

Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky on Tuesday, May 27, 1969

On call by Governor Nunn, the Board of Trustees met in special session in the Board Room of the Administration Building at 2:00 p. m. , Eastern Daylight Time, on Tuesday, May 27, 1969 with the following members present: Governor Louie B. Nunn, Mr. William R. Black, Mrs. Rexford S. Blazer, former Governor A. B. Chandler, Mr. Albert G. Clay, Mr. Richard E. Cooper, Dr. Harry Denham, Mr. George W. Griffin, Mr. Robert H. Hillenmeyer, Mr. J. Robert Miller, Mr. B. Hudson Milner, Dr. N. N. Nicholas, Mr. James H. Pence, Mr. Floyd H. Wright, non-voting faculty member, Professor Paul Oberst, and non-voting student member, Mr. Tim Futrell. Absent were Mr. Wendell P. Butler and non-voting faculty member, Dr. Robert W. Rudd. Dr. A. D. Kirwan, Acting President, Vice Presidents A. D. Albright, William R. Willard, Robert F. Kerley and Stuart Forth, and Assistant Vice President Alvin L. Morris were in attendance as were representatives of the various news media.

A. Meeting Opened

Following the invocation pronounced by Mr. William R. Black, the Secretary reported a quorum present, and Governor Nunn declared the meeting officially open for the conduct of business at 2:00 o'clock.

B. Purpose of Meeting

Governor Nunn explained that the purpose of the meeting was to receive a report from the Presidential Search Committee. Inasmuch as the meeting was called without giving ten days' written notice as required under KRS 164.170, he called for a motion to waive such notice. Mr. Wright then moved that the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky do hereby accept notice for the special meeting called for Tuesday, May 27, 1969 at 2:00 p. m. and do hereby waive the requirement for ten days' prior notice as required for special meetings. Governor Chandler seconded the motion and all present voted aye. Governor Nunn suggested that in order to have signed waivers on file each member of the Board affix his signature to a copy of the resolution. This was done and is in the files of the May 27 special meeting of the Board of Trustees.

C. Report of Presidential Search Committee

Mr. George Griffin, Chairman of the Presidential Search Committee, read the following report from the committee:

Last November the Screening Committee recommended Dr. Otis Singletary, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University

of Texas System, to the Board of Trustees as a man well qualified to fill the Presidency of the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Singletary is now willing to accept appointment as President, and because his nomination was enthusiastically accepted by the Board of Trustees, the Screening Committee does not find it necessary to make an alternate nomination.

The financial arrangements are parallel to those provided for the last President and identical to those offered in November.

The committee expresses its appreciation for the concerned advice and assistance it has received from many people within the University and the Commonwealth, as well as throughout the Nation, which has helped it in carrying out its charge.

Governor Nunn asked if Mr. Griffin would like to make the recommendation in the form of a motion. Mr. Griffin concurred and the motion was seconded by the other three members of the Search Committee, Mrs. Blazer, Mr. Black, and Dr. Nicholas. Governor Nunn called for discussion and, there being none, the motion was put to a vote and all present voted aye. Governor Nunn then announced that by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees Dr. Otis A. Singletary would become the next President of the University of Kentucky and asked Dr. Kirwan if he would like to say anything.

Dr. Kirwan reported to the Board that he had talked with Dr. Singletary in New York on Monday, May 26, and had indicated to him at that time that Governor Nunn might wish to communicate with him soon after 2:00 o'clock on Tuesday, the twenty-seventh. Dr. Singletary replied that he would be enroute between New York and Texas at that time but authorized Dr. Kirwan to say to Governor Nunn and the members of the Board that if there was an invitation from the Board Dr. Kirwan might accept it in his name. In answer to a question from Governor Nunn as to when Dr. Singletary might be expected to come to the University, Dr. Kirwan replied that he had asked to be relieved of his duties in Texas so that he might be at the University of Kentucky by the first of August. He has received no commitment from Chancellor Ransom as yet but he is of the opinion he can be here by August 1 or shortly thereafter, certainly by the time the University opens in late August.

