



Excerpts from the Minutes of the Regents of the University of California, Regular Session, September 30, 1949

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. Missing words, misspellings, and other typographical errors found in the original are followed by bracketed notes.

— 162 —

[Excerpts from Minutes of September 30, 1949]

San Francisco
September 30, 1949

A special meeting of The Regents of the University of California was held this day at 3:00 p.m. in 910 Crocker Building, San Francisco.

Present: Regents Ahlport, Collins, Ehrman, Fenston, Fleishhacker, Giannini, Hale, Hansen, Harrison, Heller, Jordan, Merchant, Neylan, Sproul, Teague, and Dickson (16).

In attendance: Professors Hildebrand, Lehman, Dennes, Walker, Olmsted and Miller, representing the Advisory Committees of the Academic Senate; Secretary and Treasurer Underhill, Attorney Calkins, Comptroller Corley, and Assistant Secretary Woolman.

Regent Dickson in the Chair.

The Secretary announced that this special meeting was called on a motion adopted by The Regents at a regular meeting held in Los Angeles on September 23, 1949. The purpose, as directed, was to consider a report [sic] a special committee of The Regents appointed to discuss the loyalty oath with a faculty committee. The Secretary certified that a notice of this meeting was mailed to each Regent in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws, which said notice read as follows:

"TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

"Berkeley
September 26, 1949

"In accordance with action of The Regents on September 23, a special meeting of The Regents of the University of California will be held at 3:00 p.m., Friday, September 30, 1949, in Room 910, Crocker Building, San Francisco, to consider the matter of the loyalty oath.

"Yours very truly
ROBERT M. UNDERHILL
Secretary."

Upon motion of Regent Harrison, The Regents went into executive session, requesting, however, that the members of the faculty present remain in the meeting.

(See Volume III, page #242)

And then The Regents went into regular session.

At this point several members of the press entered the meeting room, and the Secretary read for their benefit the statement adopted by the Board in Executive Session, as follows:

The Secretary of The Regents was directed to issue the following statement following a joint meeting of the [sic] Board of Regents of the University of California and the Advisory Committees of the Academic Senate:

The Board of Regents of the University of California reaffirms its announced policy that no member of the Communist party [sic] shall be employed by the University.

In implementing this policy, the Board heretofore has adopted a form of oath or affirmation which was formulated by the President and Advisory Committees of the Academic Senate.

The Advisory Committees of the Academic Senate have advised the Board that after more mature consideration, the Senate would like to have a portion of that oath deleted.

In the absence of a better method of implementing its policy, the Board stands on its requirement of the oath or affirmation.

The Board, however, will be glad to consider any method which the faculty may deem to be a further or better implementation of the policy.

Complete agreement upon the objectives of the University policy excluding members of the Communist party [sic] from employment and Communist teaching and influence from the campuses of the University was disclosed at today's meeting of The Regents with the Advisory Committees of the Academic Senate. Discussion turned upon the means of most effectively implementing the policy.

The Regents and the faculty will continue their close and active cooperation to the end that this policy be given its fullest effect.

— 163 —

It was agreed that pending the conclusion of these discussions members of the faculty and employees of the University should make oath or affirmation of their loyalty either by signing the oath approved by The Regents on June 24, 1949, or by other equivalent affirmation acceptable to The Regents.

(Regents Ehrman and Hansen were not present for this part of the meeting.)

As senior member of the Academic Senate present, Professor Hildebrand expressed, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, their extraordinary satisfaction in the outcome of the meeting, and their appreciation of The Regents' patience and understanding of their problem.

Regent Neylan then made mention of a recent newspaper article in which it was stated that Irving David Fox, a teaching assistant at the University was under investigation by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. In this regard the President stated that steps are being taken to investigate the matter and he would report to the Board at a later date.

And then the meeting adjourned.