



Memorandum from the Advisory Committee, September 6, 1949

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The Advisory Committee, Southern Section, and the Advisory Committee, Northern Section, met from 10 to 12 this morning and developed the following program as a basis for a conference with President Sproul:

1. In dealing with problems arising from the prescription of the oath, it is the judgment of the Committees that all concerned should keep steadily in mind as the objectives ultimately to be served: first, freedom of the academic mind; second, the welfare of the University both as a university and as a congregation of individual scholars and scientists and teachers; and third, the reputation of the University.
2. The immediate end of the present conference, it is the opinion of the Committees, is to define objectives and strategies for the Senate meetings of September 16 and September 19. These, it is the common opinion, should be defined in the light of information on certain points to be exchanged by the President and the Committees at the present conference.

Information the Committees feel obliged to communicate to the President:

There has been a gradual crystallisation of an attitude unfavorable to a creative solution of the problem of the oath as at present effective. In the opinion of the Advisory Committees the chief factor in bringing about this attitude has been the withholding of letters of appointment to non-tenure members of the faculty and letters of salary rate to members of the tenure staff until the signed oath has been received. It is a matter of knowledge to the Committees that a considerable number of members of the faculty returned their oaths signed under the impression that letters of appointment and letters of salary rate were late only because the budget was late. Such members have in considerable number indicated that, had they known of the tie-in, they would at least have postponed signature. Some have spoken of recalling their signed oaths and returning their letters of appointment or salary rate and have been dissuaded from doing so, at least until after the Senate meeting. The Committees wish to communicate to the President their view that the attitude referred to and the positions described are taken in many instances by men among the most eminent in the University and men of stable temperaments, given to unhurried, considered judgment.

Information the Committees hope the President can give them:

1. The reassuring information that the President himself intends to preside at the several meetings of the Senate.
2. The facts as to the number of letters sent out and the number of signed oaths that have been received, with, if possible, an impression as to the number of qualifying or protesting letters returned with signed oaths.
3. The President's decision on the suggestions made by the Advisory Committee, Northern Section, in its letter of August 24.
4. Procedures and machinery contemplated for dealing with non-jurors, in the event that a solution is not

found under which no procedures and machinery are necessary.