



Minutes of the Academic Senate, Northern Section, June 6, 1950

TRANSCRIBER NOTE:

This excerpt from the meeting minutes includes a list of attendees and only those sections that pertain to the loyalty oath controversy. Page numbers reflect those of the original source.

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MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE, NORTHERN SECTION

Meeting of June 6, 1950
Volume 8

Meeting. -

The Northern Section of the Academic Senate met on Tuesday, June 6, 1950 in the Faculty Room, 312 Benjamin Ide Wheeler Hall at 4:20 p.m., having been delayed beyond the usual time of meeting because of use of the Faculty Room for a final examination. Present: about 350 voting members of the Section. President Robert G. Sproul, Chairman, presided.

Minutes. -

The minutes of the meeting of May 1, 1950 were read and approved.

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Academic Freedom. -

Professor E. W. Strong, Chairman of the Special Committee of Five, presented the report in the form in which it was distributed with the call for the meeting. On his motion duly seconded, the proposed new by-law establishing a standing committee on Academic Freedom was approved with certain amendments as follows:

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF FIVE

To the Academic Senate, Northern Section:

In accordance with action by the Northern Section of the Academic Senate, May 1, 1950, the establishment of a standing Committee on Academic Freedom, effective July 1, 1950 is recommended as follows:

Renumber by-laws 158 and 159 of the Academic Senate as 157 and 158 respectively and enact the following new by-law:

159. Academic Freedom.- This Committee shall consist of five members of the Northern Section. The Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(A) to make a continuous study of the procedures concerning faculty employment with a view to determining the extent to which these procedures affect (1) the acceptance of positions and resignations from positions in the University, and (2) the reputation of the University and of individual members of its faculty, and to report thereon to the Academic Senate;

(B) To study any conditions within or without the University which, in the judgment of the Committee, may affect the academic freedom of the University and to report thereon to the Academic Senate.

Respectfully submitted

R. A. Gordon

H. B. Gotaas

C. Kerr

H. R. Wellman

E. W. Strong, Chairman

Berkeley

May 17, 1950

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Thereafter, Professor B. M. Woods, Chairman of the Special Committee on Academic Freedom, read the following statement which the Section received and ordered placed on file:

In accordance with instructions of the Academic Senate, meeting on May 1, 1950, the Committee submits this progress report. The report follows the detailed instructions of the Senate.

1. After consultation of the Chairman of the Committee with the President, the Committee met in joint session with the Committee on Privilege and Tenure concerning the procedures to be followed in hearing the cases of faculty members who did not sign the form of contract adopted by the Regents on April 21, 1950. There was unanimous agreement of all members of both committees as to the procedures adopted and the cooperative attitude to be taken by the Committee on Privilege and Tenure toward members of the faculty who might appear before it. Word received by the Committee on Academic Freedom since the hearings were initiated indicates that the procedures are well regarded.

The President agreed that hearings should be held for non-signers who are under consideration for promotion or increase of salary as well as for those who are not. As a working procedure, he stated his intention of referring to the Committee on Privilege and Tenure the cases of lecturers who are, in effect, regular members of the faculty.

2. The Committee was instructed to "Make itself available to the President and consult with him concerning procedures to be followed in the cases of non-Senate academic employees who do not sign the new form of contract." Following such consultation, the President named a committee consisting of the incoming Vice-Chairman of the Academic Senate, the Dean of the College and the Chairman of the Department concerned to hear the cases of non-Senate academic employees. These include lecturers who are not in effect regular members of the faculty, teaching assistants, research assistants and research associates.
3. The Committee was asked to keep under continuous review the effects of the policies of the Regents as embodied in their actions of April 21. Specific problems are:
 - a. The extent to which men invited to come here refuse to for reasons associated with these procedures.

- b. The extent to which these procedures or the nature of Regent-Faculty relations is cited as a reason for resigning by men leaving the University.
- c. Whether the University's reputation in the academic world is damaged by these new procedures.
- d. The effect of these procedures on the status of tenure and academic freedom at the University.

The Committee has arranged with the President to receive copies of pertinent portions of letters from members of the faculty who resign or from men invited to come here who decline to come, as a basis for starting cumulative records from which conclusions can be drawn.

4. The Committee has considered proposals from several members of the Senate suggesting that the Senate, Northern Section, go on record as considering it a violation of the principles of academic freedom if any non-Communist member of the Senate should be discharged as a result of pending Regents' action. It will be recalled that a similar resolution was referred to the Committee at

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the meeting of May 1. It is the considered judgment of the Committee that action of this type is not now desirable. It could be interpreted as questioning the good faith of the Regents at a time when good faith both of the faculty and of the Regents is of the greatest importance. The Committee believes that action should rest upon the facts in individual cases, should there be any. Further, action of the type suggested would presume cause for such action. This does not now exist.

5. The Committee is concerned with two types of questions - those which are immediate and therefore urgent and those of long-time importance. It hopes that its efforts may be devoted primarily to the long-term question of Academic Freedom in the University and the achievement of high standards of such freedom. To that end it plans to initiate as promptly as possible a study of the development of academic freedom in the University of California and the present status of tenure. It expects to make a progress report to the Senate or to pass on to the standing Committee on Academic Freedom material which it may collect for such report. It is unlikely that this can be done by the first meeting of the fall semester.
6. The present is a time of anxiety. Probably at no time in the history of the University has the situation been so difficult. The Committee believes that the anxiety of the moment can best be handled by the procedures outlined in the Regents' meeting of April 21 and it has devoted its efforts to interpretation of these procedures and provision of means for their execution. It expects favorable action in all cases receiving the support of the Committee on Privilege and Tenure.

Regular procedures permit calling a special meeting of the Northern Section should matters of academic freedom or other urgent questions indicate the desirability.

William R. Dennes
Robert A. Nisbet
Wendell M. Stanley
Dixon Wecter
Baldwin M. Woods, Chairman

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Special Committee on Academic Freedom:

In pursuance of action at the meeting of the Northern Section of the Academic Senate on May 1, 1950, the following committee was named:

B. M. Woods, Chairman, W. R. Dennes, R. A. Nisbet, W. M. Stanley, D. Wecter.

Respectfully submitted

THOMAS B. STEEL, Secretary

Committee on Committees

Berkeley

May 17, 1950