Governor Nunn then asked if Dr. Singletary might be coming to the campus for a visit prior to that and Dr. Kirwan replied that he was scheduled to speak at a conference sponsored by the Brookings Institute at Carnahan House on Monday, June 2, and would be in Lexington that weekend. He added that he and Mrs. Kirwan would have an Open House at Maxwell Place on Monday afternoon, June 2, from 4:00 to 6:00 p. m. to which all members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and student body of the University were invited, as well as any citizens of Lexington or the Commonwealth who might wish to meet Dr. and Mrs. Singletary on their first visit to the campus since his appointment as President.

D. Mr. Kerley Recognized

Governor Nunn recognized Mr. Kerley and expressed his regrets and the regrets of the members of the Board of Trustees that he was leaving the University of Kentucky. He thanked him for the many contributions he has rendered to the University and to the Commonwealth and extended best wishes in his new assignment. In order that the record might show the appreciation of the Board, Governor Nunn appointed a committee to draft a resolution commending him for his service here. To the committee he named Mr. Albert Clay, Chairman, Governor A. B. Chandler and Professor Paul Oberst.

The Governor also requested this same committee to draft a resolution of appreciation to the Search Committee commending them for the job they have done.

E. Dr. Kirwan Named Seventh President of the University of Kentucky

Governor Nunn called on Governor Chandler who said he was speaking on behalf of the entire Board. He reviewed the many roles Dr. Kirwan has played at the University of Kentucky, beginning as a student and ending with his service as Acting President. In recognition of the magnificent contribution which Dr. Kirwan has made to the University and to the Commonwealth, the Board of Trustees has unanimously agreed to issue a nunc pro tunc order that the record show that Dr. A. D. Kirwan was the President of the University of Kentucky from the day he became Acting President until his successor takes over. Mr. Clay put it in the form of a motion which was seconded and carried unanimously.

Governor Nunn said this action by the Board of Trustees was not only an expression of appreciation for the past year but of appreciation for a man who has given his whole life to this institution. He continued that one of the "fringe benefits" of being President was the privilege of having his portrait hung with those of other Presidents of the University of Kentucky, and he appointed a committee composed of Mrs. Blazer, Chairman, Mr. Hillenmeyer and Mr. Wright to assume responsibility for selecting the artist and commissioning the painting of a suitable portrait of the seventh President of the University of Kentucky, Dr. A. D. Kirwan.

Dr. Kirwan responded by saying that the action of the Board had rendered him almost speechless. He thanked them from the bottom of his heart for this latest expression of confidence and for the support which they have given him throughout the year.

F. Letter from Dr. Albright

Governor Nunn read the following letter he had received from Dr. A. D. Albright:

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506

THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

May 27, 1969

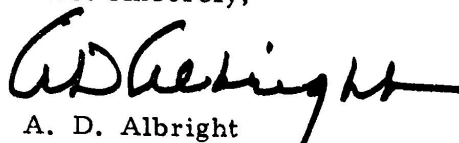
Dear Governor Nunn:

It is a source of great joyance that the deliberate search for a president by the Board, through its committee, has successfully culminated in the selection of a nationally known educator, Dr. Otis Singletary. The University is to be congratulated in the prospect of his leadership.

Dr. Singletary is to be congratulated also. He takes the presidency of an ascending University, one of great promise.

I am sure that each of us, and all of us, will give every possible assistance to him and to the future of this institution.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. D. Albright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

A. D. Albright

ADA:ap

The Honorable Louie B. Nunn
Chairman, Board of Trustees
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

Governor Nunn thanked Dr. Albright for his letter and requested that a copy of it be sent to Dr. Singletary. In closing, the Governor wished Dr. Albright well on his coming leave from the University and said he would be missed.

G. Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on motion by Mr. Clay, seconded by Governor Chandler, and passed, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucile T. Blazer
Secretary, Board of Trustees