

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN UNIVERSITY
HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE,
OCTOBER 10, 1917.

The Board of Directors of the Southwestern Presbyterian University met in the President's office at nine A. M. October 10, 1917, and was opened with prayer by Dr. Johns S. Foster.

The following members were present:

Tennessee - Chas. E. Diehl, President
M. Savage, Secretary

Alabama - R. L. Campbell
John S. Foster

Mississippi-Joseph Rennie

Louisiana- W. McF. Alexander
W. T. Hardie

This meeting was called at the request of the Committee appointed at the meeting of the Board on Wednesday, May 30, 1917, recorded on page 262 of the old Minute Book. This was a Committee consisting of Drs. John S. Foster, Jos. Rennie, W. McF. Alexander, M. E. Melvin and Mr. M. Savage, "to consider the whole question of future theological instruction and report to the Board at its earliest convenience".

This Committee had met on Tuesday, October 9th. All the members were present except Dr. M. E. Melvin, who was unavoidably detained, and his absence was excused. There appeared before this Committee Dr. Thornton Whaling, President of Columbia Theological Seminary and Dr. Chas. R. Hemphill, President of The Kentucky Theological Seminary. This Committee received communications also from Union Theological Seminary and from Austin Theological Seminary. The overtures from the various theological seminaries were carefully considered by the Committee of the Board, and there was finally drawn up the following paper, which was to be sent to the four controlling Synods, if it was adopted by the Board:

"The Board of Directors of the Southwestern Presbyterian University regrets to inform the constituent Synods that lack of funds made it necessary last June to suspend indefinitely the Theological Department of the University. The Board appointed Drs. J. S. Foster, W. McF. Alexander, Joseph Rennie, Me. E. Melvin and Hon. Michael Savage to consider the whole question of future theological instruction on the part of the University.

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" In the discharge of its duty the Committee made investigation covering a wide scope. Special consideration was given to the possible re-opening of the department. In the course of this investigation the Committee of your Board received propositions touching future theological instruction at your Seminary, from all the other Seminaries of the Church either formally or informally. The Board would now frankly inform the Synods that it sees no near prospect of re-opening the Theological Department for lack of funds. This situation leaves the constituent Synods without official connection with any theological institution for the education of their students.

" The Board of Directors therefore, would make the following recommendation, viz:-

That the four constituent Synods approve the appointment of the above Committee, with the addition of Judge J. T. Fuller of Alabama, who are familiar with the conditions and have already made progress in the investigation, as an Adinterim Committee of the constituent Synods and clothe it with power to investigate the whole question of theological education for said Synods, collect and digest facts and recommend a course of action for the four Synods a year hence."

This paper was adopted by the Board and copies were delivered to Drs. Hemphill and Whaling. The President and Secretary of the Board were directed to sign it, and to send it to the Stated Clerks in each of the four Synods.

President Chas. E. Diehl submitted his report which upon motion of Dr. Alexander was commended.

The Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee for June 15, 1917, June 18, 1917, June 23, 1917, ^{July 17, 1917} report of the President to the Executive Committee, August 4, 1917, and the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of September 5, 1917, were read and the actions approved.

It was ordered that the letter of June 22, 1917, sent out by the Executive Committee to every member of the Board, asking for the recorded vote of each member of the Board upon six definite recommendations approved by the Executive Committee, be recorded on these Minutes, together with the record of the voting of each member of the Board.

"Clarksville, Tennessee,
June 22, 1917.

To the Board of Directors,
Southwestern Presbyterian University,
Clarksville, Tennessee.

Gentlemen:-

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held today Dr. Charles E. Diehl presented a letter which he had addressed to the different members of the Board, in which the following recommendations were made, and he stated that his acceptance of the office of President is contingent upon the carrying out of these recommendations.

Minutes ----- #3

FIRST: That the Board approve the employment of a stenographer and secretary at a salary of \$50.00 per month.

SECOND: That the Board authorize the Executive Committee to pay up all debts to July 1st, by realizing on investments.

THIRD: That the Board authorize to be paid for in the same way the necessary repairs on the property, to an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

FOURTH: That a special allowance of \$1,500.00 be made out of the Endowment for travel, in lieu of the allowance of \$250.00 for that purpose in the budget, and without effecting the other items in the budget.

FIFTH: That the Board authorize the President to have the name of the University changed on condition of a gift not under \$100,000.00.

SIXTH: That the Board authorize the Building Committee to proceed at once with the erection of the sanitary kitchen according to the terms of the original resolution of the Board, providing for its erection when \$8,000.00 has been collected from pledges, and request the President to make an announcement of this fact.

