

UCCSN Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes February 10-11, 1911

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Reno, Nevada
February 10, 1911

A special meeting of the Board of Regents was held in their Office in Morrill Hall Friday evening, February 10, 1911, at 8 o'clock P.M. Present: Regents Codd, Reid, O'Brien, Williams and President Stubbs. Absent: Regent Henderson.

President Stubbs took up his report relating to his trip to New York and personal meeting with Mr. Mackay. Upon motion the President's report was ordered spread upon the minutes.

To the Honorable
The Board of Regents of the
University of Nevada

Gentlemen:

I have been absent in New York and Washington 40 days. I thought it better to have this meeting immediately upon my return, so that you should be made acquainted with all that I did before there was any chance for these things to get abroad.

This report must be treated as strictly confidential, with the exception of a few matters which may safely be given out, especially to the faculty and to the students.

I had 4 somewhat long and very satisfactory interviews with Mr. Mackay on January 16th, 18th, 30th and February 3rd, this latter date being the day before I left New York for Reno. I was very forcibly impressed with the hold which the University of Nevada has gained upon Mr. Mackay's mind and heart. It is very refreshing and wholesome for us to know that this man, who began a few years ago by giving, in connection with his mother, the Mining building, shows the deepest interest in everything that we are trying to do through this University for the welfare of the State and the young people.

At our first interview, we took up the report of the President to

the Board of Regents and the Report of the Board of Regents to the Governor, and he expressed himself as being very much pleased with the statements therein made, and the evidence of the growth that was easily apparent. He himself took up the matter of the Administration and Library building, estimated to cost \$250,000, and said that he was satisfied we could secure it and that he would do everything in his power to that end.

He accepted the invitation to Mrs. Mackay and himself, given them in the name of the Board of Regents, the faculty and the students, to be present during Commencement week and to show his interest in the University on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

The next day, Tuesday, Mr. Henderson and I called upon Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and had a very satisfactory talk. He reiterated what he said before; that he was very pleased with our University, with its standing, and he said, moreover, at their Executive Committee meeting, the members expressed themselves as satisfied regarding the University of Nevada, on which Dr. Pritchett was making a report. It seems that we have a good reputation among some of the men on the Executive Committee. Dr. Pritchett said that they had admitted no colleges to the retiring list since he had been here, and that they would not do so for some little time to come, but when they took up the question of colleges eligible to the retiring list, the reasons for the admission of the University of Nevada would be favorably considered.

In reply to this, I said, "Dr. Pritchett, we would like to be admitted to the retiring list and we believe, as I have no doubt you do, that we are entirely worthy; the mere announcement that our University had been placed on the retiring list would be invaluable to us in the public estimation, and will be worth 25 students a year. You are to remember that Stanford University and the University of California have been admitted to the retiring list. Our people in Nevada expect us to maintain for the admission of students an equal standing with these two larger and stronger institutions. As you know, there is no one of our faculty that will become eligible for retirement under your rules for at least 15 years, and most of them will not become eligible for 20 or 30 years from this time. The only exception is the President, who will be eligible for retirement in 4 years from the 19th day of March, 1911. If I keep my health and all goes well, I want to serve the University until that time and then I wish to retire, not to play, but to do some valuable and scholarly work, credit for which shall be given to the University

of Nevada. You have very kindly said that you will make a special case, and give me the retiring allowance even if the University is not placed on the retiring list, but I beg to assure you that the great gain to the University of Nevada through its admission to the retiring list comes from the fact that thereby the Carnegie Foundation has put its stamp upon the institution as one in scholarship and in administrative standing worthy of the confidence and esteem of our people."

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, in reply to a request under date of January 20th, saying that Mr. Henderson and I would enjoy making a social call for a few moments upon him, very graciously sent me a letter under date of January 23rd saying that he would be glad to see us any evening at five o'clock. Mr. Henderson and I, therefore, went to his house at five o'clock and, after waiting ten minutes in his library, Mr. Carnegie came in. He is a fine looking and well groomed old gentleman of about 74 years, with a sprightly step and a bright eye. He greeted us very cordially and engaged in conversation for 10 or 15 minutes. During this conversation, learning that I was President of the University of Nevada, he asked me if our University was admitted to the benefits of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. I could only say, "No, Sir", and did not feel at liberty to make any statement, but the next day I wrote a letter to Dr. Pritchett telling him of our pleasant reception and our gratification at having met Mr. Carnegie and the privileges of seeing him and talking with him for a little while, and then I said, "Dr. Pritchett, about the first question that Mr. Carnegie plumped at me was, 'Is your institution upon the retiring list of the Carnegie Foundation?'". To this letter Dr. Pritchett made the following reply:

January 26, 1911

My Dear President Stubbs:

I have your letter of January 25 and am very pleased that you had a pleasant call with Mr. Carnegie. You may be sure I have in mind quite thoroughly the matter of which you write and we will make all possible progress in it.

Very sincerely yours,

Henry S. Pritchett

I think we can rest assured that in due time the University of Nevada will be admitted to the benefits of this Foundation and this admission will be of incalculable value to the University.

By the way, I had sent my report to the Board of Regents and the Report of the Board of Regents to the Governor to Dr. Pritchett and he expressed himself as thoroughly satisfied with the showing that we were making and pleased with the progress and expansion of the University.

