STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Minutes of Meeting May 13 and 14, 1931

Pursuant to call by President C. L. Starr, the State Board of Higher Education held a meeting at the University Club, Portland, Oregon, May 13 and May 14, 1931. The following members were present:

Mr. C. L. Starr
Mr. C. G. Colt
Mr. E. C. Sammons
Mr. F. E. Callister

Mrs. Cornelia Marvin Pierce
Mr. Herman Oliver
Mr. Albert Burch
Mr. B. F. Irvine

A telegram from Mr. Pease was read stating that he would be unable to attend the meeting of the Board due to the illness of his wife. The Board instructed the Secretary to forward a telegram to Mr. Pease expressing the Board's sympathy and hope for the immediate recovery of his wife.

The Board approved the minutes of Board Meetings #15 and #16 held on April 3 and April 20, 1931, and of Executive Committee Meetings numbered 143 and 150, held on January 17, February 2, February 21, February 24, March 2, March 13, March 19 and April 25, 1931.

The following letter from the Governor of the State was received and read by the Secretary:

STATE OF OREGON
Executive Department
Salem

JULIUS L. MEIR
Governor

May 12, 1931.

To the Members of the State Board of Higher Education,
Portland, Oregon.

Gentlemen:

On account of my keen interest in the solution of our higher educational problems, I have given special attention to the voluminous literature which has come before you since the appearance of the report of your survey commission on April third. I have
had the twelve briefs which the University submitted to you at your meeting on April 20th carefully studied, along with the single brief of the Oregon State Agricultural College which was placed before you at the same time. I have also had an analysis made of the supplementary brief of the College replying to the University briefs; and have been especially interested in the financial statements placed before your board by the presidents of the institutions for your meeting of tomorrow, May thirteenth.

Out of the analyses thus far placed before me, my impression is that the time of the Board is being consumed by controversies which should have come to an end upon the day that your Board assumed control of the state institutions of higher learning. The material submitted is largely a repetition of the discussions which have, for a generation, been carried on before the Board of Higher Curricula and between the boards of regents, by warring and competitive institutions.

As you convene for this meeting, may I suggest that letters coming daily to the executive office from every corner of the state convey, even to the most casual observer, the indelible impression that the people of Oregon are eager for early and definite results. I am, therefore, hopeful that your meeting today may materialize in the announcement of a plan for a thorough-going program of higher educational reorganization, such plan to be initiated at the earliest possible date.

In the first place, it is the desire of the executive office to place at the disposal of the Board its full weight of influence and support behind a program which will eliminate, during the current biennium, the elements of extravagance and inefficiency disclosed by the report of the survey commission and which will permit a prompt and substantial reduction in the cost of conducting the institutions of higher learning.

Second, as indicated in my communication to you under date of April twentieth, the findings of the survey commission point unmistakably to consolidation and unification as an imperative step in a program of economy and efficiency. I commend to your most earnest consideration at this meeting the necessity for developing, as soon as may be practicable, a plan whereby all our higher educational activities shall be so integrated as to make the type of competition which appears in the literature before you impossible of recurrence for all time to come.
July first, 1931, the date set by law for the inauguration of the program of the State Board of Higher Education, is little more than a month in the future. It is essential that substantial economies be accomplished during the present biennium. Unless these economies are put into effect at an early date, the readjustment will be accompanied by inconvenience and hardships to departments and individuals. For the sake of harmonious and efficient administration of the educational institutions, and with a view to strengthening public confidence, may I urge the formulation and early announcement of a definite plan for retrenchment and unification?

It is my hope and expectation to be of any possible assistance to your Board in making effective a program which will move at once toward economy and efficiency in higher educational administration in Oregon and which will work, in the immediate future toward the goal set by your survey commission, namely "one great system of higher education in the state, with its several units not competing but cooperating to make the single enterprise most effective."

Very truly yours,

JULIUS L. MEIER (Signed)

Governor.

The Board directed the President to appoint a committee to draft a reply to the Governor's letter. The President appointed Mr. Colt, Mr. Burch and Mr. Irvine. This committee drafted the following letter which was approved by the Board, signed by all members except Mr. Pease who was not present, and mailed to the Governor.

May 14, 1931.