We believe that it is wise for the Board to meet Dr. Diehl's suggestions, and we recommend the adoption of the six items set forth above.

We will ask you to please signify your attitude by a definite vote of Yes or No, as it is the desire of this Committee that the action of the Board be recorded on the minutes of the Board as though the Board were in session. Please indicate your wishes on this sheet, sign and return it.

Respectfully,

(signed) Mich'l Savage

" Ben A. Patch

" C. W. Bailey

Members Executive
Committee".

The following is the vote of the Members of the Board:

M. Savage, "I do hereby vote yes to the above".

Jas. I. Vance, "I do hereby vote yes to the above".

G. W. Macrae, "I do hereby vote no to the above".

J. T. Fuller, "I do hereby vote yes to the above,

provided that Dr. Chas. E. Diehl

accepts the presidency of
Southwestern Presbyterian University.

Minutes ---- #4

Geo.D.Booth(alternate for J.E.Hobson)

"I do hereby vote yes on the above".

W. T. Hardie,"I do hereby vote yes on the above".

T. H. Scovell,"I do hereby vote yes on the above".

W.McF.Alexander,"I do hereby vote yes on the above".

M. E. Melvin, "I do hereby vote yes on all the above".

Jos. Rennie, "I do hereby vote yes on the above".

Upon motion of Dr. Alexander the President was authorized to purchase guns for the students.

Upon motion of Dr. Rennie the Board adopted the following resolution, that young women are eligible to the appointment of the ten city scholarships upon the same terms as the young men, that in each case a scholarship means a credit of \$50, or the tuition fee, and that the tuition and fees of young women be the same as those for young men.

Upon motion of Mr. Hardie the secretary was instructed to write on behalf of the Board a letter of thanks to Mr. James Murtland for his generosity in assisting the Registrar so efficiently to open up a new system book-keeping

The matter of an increased charge for tuition was referred to the President and faculty.

Upon motion of Dr. Alexander it was ordered that Dr. Diehl be paid a salary for the six weeks in which he served the university as acting president, and that that salary be at the rate of \$200 a month. Dr. Diehl suggested that, instead of being allowed the \$300 salary named he would prefer that the Board authorize him to build a side porch on the President's residence, which would cost \$225.70. This was agreed upon, and the President was directed to proceed with the erection of the porch.

With respect to the Dortch house the President and the Executive Committee were authorized to expend from the endowment funds \$1500 to carry out the plans outlined by the President of making this house into a duplex house, and the amount of the endowment thus invested be charged to the house.

Upon motion of Dr. Rennie the following resolution was adopted:

"RESOLVED, THAT we approve the letter of the President of July 25, 1917, sent to Dr. E. C. Sage, of the General Education Board, and that we hereby make formal application to said Board for \$75,000 of a \$300,000 addition to our Endowment, this amount to be secured in two years from date of favorable action by the General Education Board. Of this amount \$250,000 shall be invested as permanent endowment, and the remaining \$50,000 to be expended on buildings or other permanent improvements. No part of this money shall be used at any time for current expenses".

Minutes ----- #5

It was ordered that a record be made on these minutes of the telegram sent our July 11, 1917, to ~~the~~ each member of the Board of Directors by the Executive Committee of the University and the vote on this telegram be recorded:

"Think will cost from three thousand to thirty-five hundred dollars to put President's house in reasonably proper condition including steam heating which will cost fifteen hundred. While we will undertake to raise this money by subscription inasmuch as work must be done at once, will you as member of Board approve expenditure by University to the extent we fail to raise money by subscription. We will do our best. We advise it be done. Do not see how to avoid it. House almost uninhabitable.

B. A. Patch,
C. W. Bailey
Mich'l Savage
Executive Committee. "

The following nine members of the Board, all from whom replies were received, voted in the affirmative, advising that the President's house be put in perfect order, and in addition the Secretary cast his vote in the affirmative:

W. T. Hardie
W. McF. Alexander
Geo. B. Booth
J. T. Fuller
M. E. Melvin
T. H. Scovell
Jos. Rennie
Jas. I. Vance
M. Savage

The Board approved the action of the Executive Committee of July 17, 1917, authorizing the expenditure of not exceeding \$3500 for repairs on the President's house, exclusive of previous repairs made.

Upon motion of Mr. William T. Hardie the Board authorized the following expenditures:

The securing of two new typewriters by exchanging the old ones and paying the difference. The purchase of filing cabinets, the securing of stationery and the installation of a telephone, and the President was authorized to spend such money in painting and necessary repairs as would preserve the buildings and property until the next meeting of the Board.

The minutes of the Board were approved as indicated in outline, and the meeting adjourned with prayer by Dr. Alexander.

M. Savage,
Secretary.