridgmon, Assistant

EXPENSES FOR DR. CRANE
TO ATTEND LAND-GRANT
COLLEGE MEETING

J. P. STEELE'S
CONTRIBUTION TO
WYOMING WAR MEMORIAL

UNIVERSITY DAIRY

RIGHT-OF-WAY THROUGH
GILLETTE FARM

Director of the Experiment Station in charge of Substations, and with the Superintendent of the Substation, to examine the land to be lost, to check on the assessed valuations in the Campbell County Assessor's office, and to check with the ranchers along the right-of-way to see what price they had asked for the land to be lost. Mr. Burwell moved, Mr. Brough seconded, and it was carried that Mr. Smith's recommendation be accepted, with the further admonition that he be certain the Highway Department would take care of moving any buildings which might need to be moved as a result of the Highway Department's taking the land.

President Humphrey stated that the Council for the Division of Adult Education and Community Service and the Administrative Council had approved the conducting of a field summer school at Casper during the summer of 1952, and he recommended approval by the Board. Mr. Sullivan moved, Mr. Newton seconded, and it was carried that, subject to the demands for courses and the ability of the University to provide an approved faculty, a field summer school be conducted at Casper in the summer of 1952.

Department of Community Service. Because of the unexpected increase in demands for the services of the Department of Community Service, President Humphrey reported the need for an additional full-time clerk in the Department, requiring an appropriation of \$1,286.67 for the remainder of the 1951-52 fiscal year. Mr. Hansen moved, Mr. McCracken seconded, and it was carried that the necessary appropriation be authorized.

President Humphrey read a letter which Mr. Simpson had received from Connie Schwiering regarding payment for a picture which he painted for the Registrar's Office more than a year ago at the request of Mr. R. E. McWhinnie, Registrar. It was the feeling of the Board that purchasing a picture for the Registrar's Office would set a precedent which might bring

FIELD SUMMER SCHOOL
AT CASPER

BUDGET CHANGE
Department of
Community Service

PICTURE PAINTED BY
CONNIE SCHWIERING FOR
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

about similar requests from many other campus offices. President Humphrey was directed to discuss the matter with Mr. McWhinnie to see under what authority he had requested the painting and to learn the circumstances relating to the situation, reporting his findings to the Board at the next meeting.

President Humphrey called attention to the fact that Board committees for 1951-52 had not been selected. President Simpson appointed Mr. Jones, chairman, Mr. Newton, and Mr. Brough to serve as members of the Committee on Physical Plant and Equipment. Mr. Hansen moved, Mrs. Bush seconded, and it was carried that the Executive and Finance Committee which served during 1950-51, namely Mr. Del Monte, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Reed, be re-elected to serve during 1951-52.

President Humphrey read a letter from the Sheridan Classroom Teachers Association expressing appreciation to the Board of Trustees for the honorary degree which was conferred upon Mr. J. J. Early at the 1951 spring commencement.

Consideration was given to a request from Mr. R. R. Allbaugh, publisher of the Laramie Newspapers, that the University place an advertisement in the special edition of the newspapers in connection with the dedication of the Field House in December. Mr. McCracken suggested that Mr. Allbaugh be informed of the Board's long-standing policy against advertising the University in any newspapers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. to reassemble at 10 a.m. on December 14, 1951.

Respectfully submitted,



H. D. Del Monte
Secretary

COMMITTEES OF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HONORARY DEGREE
TO J. J. EARLY

ADVERTISING IN
LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

NEXT MEETING