

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES**

**March 1, 1967**

**For the confidential information  
of the Board of Trustee**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming was held in the Board Room on March 1, 1967, upon call of the President of the Board. The meeting was called to order by President Watt at 9:00 a. m. Mr. Watt expressed his appreciation for the members attending the meeting, and explained the importance of the same.

The following members answered the roll call: Brodrick, Hines, Hollon, Johnson, Jack Jones, William R. Jones, McBride, Millett, Quealy, Sullivan, True, Watt, and ex officio members, Harry Roberts and Governor Hathaway.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Quealy was formally introduced to the Board as a new member by President Watt, this being his first meeting. Mr. Quealy expressed his appreciation for being appointed to the Board.

President Watt then read to the Board a letter from Dr. John E. King, President of the University, tendering his resignation. (The letter is here inserted in the permanent minutes of this meeting and made a part thereof.)

RESIGNATION  
Dr. John E. King

1306 Ivinson  
Laramie, Wyoming  
February 27, 1967

Mr. Joe H. Watt  
Moorcroft, Wyoming

Dear Joe,

This letter is written before my Reno trip in order to help you all I can to solve the problem which hit you and the Trustees last Friday. You may use this as a hole card as you see fit, divulging it to the other Trustees if you wish.

I will be willing to leave the presidency if this will provide a solution to this crisis, with the understanding that my contract will be honored in a reasonable manner. This would mean a leave of absence with pay, probably through August 31, with the option of becoming a professor of higher education from then on. It would probably be advisable to name one of the deans as acting president immediately in order to have a good situation during the intermediate period while you are looking for a new president. We would vacate the house by June 30, and would return the car and the housekeeper immediately.

Since my eligibility for future employment will be diminished by the circumstance of this situation, I would deeply appreciate it if the Board could also grant me a leave of absence with pay through the 1967-68 school year, in order that I might go to some University to study. This might result in my accepting a position elsewhere, or I might return to Wyoming as a professor.

With state funds involved, you have a problem, but since I voluntarily suggested this out clause rather than a straight five year contract, which was first suggested by the Board, you should be able to do this without too much criticism, if it is legal to do so. You will save quite a bit for the State by not having to settle a long term contract.

It would be very difficult for me to continue in the presidency without a willingness on the part of the deans for me to do so. There is so much to be done at the University in the next few months, and in the next few years, that you will have to have the best possible cooperation with the presidency.

Good luck to you and the Board. I am not bitter about this and do not intend to let this situation keep me from trying to be useful. You can depend on me to be dignified in the comments I make. You are as good a Board of Trustees, including old and new members, as I have ever worked with.

Sincerely yours,

s/ John E. King

John E. King

President

After a lengthy discussion of the matter by all members of the Board, Mr. McBride moved, Mr. William Jones seconded, and it was unanimously carried that in the best interests of the University, the University Board concurs with Dr. King that he leave as President

of the University of Wyoming.

After further discussion by all members of the Board, Mr. Brodrick moved and Mr. Hollon seconded that a committee of three, including the President, meet with Dr. King for the purpose of clarifying the matters of his resignation, said committee to report back to the Board. The motion was unanimously carried.

After recessing for lunch at 12:15 p.m. the meeting was reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

A report of the committee that met with Dr. King was made, after which it was moved by Mr. Millett and seconded by Mr. True that the resignation submitted by Dr. John E. King as President of the University of Wyoming, effective immediately, be accepted with regret; and that the proposed agreement for the termination of his contractual rights, as submitted by Mr. Watt, be approved; and the President of the Board be and is authorized to execute said agreement; and that the funds necessary to pay the amount due Dr. King prior to July 1, 1967, be appropriated and paid from the Trustees' Reserve; and that the funds necessary to fund the agreement for the fiscal year 1967-68 are hereby appropriated and shall be included in the 1967-68 budget under the Trustees' Budget. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Watt then requested that Mr. Millett contact the Board Attorney, Mr. Joseph Geraud, with the request that he draw up a formal agreement relative to Dr. King's resignation. The agreement signed by Dr. King and by President Watt follows:

## TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made this 1st day of March, 1967, between the Trustees of the University of Wyoming, a body corporate under the laws of the State of Wyoming, hereinafter called the University, and John E. King, Jr., hereinafter called the President.

