

UCCSN Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes June 8-9, 1953

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UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA REGENTS MEETING June 8-9, 1953

The Board of Regents met in a special session in the President's office on Monday, June 8, to consider the case of Dr. Frank Richardson. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 3:25 P.M. All Regents were present. The following members of the Press were also present: William Gillis, Lloyd Rogers, William Henley, Frank Johnson, Ed Olsen and Bob Bennyhoff.

The Regents agreed that legitimate representatives of the Press be permitted to attend the deliberations of the Regents, with the understanding that they would respect the request that certain portions of the deliberations would be "off the record".

Mr. John Marean had charge of the magnetic tape recorder and played back the tape recordings of the hearing of Dr. Richardson on Monday afternoon, June 8, and all day Tuesday, June 9, until 8:25 P.M.

At 8:25 P.M., having had the recordings played back, the Regents proceeded to deliberate on that evidence, plus the exhibits on the hearing.

Reporters present for the evening session on Tuesday were: Ed Olsen, Robert Burns, William Henley, Bob Bennyhoff and William Gillis. During the course of the discussion, reporters Lloyd Rogers and George Umbenhauer came into the meeting.

It was agreed that, thinking of the welfare of the University, it would be necessary to consider things other than those brought out at the hearing.

General discussion and deliberation followed.

a) Motion by Mr. Grant carried unanimously that:

WHEREAS, a hearing was had before the Board of Regents

of the University of Nevada on May 25, 26, 27, 1953, relative to Dr. Frank Richardson, a staff member under tenure, and good cause appearing therefore, IT IS ORDERED that he be removed as a member of the faculty of the University of Nevada and that no future contract be tendered him.

- b) Motion by Mr. Crumley carried unanimously that an official statement be prepared for release by the Regents.
- c) Motion by Dr. Lombardi carried unanimously that a committee be appointed to prepare such a statement, and that the committee be composed of Mr. Ross and Mr. Crumley.

Mr. Ross and Mr. Crumley then withdrew and prepared the statement in accord with the above action. Upon return to the meeting, Mr. Crumley read the statement as follows:

In the matter relative to Dr. Frank Richardson, staff member under tenure, the Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada herewith announces the unanimous decision of the members of the Board.

Following the hearing held before the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada on May 25, 26 and 27, 1953, and good cause appearing, it is ordered therefor that Dr. Frank Richardson be removed as a member of the faculty of the University of Nevada and that no future contract be tendered him.

The Board determines that Dr. Frank Richardson has demonstrated insubordination, that he has not been cooperative and that his conduct has not been in accord with the welfare of the University of Nevada.

The Board desires to emphasize that its decision constitutes no restriction on academic freedom or upon freedom of speech at the University of Nevada. Any member of the faculty is free at any time to express an opinion on any matter, controversial or otherwise. However, once a decision is made by proper authority, all concerned are expected to abide by that decision.

Further, the Board emphasizes that while there has been a change in admission requirements at the University of Nevada to permit entrance by a graduate of any Nevada high school, there has been no change in academic standards.

The State of Nevada occupies somewhat of a unique position in that it has but one institution of higher learning. There are high schools in the State which cannot possibly offer a complete curriculum pattern for the students attending those high schools. The University of Nevada is a State supported institution, and the taxpayers should enjoy the right to provide for high school graduates of this State to enter the University, regardless of subjects available at the particular high school attended, and be afforded the opportunity to prove their ability to qualify for a higher education. This does not mean a lessening of requirements for graduation from the University.

The Secretary to the Board of Regents is instructed to notify Dr. Frank Richardson of the action of the Board in this matter.

- d) Motion by Mr. Hardy carried unanimously that the Regents adopt the statement (above) as prepared and presented by the committee of Mr. Ross and Mr. Crumley.
- e) Motion by Mr. Hardy carried unanimously that the statement be released by the Board of Regents to the reporters and that it be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, and it was so ordered.

Next Meeting

Motion by Mr. Crumley carried unanimously that the next meeting be the regular meeting in the Fall unless a prior meeting is called by the Chairman.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 P.M.