To His Excellency, the Governor of Oregon,
State House,
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Governor:

The State Board of Higher Education unanimously thanks you for your letter of May 12 urging cuts in the cost of higher education in Oregon. We especially thank you for your offer of assistance and support in carrying out the very difficult reorganization of the educational system and in the economies which we intend to effect.
Lest the matter may have escaped your attention, you are herewith reminded that two days after the receipt of the final report of the educational survey, this board adopted a resolution of which the following is a part: "Resolved, That a saving of approximately $1,500,000 must be effected during the last eighteen months of the present biennium; And be it further Resolved, That the presidents of the various institutions proceed immediately to appoint their faculty committees and schedule meetings with the secretary of the State Board of Higher Education, for the purpose of presenting definite recommendations to the board not later than May 4, 1931 as to possible, immediate reorganizations of courses and abandonment of present activities made necessary by curtailment of funds." The presidents of the institutions complied with this request, and by both written and oral statements presented the information that was asked for.

Following this action, the recommendations of the presidents and faculties already make possible a saving of $484,000 as a beginning in the economies and reduced costs which the board has set out to accomplish. The membership of the board personally and individually is profoundly moved by the economic conditions which render educational retrenchment absolutely necessary, and they are all fully determined to go to the utmost possible limit in retrenchment.

Meanwhile, two years of study of the complexities and courses and subjects and projects and policies and purposes involved in the five institutions of higher education impress the members of this board with the tremendous responsibility they carry in attempting vast cuts in costs and courses and at the same time avoiding doing injury to the boys and girls of Oregon, to the educational system, to the economic future and to the state of Oregon.

The institutions with their thousands of students, the future flower of the state of Oregon, and the millions invested in the educational plants are too precious a heritage to be injured or sacrificed by hasty and ill-considered action, based neither on study nor investigation.

By this, its first official statement to you and to the people of Oregon, you can be assured that this board is profoundly committed to and tirelessly seeking the same retrenchments, readjustments and cuts in cost sought by your excellency and to that policy, by this statement we stand pledged.

Again thanking you for your letter, we are

Sincerely yours,

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
The Board then devoted the remainder of May 13 and all of May 14 to listening to the final presentations by the Presidents of the various institutions of material relating to the recommendations of the Survey Report and to the program of financial retrenchment as set forth in the resolution introduced by Mr. C. G. Colt and adopted by the Board on April 3, in accordance with the order of the Board at its meeting on April 20.

The briefs mailed by the Presidents to the Board members since the last meeting of the Board, consisting of the Summary and Financial Briefs of the University and the Supplementary and Financial Briefs of the College, as well as the Briefs presented at this meeting, consisting of the Normal Schools' statements in reply to the University Financial Brief, the College Second Supplementary Brief, the University Summary Statement and Weighted Costs of Instruction, are not incorporated in these minutes because of their length, but have been placed on file in the offices of the Board.

The Board directed that the President of the University and the President of the College prepare a joint report on the Survey recommendations and on the policy of financial retrenchment set forth in the Board's resolution previously mentioned, said report to be based on the resolutions presented by the University and by the College, for presentation to the Board at a meeting set for 10:00 A. M. Wednesday, May 27, 1931, at the University Club, Portland, Oregon.

The Board directed that the President of the University and the President of the College prepare for use at the next meeting of the Board statements showing the differences in cost of printing done at the printing plants of the respective institutions, the state printing plant and commercial printing plants.

The Board authorized the Secretary to request from President Hall the transfer of Mr. A. Comrie from the accounting division of the University to the Board's offices for such time as may be necessary to carry out the suggestions involved in Step III of the "First Steps" in putting the recommendations of the Survey Report into effect as set forth in the suggestions presented to the Board by the Secretary on April 3, as follows:

"Mr. A. Comrie, now employed as auditor in the business office of the University has been closely connected with the work done by Pace, Gore & McLaren
toward reorganizing the bookkeeping and accounting procedures of the institutions. If Mr. Comrie could be transferred temporarily to the offices of the Board it should be possible for the Secretary with his help and with the cooperation of the firm of Pace, Gore & McLaren to determine in some degree of exactitude the procedures, equipment and personnel necessary for carrying out the Survey recommendations, and so estimate the probably saving involved."

The Board adjourned at 7:00 P. M. May 14, to meet at 10:00 A. M. Wednesday, May 27, 1931, at the University Club, Portland, Oregon.

C. L. Starr, President. E. E. Lindsay, Executive Secretary.