WHEREAS the parties entered into a certain Contract of Employment dated the 1st day of July, 1966, by which the University did employ the President to perform the duties normally incident to the position of President of the University of Wyoming, and

WHEREAS said agreement did provide that either party, upon six months prior notice to the other party, could terminate employment of the President in such capacity, and

WHEREAS said agreement did confer upon the President the right to continue in the employment of the University as a Professor of Higher Education subject to the regulations of the University pertaining to tenured faculty members, and

WHEREAS the University and the President have determined the prosperity of the University of Wyoming in all its departments would best be served, upon the President ceasing to perform the duties of the Office of President, by settling the right of the President to six months notice and continuing employment as a member of the faculty, and

WHEREAS the University and the President have agreed that the latter shall cease to perform the duties of the Office of President,

NOW THEREFORE it is agreed by and between the parties as follows:

1. The contract of employment dated the 1st day of July, 1966, is hereby terminated and the President is released from all obligations thereunder.
2. In consideration of the release of the University from its obligations due to the President under said agreement, the University does hereby agree to pay to the President the sum of \$37,755.00, to be paid in the following manner:
  - (a) The sum of \$9,305.10 payable immediately.
  - (b) The sum of \$14,224.95 payable on July 1, 1967.
  - (c) The sum of \$14,224.95 payable on January 1, 1968.
3. The President agrees that the foregoing sum represents a final settlement of all rights under the Contract of Employment dated the 1st day of July, 1966, and that the University is discharged from any other liability thereunder.
4. Incident to termination of this agreement the President shall be privileged to occupy the President's home until June 30, 1967.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this agreement in duplicate on the date first above written.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

ATTEST:

By s/ Joe H. Watt  
President

s/ Rose S. Dolson  
Deputy Secretary

s/ John E. King  
John E. King, Jr.

After discussion as to the appointment of an Acting President, a committee which had been previously appointed by the President, reported as to suggested appointees. Mr. Jack Jones moved, and Mr. Jerry Hollon seconded that H. T. Person be appointed Acting President at a salary of \$2,000.00 per month. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dean Person then met with the Board at 4:00 p.m. and formally accepted the appointment as Acting President of the University, expressing his full cooperation and willingness to act as Acting President to the best of his ability until such time as a President may be selected by the Board.

Whereupon Dr. King, upon invitation, met with the Board and Acting President, H. T. Person, at which time the Board individually expressed to Dr. King their appreciation for his attitude and cooperation at this time, and upon motion made by Jack Jones, seconded by Dave True and unanimously carried the Board expressed to Dr. King its sincere appreciation for his cooperation and help in his services to the University, and particularly his fine attitude and spirit

in this critical period. Such conduct has demonstrated beyond doubt his dedication and loyalty to the best interests of the University.

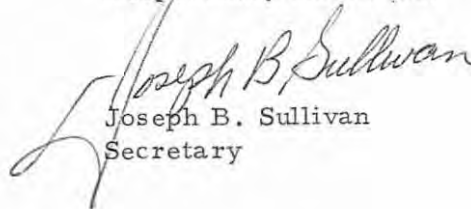
Whereupon Dr. King left the meeting and the Board met with nine of the College Deans, discussed the resignation of Dr. King, and read to the Deans the Board's press release. The Deans then indicated and expressed to the Board their assurance of full cooperation.

The Deans then left the meeting and the Board met with William Keefe the President of the ASUW and discussed with him the resignation of Dr. King and the Press release. Mr. Keefe assured the Board of full cooperation of the student body at this time and left the meeting.

The motion was made by Mr. Hines and seconded by Mr. Sullivan that the President appoint a committee to immediately take action to set up procedure for the selection of a new President of the University, which motion was unanimously passed.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joseph B. Sullivan  
Secretary

ADJOURNMENT