

The Board of Trustees of the State University of Kentucky met in regular session on Tuesday, December 8, 1914, at 12 O'clock, in the Trustees' Room in the Gymnasium Building.

The meeting was called to order by Governor McCreary, and the new members present were sworn in, as follows: John Wesley Woods, of Ashland; Philip Preston Johnston, of Lexington; Dr. S. B. Marks, of Lexington; and George G. Brock, of London.

On roll call the following were present:

Henry S. Barker, Dr. Patterson, Messrs. R. C. Stoll, Claude B. Terrell, C. B. Nichols, R. W. Brown, Tibbis Carpenter, Richard N. Wathen, Dr. A. Gatliff and James W. Turner.

Absent: James Breathitt, T. L. Edelen, W. H. Cox, Denny P. Smith, Johnson N. Camden and Louis L. Walker.

On motion by Mr. Stoll a recess was taken immediately, in order that Mr. Lyle's case might be taken up and disposed of without delay.

At 1:30, before adjourning for lunch, the Governor appointed as a committee of three to name the members of the Standing Committees for the ensuing year, the following: President Barker, Messrs. Brown and Carpenter.

At 2:30 the Board re-convened.

The minutes of the June meeting were read by Judge Lafferty, Secy. and on motion duly approved.

The secretary then read the minutes of the Executive Committee. They were approved as read.

The minutes of the Board of Control of the Agricultural Experiment Station were read by Dr. Kastle, and approved as read.

Motion was made by Mr. R. W. Brown and adopted that the Board express its appreciation of the splendid headway made in this department during the year.

President Barker then read his annual report, which is as follows:

Lexington, Ky., December 7, 1914.

To the Board of Trustees  
of State University,  
Lexington, Kentucky.

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to submit herein the report which the law requires me, as President of the University, to make to you at this time.

In the beginning, I desire to congratulate the institution in that there have been added to your Board six new members under the act of the General Assembly, authorizing the election of Alumni as trustees. This act was passed on my earnest representation that it would greatly strengthen the influence of your body in the State and bring to your aid all the enthusiasm and love of the Alumni for their Alma Mater; that this love and enthusiasm would be a tower of strength in building up the University and making it useful to the people of Kentucky.

Starting out as we do under these pleasing auspices, I indulge the hope and desire to express the belief that your Board will proceed with perfect harmony and added enthusiasm in the great work of building up in Kentucky a great university commensurate with the dignity of the State and the needs of its people.

I cannot but recall as I begin this report that I entered upon my career as President of the University five years ago, and I hope I do not transcend the bounds of modesty in saying that I have given to the institution all of the ability that I possess, and that, within my term, the roster roll of the University has doubled, and there has been added to the University's annual income one hundred thousand dollars. The increase in the number of students this term over the number enrolled last term at the same date is ten per cent., which you will readily recognize is a very healthy increase. The students assembled on the Campus now are, in my opinion, an exceptionally fine body of Kentucky youth; but I am not relying on my own opinion as to this. A diligent inquiry of the professors reveals the fact that they coincide in my opinion of the students now here. In very large measure this is the result of the improvement going on in the organization of and the methods of teaching in the high schools of the State, from which we draw, in very large part, our student body; but that we actually get the best students from the graduates of the high school and that they are not sent by their professors to the various other universities throughout the country is largely due to the fact that we most assiduously cultivate the good will and esteem of the high school teachers throughout the State, and they now direct their graduates in our direction instead of sending them north of the Ohio river, as heretofore.

This is especially true as to the two normal schools: both of these two great institutions of learning we class as the warm friends and supporters of the University, and their presidents and teachers do what they to advance our interests as we also do theirs. This is a matter of great personal pride to me, as it evinces the fact that I have been at least reasonably successful in cultivating the friendship of the public school teachers of Kentucky.

During the summer months we conducted a very successful Summer School, which was patronized largely by the teachers of the common schools of the State. There were in attendance (attendance) one hundred and sixty-six, all of whom seemed highly pleased with the opportunity afforded them to improve their scholarship in whatever branches they deemed themselves deficient. I hold the Summer School in high esteem in considering how best the University can be useful to the State; Kentucky is lamentably deficient in properly equipped teachers for her common schools, and in proportion as efficiently prepared teachers are supplied, in that proportion will the educational interests of the State be advanced. It also lends itself to popularize the University with the teachers of the common schools who benefit by its teaching, and, in this way, aids the University in attracting the attention of students. Its benefits are therefore reciprocal.

