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Board of Regents, Murray State Normal School

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTSMURRAY STATE NORMAL SCHOOL AND TEACHERS COLLEGE

April 1, 1926

As per resolution of the Board of Regents on March 29, 1926, the Board met in session April 1, 1926, Dr. McHenry Rhoads, presiding. Present: Dr. McHenry Rhoads, Mr. T. H. Stokes, Mrs. Laurine Wells Lovett, Mr. G. P. Thomas, and Mr. James F. Wilson. Absent: None.

The Board met for consultation in the President's office and then adjourned to the Auditorium where the students and members of faculty were assembled.

President's Report

Murray, Kentucky,  
April 1, 1926

To the Members of Board of Regents,  
Murray State Normal School and Teachers College,  
Murray, Kentucky.

Honorable Members:

Thirty two months ago today, I assumed my duties as President of the Murray State Normal School. The institution was to be created. There were no buildings, no equipment, no faculty, no definite policy. The legislature had appropriated \$30,000.00 annually for the maintenance of the school and the citizens of Murray and Calloway County had provided a suitable site and donated \$100,000.00 for a building. As there had been a spirited contest in reference to the location of the school, there were misgivings concerning its future.

My mission to Murray was to start this school. How well I have performed that mission I leave you and the other people of Kentucky to judge. The results that have been attained have been brought about by the splendid cooperation of the Board of Regents, faculty, students, the Legislature, the Governor and other State officials, and the people of Kentucky, especially those of Western Kentucky. There has been team work of the most effective kind. I have played my part to the best of my ability, and this school has been a going and a growing institution from the day it was opened, September 24, 1923, until the present moment. We have only to look about us to see that there have been achievements. When I came to Murray, there was not a building or a single piece of equipment; now the value of this plant is \$650,000.00. Then the annual maintenance fund was \$30,000.00; now it is ample for present needs of the school. Then, there was not a single member of faculty, now there are thirty members of faculty. Then there was not a single student, now there are about 1000. Then there was no course of study at all; now there is a full four years college course leading to the bachelor's degree. Then we had no standing as a normal school and was looked on askance; now we are a standard four years teachers college created by law, recognized by the University of Kentucky and the other colleges of the State.

Now to bring about these results, I have given every ounce of energy I possessed--physical, mental and moral. But unaided, I could not have brought to pass these achievements. There have been two leaders, one here and one elsewhere. We have had a definite plan, and each has had his part to play. I could not have done my work here, if he had not so nobly performed his part elsewhere. He has not only worked for this school, but for every other normal school, the University of Kentucky, the colleges of the State and the public schools of the Commonwealth. He has aided to the extent of his ability the cause of education in Kentucky. His achievements entitle him to be recognized as an educator. When the history of this institution is written, I hope to have my name mentioned, but I believe that my colleague is entitled to the greater honor.

The work of developing this institution is only begun. There are many important and difficult tasks ahead.

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I want to see a great training school erected here properly equipped and properly manned. Kentucky has already appropriated \$200,000.00 for this purpose. It is now our job to build the building and to develop the school.

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I want to see a great auditorium erected on this campus--one which will enable us to bring not only to the students but to the people of West Kentucky the best things in music, oratory, art and religion.

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I want to see this campus become one of the most beautiful spots in all Kentucky--a place where young people and children can see nature in her prettiest garb.

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I want to see a model village as a part of this institution--not only a place where young married people can live cheaply and pleasantly, but where there will be exhibited the best canons of home making.

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I want to see this faculty continue to develop, not only teaching ability, but heart power--the ability to lead and to inspire youth.

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I want to see the fullest opportunities furnished to students to find employment and to express themselves in science, art, music, literature, play, work, religion and especially in the teaching of children.

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I want to see ample facilities for free and full development of youth through play--gymnasium, athletic fields, playgrounds, a stadium and an outdoor theater--places not only for athletics but for pageantry and the promotion of health.

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I want to see employment provided for every student who wants to work his way through college, so that no young man or young woman of industry and ability in all Kentucky will be denied a college education because he is poor.

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I want to see a service department developed which will not only enable school officials to find competent teachers, but one which will provide suitable books for their schools, plans for school houses, designs for athletic and play equipment, and especially to provide community leaders.