I saw Mr. Mackay again by arrangement on Thursday, the 18th, and we talked together for more than an hour. Mr. Mackay said that in addition to accepting the invitation of Mrs. Mackay and himself to be with us during the Commencement Season, he was coming out for the week ending the 17th of May to help us make the 25th anniversary of the founding of the University one long to be remembered and that he was going to bring with him Colonel George Harvey, Dr. Blake, the foremost surgeon of the City of New York, and the Honorable Martin Lyttelton, a Congressman-elect and one of the foremost lawyers and most eloquent speakers that they have in New York.

He is going to arrange for his landscape gardener to come out here about the first of May and draw up plans for the grounds and have them ready to submit to Mr. Mackay when he comes out about the 12th of May.

He took up again the question of the Library and Administration building and said that he had an appointment with Mrs. V. and with Mr. M. within the next two weeks and that he might see them sooner, but at least he would do so as soon as possible.

I saw him again on the 30th and we again went over the ground of the Regents' Report and he asked that if we got appropriations for new buildings that he be permitted to examine the plans so that they would be in harmony with the Mackay building and all the other buildings that we contemplate putting around the quadrangle. I said to him that there would be nothing done in the way of buildings until the plans had been submitted to him and received the stamp of his approval. This appeared to gratify him very much.

Tuesday morning, January 31st, I went over to Washington. I had written in advance to Senator Newlands and to Senator Nixon respecting the new rule for the detail of an Army Officer. I had written also to the Secretary of War. When I called on Senator Newlands he was ill and I did not see him, but I saw the letter which he had written to the Secretary of War. I met Senator Nixon and we talked over the whole subject very thoroughly. I simply asked a postponement of the new requirement of 150 students for 3 years, at which time I have no doubt that

our institution will come up to the requirement of 150 students and thus entitle us to the detail of a regular Army Officer. I objected very strongly to the detail of a retired Army Officer to this institution; they have not been entirely satisfactory and our students do much better under the leadership of an Army Officer in active service. Senator Nixon called up Senator Warren, the Chairman of Military Affairs, and they were going to take up the whole subject, which had been referred to the Military Secretary for consideration, and he had no doubt that the final decision would be in favor of making the exception of our institution, and such other institutions as are in the same situation, until we have had 3 years to grow.

I also spent 3 or 4 hours with Dr. A. C. True and Dr. E. W. Allen of the Experiment Station and discussed a great many interesting and important questions, which I will take up with the Board of Control in the future.

On Friday, February 3rd, I again met Mr. Mackay by appointment. He had quite a long conversation with Mrs. V. in which he asked her to give \$100,000 or \$125,000 to the building of the Library. He argued the case with marked ability and at the end Mrs. V. said that she would neither say yes nor no, but give it most earnest consideration. She referred to the attacks of the newspapers which kept her from coming to Reno and inspecting the University. Mr. Mackay said that that wasn't worth noticing, that it was the penalty prominent people had to pay. Mr. Mackay felt sure that Mrs. V. would give, before she was through with him, the \$100,000 or \$125,000.

He was also to have a meeting with Mr. M. As we all know, it requires great tact and good judgment to present this matter to him. He is going to ask from him \$150,000 as a memorial gift to his father. There is one other person whom he is going to see if it is necessary, and that is Mr. F. of San Francisco.

The keynote of his efforts and the point of his argument to these people is this: that their large wealth came to them from the State of Nevada and it is their duty as well as their privilege to spend some of this money upon the University and thus, through the University, to benefit the young people, and the old people as well, of the entire State, and with the light of a great enthusiasm across his face he said to me almost in his last words, "We are going to get \$250,000 from these men and this woman." As he said to Mrs. V., "In all my giving, I have received the greatest satisfaction and the greatest reward from what I have done for the University of Nevada, which is making good in every way, and now I want you and Mr. M. and Mr.

F. to do your part and show to the people of Nevada that your hearts throb in sympathy with them and their problems." He said further to Mrs. V., "I am giving \$6,000 a year for 5 years for instruction in the School of Mines, and I will continue, if everything goes well, my gift of this amount. Further, I am going to send my landscape gardener out there to look over those grounds and this building, or these buildings, which are put up as memorial gifts; if these are done, I will take care of the beautifying of the grounds."

But this is not all. I consider that the University should leave for the present the securing of these gifts to Mr. Mackay's endeavor. I think that he wants to announce one or more of these gifts as a surprise when he visits us to celebrate Commencement. It seems to me that he has planned rightly for these gifts to come from men and women who are descendants of pioneers of this State, who made their money in this State.

On my way home, I spent a day in Chicago and took dinner at my brother's home. I told him (confidentially) of what I had been doing and the degree of success which had marked my efforts along this line. He was deeply interested and he said, "I am not sure that Mrs. Collis P. Huntington would not give \$250,000 for this Library and Administration building. She is able to do it. The best to approach her will be through Mr. Archie Huntington of New York, and I will arrange to get you admitted to his library, which is a very celebrated one, and then prepare the way for conversation with him, and, possibly, with her."

Upon my departure from New York, Mr. Mackay said that perhaps he would like to see me in New York in April, and I said that if it was desired I should certainly come.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Stubbs, President

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman.

A. A. Codd
Chairman

Geo. H. Taylor
Secretary