

Des Moines, Iowa
January 29, 1969

SPECIAL MEETING

The State Board of Regents met in special session on January 29, 1969 at 10:00 A.M. in the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines, Iowa, with President Redeker in the Chair and Mr. Richey Secretary of the meeting.

President Redeker opened the meeting by reading the following letter dated January 22, 1969, which he had received from President Howard R.

Bowen of the University of Iowa:

"As I explained to you in person, I am offering my resignation as president of The University of Iowa. If agreeable to the Board of Regents, I would like the resignation to be effective September 1, 1969.

I can assure you that this resignation is in no sense the result of any dissatisfaction on my part or of any specific issues or problems. I have enjoyed full cooperation and friendly support from the Board, the administrative staff, the faculty, the non-academic staff, the alumni, and the political leaders of Iowa. I have also valued my many contacts with the students. Though student affairs are seldom dull these days, I have found our students unusually attractive and promising young men and women. They have strengthened my confidence in the future of Iowa and of the nation.

The University has progressed during recent years and is a strong and respected institution. It has a distinguished faculty and a talented and motivated student body. It is intellectually and culturally vigorous and it enjoys genuine academic freedom. It has enormous potential for future advancement if it receives adequate financial support as I think it will. A brief review of developments during the five years of my administration is attached.

I am proud to have been associated with The University of Iowa during two periods totaling 14 years, and to have worked in my adopted state of Iowa for a total of 22 years, which has included the presidency of two outstanding institutions. I have had pleasant and memorable experiences and I leave the presidency with no complaints or disappointments but rather with good will and gratitude.

The reasons for my resignation are purely personal but nevertheless compelling. When "personal reasons" are given as the cause for a university president's resignation it is often assumed that there are undisclosed issues or problems in the background. I should like to allay such speculations by assuring you there were no untoward circumstances leading to my decision. I have simply made a personal choice about how I wish to extend my professional activity and my career in higher education at a time which seemed to me opportune.

I expect to return to my professional field of economics and to be working on the problems of higher education at the national level. Specifically, I expect to become chairman of the faculty in economics at the Claremont Graduate School in California. As part of my work, I shall be engaged in research, teaching and consulting on the economics, finance, and governance of higher education.

Through you, may I express special appreciation to all the members of the Board of Regents and to the Regents' staff. To work with them has been pleasant and personally rewarding. I greatly appreciate the enormous amount of time and careful thought they have given to the advancement of The University of Iowa."

/s/ Howard R. Bowen

MOTION: Mr. Wolf moved that the Board of Regents accept with regret the resignation tendered by President Bowen of the University of Iowa. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wallace and, role being taken, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Perrin, Redeker, Richards, Rosenfield,
Wallace, Wolf

NAY: None

ABSENT: Loss, Louden, Quarton

The motion carried.

In subsequent discussion Mrs. Rosenfield stated that the mere formal acceptance of President Bowen's resignation was, in her view, not sufficient. She felt that in a formal way the Board should express its appreciation for the years of service which President Bowen has given to the University and to the State. She cited the excellent leadership which President Bowen has given the University and felt that this should be formally recognized. All other Board members joined in the sentiment but felt that a fitting statement could not be worked out on the spur of the moment. The Board Office was therefore instructed to prepare such a statement and present it for Board consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

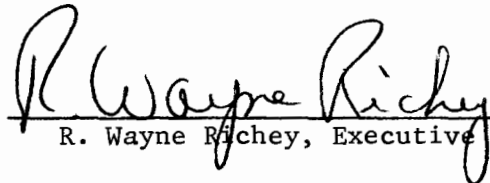
Regent Wolf questioned whether an effective date for the resignation should be established at this time. Other Board members felt that since the letter of resignation contained a suggested date that the actual date could be worked out later by mutual agreement.

The President advised those present that President Bowen was not in attendance at this meeting because he was in Iowa City informing the University faculty and others of his decision to resign.

There being no further business, President Redeker suggested that, following a brief break for the benefit of the press, the Board resolve itself into executive session to consider the problem now confronting it of replacing President Bowen. He expressed the hope that in the executive session the Board could do much of the necessary preliminary work. He stated that the Board would necessarily be considering personalities and individuals, and that this could not be done except in executive session. He therefore recommended that the Board go into executive session. On roll being called the vote was as follows:

AYE: Perrin, Redeker, Richards, Rosenfield,
Wallace, Wolf
NAY: None
ABSENT: Loss, Louden, Quarton

The Board resolved itself into executive session at 10:25 A.M.


R. Wayne Richey, Executive Secretary