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Minutes, May 20, 1925

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7. IT WAS VOTED: That the Treasurer be authorized to file a bond of indemnity in favor of the Treasurer of the United States to cover check of \$286.08 written by the United States Veterans Bureau and lost in the mail.
8. IT WAS VOTED: To approve of the tentative plan presented by the President for the administration of the Purnell Funds.
9. The President reported that Mr. Slate had suggested a joint meeting of the Trustees of the College and the Board of Control of the New Haven Experiment Station to consider the administration and allocation of funds under the Purnell Act to meet Friday, May 22, 1926, at Hotel Heublein at 12 o'clock standard time.

Mr. Buckingham reported that the question of the acceptance of the Purnell Funds was before the Legislature, having been referred to the Committee on Agriculture. The Trustees were of the opinion that a joint meeting of the two Boards was inopportune at this time, and that the conference should be delayed until the Legislature had taken action.

10. The President reported that, at the request of President Marshall, he had conferred with him regarding a report of the Special Committee of the State Chamber of Commerce appointed "to study and report upon the proper purposes, functions, activities, expenditures, curriculum and future plans of the College".

The report covers twenty-seven typewritten pages. The Committee has formulated two recommendations which it proposes to submit to the General Assembly. The recommendations of the Committee and the reasons for the Committee's recommendations are here appended:

Recommendations of the Committee

"I. Your Committee recommends that the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce recommend to the State Legislature in its current session the passage of an act authorizing the Governor of the State to appoint a Committee of Seven Citizens whose functions shall be to have made by qualified, recognized experts to be selected by the Committee, a comprehensive study and report, including recommendations, covering the whole subject of public education in the State of Connecticut, but with special reference to education of collegiate grade. Such study, report, and recommendations should deal from the State standpoint with present educational conditions and needs in the state, with the educational institutions and activities now required, carried on, supported or encouraged by the state, and should outline for the guidance of the state a program of state educational activities, institutions, and financial support, calculated to promote the educational interests of all the people of the state.

Such study should be completed and the report of the same published not later than October 1, 1926.

"The provision for a study such as here proposed should include an appropriation adequate to cover the compensation of qualified experts to make the study, the cost of all clerical and other necessary incidental expenses, and the cost of suitable publication of a number of copies of the report and recommendations sufficient for the information of the people of the state. The Committee recommends that this appropriation be \$25,000.

"II. The second recommendation to your Committee is that the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce recommend to the Legislature, first, that for the maintenance of the work of the Connecticut Agricultural College during the next biennium an appropriation of \$440,000 be made which is ten per cent more than the amount appropriated for this purpose in the last biennium; and second, that no appropriation for capital outlays be made by this Legislature.

Reasons for the Committee's Recommendations.

"The principal considerations which have led to the above recommendations may be briefly stated as follows:

"I. The Committee finds so much uncertainty and apparent disagreement among the officials immediately responsible for the policies and plans of the College, and so much evident inconsistency of stated purposes and actual practices in carrying on the present program of instruction, that it believes further expenditures on capital outlays should be deferred until a clear definition of policies, purposes and plans can be worked out and agreed upon, and an educational and administrative program in harmony therewith can be adopted.

"II. The College officials have requested of the Legislature an appropriation for the next biennium of \$502,934 for the current maintenance of the college work. This exceeds the last biennial appropriation for this purpose by \$102,934, or by more than 25 per cent. Since practically no increase in student enrolment is expected -- indeed, your Committee understands that the College Trustees have recommended and the Legislature has already passed an act restricting the enrolment to 500, which is practically the present enrolment -- there seems to be no justification for this great jump in per capita costs, already high in the judgment of this Committee. Moreover, careful study of the college officials' detailed analysis of the appropriation requested, fails to impress this Committee either with the legitimacy of the increased demands which this large increase in the appropriations is designed to meet, or with the efficiency and economy of management practiced at the College.

"Hence the Committee, which earnestly desires to see the present work of the College fully maintained up to its present standards, until there may be worked out and adopted a program clearer and more convincing than that of the present, recommends an appropriation of \$440,000 for the next biennium, which is an increase of \$40,000, or ten per cent, over the last biennial appropriation. In view of no increased enrolment to care for, this recommended increase in the appropriation seems to the Committee quite sufficient to make practicable and continuance of the present program without detriment to any of the interests now served.

"III. Your Committee has proceeded far enough in the study which it was requested to make to come to the following conclusions:

1. A study as comprehensive, as intensive, and as complete as this important subject deserves, will require vastly more time than the members of the Committee are in position to devote to it.
2. From the standpoint of agricultural education, your Committee is made up entirely of laymen. On the technique of the work of an agricultural college, this committee is no more competent to pass judgment than it would be competent to pass judgment on the technique of the work of a medical school or of a law school. A Committee competent to make the study that should be made must contain some members recognized as technical experts in the work for which the college is responsible.
3. If the study is to be competent, fully adequate, and productive of the greatest good, it must be initiated and supported by no organization less limited in membership and interests than the whole people of the State, acting through their official representatives, the Governor and the Legislature.
4. An adequate study of the State Agricultural College can not be limited to that institution. The State College is but one of many institutions serving educational interests and needs within the State. What this College does, what it can do, and what it ought to do, can be intelligently determined only in the light of comprehensive study of the educational needs to be served and of the work of other institutions both of collegiate and of lower grade, such as the endowed colleges and Universities, the State Normal Schools, and the High Schools, Academic, Commercial, Trade and Agricultural. Moreover, from the standpoint of financial support by the State, it is important that the whole financial obligation that the State is assuming for education be given careful consideration.

5. The value of such a comprehensive study, or educational survey as this Committee hopes to see initiated and supported by the State, would exceed many-fold its cost. Within the last dozen years, more than a score of states, located in every section of the country, have been subjected to statewide educational surveys. Without exception these surveys have been productive of good results, more than sufficient to justify them.

"Not since the early days of Dr. Henry Barnard's career, now nearly a century in the past, has there been made in Connecticut any comprehensive and adequate study of educational conditions, needs, institutions, activities, and finances. The half-century long, disastrous practice of local communities relying on the State for the financial support of their schools, which was effectively pointed out by Dr. Barnard, was followed gradually under his leadership by a much-needed reaction in favor of a large measure of local responsibility. From this reaction, most appropriate at the time, the State seems never to have recovered sufficiently even to consider positively, comprehensively, and constructively, the educational needs with the State, both from the standpoint of individuals and of the community and of the provisions necessary to meet those needs adequately. In the judgement of this Committee, the time is fully ripe for an awakened educational consciousness on the part of the State of Connecticut, as a State. Such a consciousness, intelligent through adequate information, a competent and comprehensive state educational survey would undoubtedly do much to arouse."

11. The Board has approved of the recommendations to remodel the building formerly used as a carpenter shop for occupancy as a dormitory for dining hall employees.

The meeting then adjourned.

Walter C. Wood - Secretary.