



---

## Preliminary Statement, ca. June 1949

---

### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

In the interval between the first request for this meeting and the present time, there have appeared certain misapprehensions as to the implication of the request itself and the evident purposes of this meeting. These misapprehensions are distressing to the signatories of the request and of the subsequent resolution. They wish, if possible, to dispel them.

In neither the request for this Senate meeting nor in the subsequent resolution is there intended any repudiation or even criticism of the intentions or the effectiveness of the Advisory Committee. It is the opinion of the signatories that the Advisory Committee has, as far as circumstances permitted, accurately represented and gone far to implement the wishes of the Senate expressed in its resolution of June 14. The obvious preference of the Senate at that meeting was for deletion of the second part of the "loyalty" oath. This preference the Advisory Committee properly represented through the President to the Regents. However, the alternative of revision "in a manner mutually acceptable to the Regents and the members of the Academic Senate" was a specific part of the resolution, and in accepting (insofar as acceptance lay within their power) this alternative, the Advisory Committee acted in accord with the Senate's direction. For all this they have the gratitude of the Senate.

Some members of the faculty have expressed the belief that the Senate is irrevocably committed to adhere to the letter of its resolution. In the opinion of these signatories, however, there is neither impropriety nor breach of faith in the Senate's considering further moves to secure its first preference, whether these moves be regarded de novo or as reconsideration and restatement of an intention imperfectly expressed at the June meeting. The Regents are not unfamiliar with the difficulties of expressing intentions in words and will not be surprised if it should prove that the Senate in an hour or so of tense debate had not succeeded in ultimately defining its own considered desire.

— 2 —

The call for this special meeting and the abstention on the part of many of us from signing the present oath until after the meeting arise from a sincere and not uncommon belief among the faculty that the words "in a manner mutually acceptable to the Regents and the members of the Academic Senate" implied that the Senate as a body would have the opportunity to express its satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the amended oath before individual decisions were required. Whether this belief is based on a misunderstanding of the text of the resolution appears to us not the point at issue. The fact is that certain members of the Senate voted aye with this understanding and many others were in doubt on the point. To shut off further Senate discussion of the oath seems unwise in itself and unfair to those who for purposes of argument may be said to have "misunderstood" the resolution.

This meeting has been called and the attached resolution framed in the firm belief that the Senate, the Advisory Committee, the President, and the Regents are at one in their resolve to keep the University of California among the great institutions of the world, and that free and full discussion of fundamental issues such as these is of the utmost value to all of us.