

Des Moines, Iowa  
May 5, 1965

The State Board of Regents met in its office in the State Office Building  
in Des Moines, Iowa, at 10 a.m., May 5, 1965.

Present:

Members of the State Board of Regents

Mr. Noehren  
Mr. Molison  
Mr. Oberhausen  
Mrs. Lubetkin  
Mr. Redeker  
Mr. Richards  
Mrs. Rosenfield  
Mr. Wolf  
Mr. Crabbe -- not present

Members of the Finance Committee

Chairman Gernetzky  
Secretary Dancer  
Member Cottrell

State University of Iowa

President Bowen  
Vice President Hardin  
Director Strayer  
Field Director Hawkins

Iowa State University

President Hilton  
Vice President Parks  
Vice President Platt  
Assistant to President Walsh

State College of Iowa

President Maucker  
Director Lawton

President Noehren was in the chair and Mr. Dancer secretary of the meeting.

GENERAL OR MISCELLANEOUS

The following business regarding general or miscellaneous matters was  
transacted:

PROPOSED LEGISLATION. Board members received copies of List #9, dated May 5, 1965,  
about the status of legislation proposed by the State Board of Regents and other  
bills of special interest.

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The Board discussed the particular legislation involved in House File 482, "A Bill For An Act to establish a merit system of personnel administration for the civil service of the state, and to repeal acts and parts of acts in conflict therewith", its companion Senate File 346, and a committee bill drafted by a special sub-committee of the House Industrial and Human Relations Committee; all of which deal with a state civil service program.

The Presidents and others presented the history and desirability of maintaining the independence of higher education apart from government and political control. The idea of autonomy for higher education was described as a basic and long established principle.

The Board also discussed the legislation proposed by Senate File 502, "A Bill For An Act providing for automatic retirement at the age sixty-five (65) for state employees." It was expressed that this, too, was inconsistent with the idea of academic freedom so essential in higher education.

Mrs. Rosenfield moved that the three Presidents be asked to prepare a statement involving their ideas on these matters, and to bring it back to the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Molison and passed, with all voting "yes".

After lunch, the Presidents presented the following statement concerning the establishment of a civil service program and a mandatory retirement plan for state employees:

Bills that would establish civil service and mandatory retirement for state employees are under consideration by the 61st General Assembly.

The State Board of Regents supports a merit system of personnel administration and an orderly retirement system in state government. It also believes that state institutions of higher education should have well-established personnel systems based on merit and should have orderly retirement procedures. In fact, the Board of Regents' institutions have well-developed personnel programs. However, to incorporate the personnel system of state colleges and universities

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within the personnel systems of state government would be inconsistent with the basic and long-established principles governing the relationships between institutions of higher education and government.

These principles are designed to assure that colleges and universities are insulated from direct political influence or control. The whole concept of academic freedom rests on the idea that under general policies set by the governing board a college or university is autonomous, especially that it have independence in the employment of personnel.

These principles have long been faithfully observed in Iowa. In fact, this observance accounts in no small measure for the distinction of the three state institutions. In view of the principles and of their fundamental character in higher education in a democracy, the Board of Regents has no choice but to recommend that the institutions under its control be exempted from both the Civil Service Bill and the Retirement Bill.

In taking this position, the State Board of Regents in no sense opposes the two bills, but merely asks that Regents' institutions be exempted.

Mrs. Rosenfield moved that the foregoing statement be approved as the present policy of the State Board of Regents. The motion was seconded by Mr. Molison and passed.

The Board also discussed progress of the appropriation bills for operating funds and for capital improvements for the institutions, and of the bills for the reorganization of the Central Office of the State Board of Regents - House File 646 and Senate File 572.

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The following business relating to the State University of Iowa was transacted:

JOHN F. MURRAY ENDOWMENT FUND. Mr. Redeker moved that the State University of Iowa be authorized to exercise the stock purchase option of Chrysler Corporation from the John F. Murray Endowment Fund as available. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lubetkin and passed.

JOHN F. MURRAY ENDOWMENT FUND - USE. It was suggested by Mrs. Rosenfield that the Finance Committee take the lead in exploring the possibilities of providing a wider use of the John F. Murray Endowment Fund.

ADJOURNMENT. President Noehren adjourned the meeting at 4 p.m.

  
David A. Dancer, Secretary