Since your last meeting we have constructed a suitable building and are operating a Commons for the better boarding of the poorer students. Instead of forcing those who live in the dormitories to walk long distances to boarding houses, we now provide on the Campus a cheap, nutritious meal, at the very lowest price possible above actual cost. This venture has been operated only since October 1st of the present year, and, of course, is in the experimental stage; but we have gone far enough to justify the hope and belief that it will be successful, and will greatly redound to the interests of the poorer (poorer) students. I am also arranging for the operation of a truck garden on a part of a farm, which the Dean of the Agricultural College has rented for a term of six years, for purposes of which I shall speak further on. Upon this truck garden it is proposed, by means of student labor, to raise everything in the shape of vegetables which go upon the table. These will be furnished to our students at actual cost, and, in this way, still further reduce the cost of living. In addition to this benefit, we will afford many students the opportunity of supporting themselves by their labor while obtaining a university education. I am of opinion that the whole Agricultural Department should be subsidiary to the interests of the students, so far as this is possible, without militating against the primary idea of education. For example, we experiment in

truck gardening - let us, at the same time, raise for our students fresh, wholesome vegetables at cost; we operate a model and very expensive dairy - why not give the milk to the students at cost instead of competing with the dairymen in the open market; we experiment in the feeding of beef cattle and hogs and in the raising of poultry, fruit, etc., - all of these things should go to the support of the students at actual cost; in this way, we can very materially lower the cost of living to the students and enable many a boy and girl to come to the University, who are now barred because of the cost of living. It is not the tuition fees, but the cost of living, which is prohibitive to so many of the poor young men and women of Kentucky in obtaining a university education. In all these proposed measures I have the hearty cooperation of the Dean of the Agricultural College; but while I outline them here in a very few words, we shall have to proceed slowly and prudently with the operation, feeling our way gradually, so that we can be very sure of the safety of each step before we make it, but of the ultimate success of our plans I have no doubt whatever.

I have just spoken of the lease by Dr. Kastle of a new farm adjoining the one owned by the University; the object of this lease is to introduce a practical course in farming, for which no entrance requirements will be necessary, no course of study in books, required, but in which the concrete principles of agriculture will be taught to every farmer boy in Kentucky, who chooses to attend. The term will be of one year's duration, and in that time it is believed the average young farm lad who has had no opportunity to attend school can be given sufficient agricultural information to enable him to be a successful farmer, or, at least, a very much better farmer than he would have been without it.

With this proposed new course I am in deep sympathy: as already indicated, I believe the University should be of use to the whole State, in so far as that is possible. We do not depreciate learning by helping the very ignorant to better their condition. These special course students will not come in contact with the regular university students but will till the farm under competent instruction in an entirely practical

way. I know of no method by which to reach the average farm boy who has had no opportunity for an elementary education, which promises greater benefits to the agricultural interests of the State than this.

It is impossible in the space which I can allot to it to set forth the multitude of ways in which the Agricultural Department is benefitting the State in a practical way. It carries on experiments in the feeding of cattle and other live stock and the prevention and cure of the many diseases to which they are subject. It is constantly experimenting in soil fertility and the best and cheapest methods of restoring depleted soils to their pristine fertility. It enforces the pure food and drug laws and all of the statutes regulating the purity and inspection of seeds, the analyses of fertilizers and their proper tagging. It studies the diseases of fruit trees and the elimination of the many pests which make horticulture unremunerative or impossible in Kentucky.

In connection with the United States Government, our Agricultural Department is carrying on the most thorough extension work throughout the State. One of the most effective features of this work is the placing of a County Agent in a county for the purpose of solving all of the problems of the farmers of that county. Thus far, there have been located twenty-six County Agents throughout the State. Eight or ten additional counties have applied for agents, but the work is limited by the difficulty in finding competent men. We hope in a few years to have an agent in each of the counties of the Commonwealth.

The department is carrying on seven small experiment farms in different sections of the State; they are known as "experiment fields." In spite of the fact that during the few years these field experiments have been carried on there have been two disastrous drouths throughout the State, there has been demonstrated beyond the slightest doubt the great value of scientific agriculture as applied to the poorest land. I shall take two of these fields as an illustration of the principle involved.

The field in Pulaski County has been operated for six years; in that time land that would produce only seven bushels of corn and two and a half bushels of wheat per acre, and would not grow clover at all, produces forty-three bushels of corn, eighteen

bushels of wheat and more than a ton of clover per acre - at a cost of only two dollars worth of phosphate per year.

The experiment in Laurel County is even more striking; there, ninety-five dollars, net, per acre, was obtained from an expenditure of thirty-five dollars per acre in fertilizer. It only needs a glance at these figures to show the wonderful possibilities of scientific agriculture in Kentucky. These field experiments are carried on under the supervision of Prof. George Roberts.

