

UCCSN Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes September 17-18, 1955

09-17-1955

Volume 7 - Pages 163-165

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 17, 1955

The Executive Committee of the Board of Regents met in the President's office on Saturday, September 17, 1955. Present: Regents Hardy, Lombardi, Thompson and Ross.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 2:35 P.M.

Mr. Ross stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss reports that appeared in the local newspapers concerning the selection of someone to make an investigation of the University (as per legislative action).

Following general discussion on the advisability of approaching the Legislative Commission.

Motion by Dr. Lombardi carried that the following letter be sent from the Board of Regents to each member of the Legislative Commission, with a copy to Legislative Counsel Springmeyer. Mr. Thompson expressed himself as favoring an approach by the Regents to the Legislative Commission, but not in the form of a letter.

Dear _____

Recent newspaper accounts of your steps toward appointing a group to make an investigation of the University of Nevada have been read by members of the Board of Regents with considerable concern. With confidence that the Legislative Commission would seek to act with sincere impartiality and good faith in this matter, the Board of Regents wishes to remind you of the following:

- I. The President and the Board of Regents were among the first to recommend a thorough study of the University.

We specifically asked that an inquiry be conducted into all phases of the University by an impartial

board of competent educators, nationally recognized as qualified to evaluate the program of a Land-Grant College and State University.

- II. The fact that we were in full support of such a study was used in statements during debate upon the floors of the Legislature.
- III. During the above discussions, verbal assurances were made by some members of the Legislature that the Board of Regents would have an opportunity to concur in the selection of the inquiry group. The Board of Regents must have confidence in the group if the study is to have any real effect upon the future of the University.

The State Constitution says that the University is "to be controlled by a Board of Regents". The members of the Board of Regents are elected by vote of the people of the entire State for 4-year terms. They are responsible to that electorate.

- IV. Since the University of Nevada is a Land-Grant College and State University, it must look also to the following groups for approval of its program and operation:

1. Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.
2. National Association of State Universities.
3. American Council on Education.
4. Association for Higher Education (N. E. A.)
5. United States Office of Education.
6. Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools.

- V. While the Legislature was in session, the Regents requested the Attorney General to contact some of the above organizations for suggested steps and competent individuals. The Attorney General passed the received recommendations on to the Legislative Counsel.

In addition, the Legislative Counsel made his own inquiries of these organizations and has received recommendations from them.

- VI. National authorities in education have repeatedly emphasized that the proper study of a Land-Grant College and State University is a very complex task.

Only those people experienced in such studies and the organization and operation of these institutions are in a position to evaluate with any degree of accurate judgment.

VII. At your meeting of September 2, 1955, the Legislative Counsel recommended Dr. Dean Mc Henry, a Professor of Political Science at U. C. L. A. to direct this study. Our inquiry of Dr. Mc Henry reveals the following facts:

1. Dr. Dean Mc Henry was never offered the position of President of the University of Nevada and has not made such a statement.
 - a) He was proposed for the position in 1950, but Dr. Love was selected and appointed.
 - b) Because of the previous proposal and consideration, he was on the list of potential candidates in 1952. He was not interested in being a candidate at that time because he was seeking political office.
2. We have been informed that Dr. Dean Mc Henry was not on the lists of people proposed by the above mentioned organizations to participate in the study. His name was unknown to the offices of these organizations.
3. News accounts indicate that Dr. Mc Henry had agreed to make the study in close cooperation with the Legislative Counsel's office. The Board of Regents does not believe this is wise. Once the individual or group is selected, he, or they, must be completely free of any individual or group. The study and report must be conducted with complete independence. History of such studies indicates that the most satisfactory studies have been made by independently operating boards.

VIII. The Board of Regents wishes to request that the person appointed to direct the study be one who is recommended as competent by several of the organizations named above.

Very truly yours,

S. E. Ross, Chairman
Board of Regents

It was agreed, by consensus, that the letter not be released to anyone other than the addressees.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.