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Minutes, October 31, 1947

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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
held in Hartford, October 31, 1947

Present:

Mr. Shippee
Mr. Christensen
Mr. Ryan
Mr. Eddy
Mr. Warncke

Mr. Suisman
Sister M. Rose
Mr. Barker
Mr. Murphy
Mr. Jorgensen

The special meeting was called for the purpose of reviewing the "State's Commitment to the education of G.I.'s under Public Laws 16 and 346 and the matter of permanent or temporary housing to be available by August 1, 1948."

THE BOARD VOTED that the Board of Trustees call attention to action taken on May 15, 1946 to the effect that, "If the State feels that the Fort Trumbull facility should be taken over by the State for the education of veterans under Public Acts 16 and 346, the University of Connecticut is ready and willing to organize and administer the educational program at this facility. The President is instructed to make clear to the appropriate State officials and State agencies the many problems involved." Appropriate State officials were advised of the many immediate problems and also the larger problems of veterans and faculty housing as well as additional facilities needed on the Campus by September 1948 to take care of veterans eligible to transfer to the Storrs campus after completing freshman and sophomore studies in the three University branches for veterans. Because of the sincere desire of the State to take care of the education of qualified veterans, the University was requested by the State to organize and administer the educational program. Special funds were subsequently provided for this purpose by the Special Session of the General Assembly in 1946.

This action represents the position and attitude of the Board of Trustees then and now.

While the Board of Trustees is not responsible for the unfortunate position in which the State now finds itself, the Board of Trustees recognizes the seriousness of the problem and is anxious to do everything in its power to assist in solving it.

A complete investigation as to construction costs and possible dates of completion of new permanent construction and conferences between the President, the State Comptroller, the Commissioner of Finance and the Governor on October 30, 1947, indicates that temporary housing provided out of proceeds of the funds created by recent self-liquidating bond issues (Special Act 213, 1941 and Special Act 206, 1945) provide the only solution at this time. The Board of Trustees, therefore, requests the Bond Commission designated in these special acts to determine whether or not funds created by the issuance of these self-liquidating bond issues may be used.
for this purpose. The Board of Trustees assume that the opinion of the Bond Commission will include also the opinion of the Attorney General.

If the opinions are in the affirmative then the Board of Trustees will be in a position to use approximately $500,000.00 of such funds to provide temporary facilities immediately for approximately 700 G.I.'s eligible to transfer by September, 1948 from veterans centers administered by the University.

The Board of Trustees requests the State Comptroller to approve necessary short-cuts in order that these temporary facilities will be ready by August 1, 1948.

The bond issues at present outstanding are invested at a rate considerably less than required to meet interest obligations as well as requirements for the retirement of the bonds. Until such funds are used for the intended purpose, the University will meet the bond service requirements from other sources. However, to do so will curtail refinements of certain revolving fund activities planned by the Board of Trustees.

Such funds created by the bond issues as are used for temporary construction should be replaced as soon as possible on authority of the General Assembly. The Board of Trustees seeks assurance of the Bond Commission and other State officials involved that they will be favorably disposed to recommend such replacement at the proper time. This assurance is requested since providing additional temporary facilities at this time will only partially solve one serious problem by postponing another. The State must squarely face the problem of meeting the needs of veterans as established by law and by facing squarely the problem of educating Connecticut high school graduates presently displaced by preference to veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

A. M. Jørgensen
Acting for the Secretary