In concluding what I have to say on the Agricultural College, the Station has made and sold to the farmers of Kentucky all the hog cholera serum they desired, or which was necessary to prevent any great ravage by that disease; the members of the Station have in the past year themselves immunized fifty-four thousand hogs in Kentucky.

On November 1, 1914, we completed the first year of operating our own Printing Plant, and the books show, after deducting all expenditures, including a sufficient amount for the depreciation on machinery, type, etc., a net gain of nine hundred and forty dollars and ninety-one cents (\$940.91) for the year. In addition to this, the institution has had more and better printing than ever before.

At the beginning of this term, there was instituted in the College of Arts and Science a School of Journalism, of which department Mr. Enoch Grehan, late editor of the Lexington Herald, was made head. This school already has some forty odd students and is progressing in a most satisfactory way. There is great enthusiasm among the students, and Mr. Grehan believes that in a few years he will build up a great school. I do not think we can overestimate the value to the State of having properly educated and highminded young journalists to take charge of the various newspapers published in the State, either as owners or employees. This will greatly rebound to the benefit of the University, as these students will naturally remember with gratitude their Alma Mater and do all in their power to mould public sentiment in its favor.

In our College of Civil Engineering there has been established a school for teaching the Making of Good Roads, and all in Kentucky who desire to learn this most valuable science are invited to attend free of cost. It is difficult to calculate now the real benefit that will accrue to the State when the necessity of good roads thoroughly permeates the whole of society, and I know of no better way to build up a sentiment in favor of good roads than by offering a free course in the science to the people of Kentucky. It is the intention of Dean Rowe, of the Civil Engineering College, to give to the agricultural students a course in road making, and I hope and believe that great benefit will flow from this move.

There has been placed in your hands a statement of the finances up to December 1st, showing that after appropriating and distributing among the various departments money sufficient to run them for the school year ending in June, 1915, there is left a margin of three thousand six hundred and ninety-eight dollars and sixty-seven cents (\$3,698.67), which we call on the statement "Surplus Unappropriated." I think this amount is a perfectly safe margin and that we will have no difficulty in living within our income as the law requires. I have not been able to furnish a monthly report of the finances, as required by the rule of this Board, because of two facts: first, Mr. Hywel Davies, the Auditor, during the summer, was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson commissioner to go to Colorado to assist in settling the coal mining strike. This took up a great deal of his time. We would have been able to make a report, however, but for the fact that before Mr. Davies was through with his work in Colorado he was carried to the hospital and operated on twice - once for gall stones and the other for appendicitis. I need not say to you that these terrible operations left him in a most depleted physical state, and I doubt whether he has yet fully recovered his accustomed vitality. He is now in Colorado, undertaking to wind up the business for which he was appointed, and I am therefore deprived of his most valuable services. When he returns, we shall be able monthly to give out the financial statement required by the rule of this Board. However, I take pleasure in saying that our finances are in good shape and



that we will have no difficulty in going through the year with a safe balance on hand in the end.

In conclusion, it is my sincere belief that this University is now in the highest state of efficiency of its history, and I say this whether it be judged by the number and quality of its students, the efficiency and ability of its teaching force or its utility to the Commonwealth at large. I have no means of comparing the ability of our students with those of other institutions except in so far as they have competed in University functions. In the last five years our students have won three-fourths of the oratorical and debating contests which have been held between this University and other institutions throughout the country. The classes that we have sent to the great national stock shows, which have competed with classes of from sixteen to eighteen other State Universities, have always more than held their own, and several times have been very near the top. In no case have they been placed as low as the middle position. The class which went to Chicago this term was placed number six in a line of eighteen universities. Below them, among others, were New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. I make the unqualified statement that there is no university in the United States which is doing higher, better or more work than this University, on so little income. The per capita cost of educating a student in the State University of Kentucky is lower than in any other university in the world.

Very respectfully submitted,

Henry S. Barker  
President

Motion was made, seconded and carried, that the President's report be approved as read, and that an expression by the Board be put forth in acknowledgement of his excellent work.

President Barker, Chairman of the special committee, reported as follows:

The committee recommends that we accept the following proposed Executive Committee and Board of Control, and that the regular committees remain as they are.

The Executive Committee to be composed of:

Messrs. C. B. Nichols, Chairman, C. B. Terrell, T. L. Edelen, R. C. Stoll, P. P. Johnston, G. G. Brock and J. E. Brown.

The Board of Control to be composed of:

Richard C. Stoll, Chairman, C. B. Nichols, Johnson N. Camden, the President of the University, and the Director of the Station, Ex-officio.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

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Secretary, Board of Trustees.