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I want to see organized the religious life of the student body to the end that while we sharpen the intellect and strengthen the body, we may not neglect the soul, "for what profiteth a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul."

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I want to see trained in this institution, young men and young women who will become effective leaders--leaders who can sell education to the people of Kentucky in a splendid way.

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I want to see all these things and more accomplished in this institution, and that too without asking the taxpayers of Kentucky for more money either for buildings or maintenance than has already been provided by law.

Heretofore, I have attempted to fill two offices--President and Dean. The office of President is necessarily one of executive and administrative duties. The office of Dean is strictly professional. By training and by taste I prefer professional work. I believe that you can find another that will be a better organizer executive and administrator than I am.

The amount of work to be performed by the President and Dean combined is too great for me or any one else. I recommend that you create the office of Dean.

I also recommend that you elect my unofficial colleague, the Honorable Rainey T. Wells, President of the Murray State Normal School and Teachers College. Mr. Wells should be asked to resign his office, quit politics, abandon the practice of law and to devote the remainder of his life to the cause of education.

If you deem me worthy, I shall be pleased to continue my connection with this institution in the capacity of dean.

In order that you may act on these recommendations, I hereby tender my resignation as president of the Murray State Normal School and Teachers College, effective at the pleasure of this Board.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Carr,  
President

JWC:AK

Report received and ordered made part of the minutes and recommendations reserved for consideration.

Dr. McHenry Rhoads addressed the faculty and students briefly and assured them that the President had endeavored for more than a year to have his duties lightened. The changes contemplated were for the purpose of dividing the work and making it possible for Dr. Carr to devote his entire time to the professional work of the school.

The Board resumed session after Chapel at 11:00 o'clock with all members present.

#### Resignation of President accepted

On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Stokes, the resignation of Dr. John W. Carr as President of the Murray State Normal School and Teachers College was accepted, effective May 1, 1926. Unanimously carried.

#### Election of New President

On motion of Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mr. Wilson, Mr. Rainey T. Wells was elected President of the Murray State Normal School and Teachers College for a period of four years, effective May 1, 1926, at a salary of \$5000.00 per year. The vote in said election being unanimous. Carried.

#### Office of Dean Created

On motion of Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mr. Wilson, the office of Dean of the Murray State Normal School and Teachers College was created, effective May 1, 1926. The vote of this motion was unanimous.

#### Dr. Carr Elected Dean

On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Thomas, Dr. John W. Carr was elected Dean of the Murray State Normal School, and Teachers College, effective May 1, 1926 for the unexpired term of his present contract as President which terminates August 1, 1927. Dr. Carr's salary as Dean to be the same as now fixed as President to wit: \$5000.00 per annum. The vote on Dr. Carr's election was unanimous.

On motion of Mrs. Lovett, seconded by Mr. Thomas, Miss Susan Peffer and one girl to be selected by the student body were authorized to attend the meeting of the League of Women Voters at St. Louis, Missouri, April 17th and 18th, 1926, and expenses of both to be paid by this institution. Carried.

The Board then recessed for luncheon until 1:00 o'clock.

The Board reconvened at 1:45 P. M. Present: Dr. Rhoads, Mr. Stokes, and Mr. Thomas. Absent: Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Lovett.

Auditorium

Moved by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Stokes, That Architect G. Tandy Smith of Paducah, Kentucky, be directed to prepare plans and specifications for an auditorium annex to the present Auditorium Building on the same terms as for the Training School Building, namely: Three per cent for plans, specifications and necessary supervision. Carried.

President and Dean to Visit Other Institutions

Moved by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Stokes, That the President and Dean are authorized to visit such schools and other institutions as either deems advisable for the purpose of studying buildings, schools, and other professional matters. Carried.

Office Rooms

Moved by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Stokes, That the President be authorized to make such modification in room #15 as Architect Smith deems advisable in order to provide suitable offices for the President and Dean and their secretaries. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Stokes, That the Board adjourn to meet at the call of the Vice Chairman. Carried.

Adjourned.

McHenry Rhoads  
Chairman

Laurine Wells Lovell  
Secretary