

State University of Kentucky.  
Lexington, Ky. September 29, 1908.

The faculty met in call meeting in the president's office at 12 o'clock to take action relative to the death of Professor John H. Neville, which occurred during the preceding night. Those present were President Patterson, Professors White, Patterson, Pryor, Anderson, Mathews, Miller, Pence, Mackenzie, Wilson, Zembrod, Tuttle, Rowe, Frankel, Maxson, Hooper, Stout, Mustaine, Noe, Jamison, Purdom, Jenness.

President Patterson called the meeting to order and stated the object of the meeting, and that the funeral services of Professor Neville would not occur until 11 o'clock upon Thursday from the residence; that chapel would be held at 8 A.M. on Wednesday, as previously suggested, and that it was his purpose that no exercises should be held on Thursday, other than those necessary in connection with the funeral services.

On motion of Professor Mackenzie, seconded by Professor Wilson, it was ordered that the chairman appoint a committee of five to prepare resolutions and the president appointed upon that committee, Professor White as chairman, with Professors Anderson, Mackenzie, Miller, Mathews.

Professor Hooper suggested further-more that a floral offering be provided, and at the suggestion of the President it was agreed that the chairman of committee on resolutions first learn if such a floral offering would be acceptable, as some intimation had been received that no display of flowers was desired.

Following this, President Patterson called the attention of the faculty to the facts, so far as known, relating to the disappearance of W.E. Smith, a member of the Freshman class of the University. He stated that he had had conferences with the Mayor and the Chief of Police in reference to the matter, but that no satisfactory clew had yet been received to account for the disappearance of Mr. Smith.

Professor Mackenzie expressed the opinion that there could hardly be any tragedy involved in this disappearance but that the young man had probably become tired of his school work and had yielded to an impulse to leave without notice. Other members of the faculty thought that the facts, so far as known, did not warrant this conclusion and feared that some harm had befallen Mr. Smith.

Several students of the University appeared before the faculty with reference to the case, including the president of the Sophomore class and the president of the Freshman class and Mr. L.E. Smith, brother of the missing student. It was related that there had been some assemblage of Sophomore and Freshman students upon the night of Sept. 22nd, when Mr. Smith disappeared and that there had been considerable noise and disturbance upon the grounds, and that one or more shots had been fired. It was further stated that a Freshman meeting had been held in Room 34 of the Old Dormitory and that from Room 33 some water had been thrown upon students below, which had created some further disturbance.

Mr. Smith related the facts regarding his brother's disappearance and stated that he had been very enthusiastic over matters involving considerable class spirit and contest with the Sophomore class, but that he had not stated that he was to attend any meeting at the University that night and that he did not know that he had left his boarding place until some time after his disappearance, thinking him to be in the rooms below. He felt certain that his disappearance had not been premeditated, inasmuch as he had frequently expressed his interest in his work and had made arrangements for continuing it, including the preparation of his lessons for the following day, making deposits with the business agent for his uniform and other purposes. Further-more he had left his watch and nearly all his money at home so that he felt that any explanation of his absence involving a premeditated movement could not account for the facts as he knew them.

After a somewhat prolonged discussion, it was moved by Professor Wilson, seconded by Professor Maxson, that a committee of three be appointed to take charge of the case and to make such other investigations as they might find possible. President Patterson appointed Professor Wilson, as chairman, and upon the chairman's recommendation, Professor Miller and Professor Anderson.

The meeting adjourned.

*James K. Patterson*  
*C. W. Mathews, Secy.*

*Approved  
Oct 2-08.*