

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the University of Kentucky, January 31, 1917

In response to a call of Governor Stanley, the Board met in the office of the Governor in Frankfort with the following gentlemen present: Governor Stanley, President Barker, Messrs. Nichols, McKee, Gilbert, Cohen, Harris, Hornsby, Letterle, Froman, Blackburn, Smith, Stoll, Wathen, Breathitt, Patterson, Turner, Brock, Brown, Marks and Gatliff.

Governor Stanley made a statement to the Board that on account of the resignation of Trustee Robert Brown of Louisville, who is leaving the state permanently, he considered it his duty to appoint a successor to Mr. Brown; that under that impression, he had, after careful investigation, decided to appoint R. G. Gordon of Louisville, a graduate of Central University and of the University of Virginia, who had distinguished himself as a lawyer and a scholar; that he had notified Mr. Gordon of this appointment but that after examining the statutes later, on the question of his right to appoint a trustee, he found to his surprise that the law did not give him such right but rather vested it in this Board. For that reason, the Governor said he had called the Board together to make this frank statement and advise that it take whatever steps in the matter it decided would be best.

He said, "If you gentlemen desire to consider someone else for this office, it will be satisfactory to me but I wanted you to know that I had taken the steps I have under misapprehension of my prerogative."

Doctor Patterson raised the point that the Board ought not to act at this time on the election of a successor to Mr. Brown. His view of the law was that the Board should first be notified of the vacancy, have time to consider the new member and elect at its next meeting. Reference to the statutes, however, showed, and the Chair ruled, that in cases of death, resignation or refusal to serve, the Board was authorized to elect successors at its next meeting.

Mr. Turner moved that Mr. Gordon be elected to membership on the Board. Seconded by Mr. Froman, the motion was adopted unanimously.

The Governor then appointed a committee to conduct Mr. Gordon into the meeting, who after expressing his appreciation of the honor conferred upon him, sat through the remaining deliberations of the Board.

At this point, Governor Stanley announced that the Committee, provided by resolution of Doctor Gatliff in the previous meeting of the Board, to investigate certain reports growing out of the proposed merger of the College of Mechanical and Electrical and Civil Engineering, would be appointed either that day (January 31) or the 1st day of February.

President Barker moved that on account of illness of James Lane Allen and his consequent inability to be present on commence-

ment day that closed the session of 1915-16, and receive the honorary degree to be conferred upon him on that occasion, that the President be empowered to confer this degree in absentia. This motion was adopted unanimously.

Governor Stanley called attention to the fact that it was desired hereafter to have full attendance of this Board and urged that all members put aside whatever matters they could possibly leave on such occasions, and attend these meetings when called upon. He said that the University was passing through a period of interesting development and needed the wise counsel of this Board.

The house was then thrown open for general discussion of matters that might be termed "for the good of the order".

Mr. Stoll made a statement to the effect that Doctor Louis Mulligan, son and executor of the late James H. Mulligan, had informed him recently that the Mulligan property, which lies adjacent to the University grounds on the east, and extends from the intersection of Winslow and Rose Streets southward _____ feet, had reached a legal status which would enable it to be transferred. Mr. Stoll explained that this legal status referred to by Doctor Mulligan, grew out of the fact that there were two sets of children in the Mulligan family which complicated the matter of passing title; that the University had desired this property but that on account of this legal condition, had not been in position to take up the matter of purchase of it.

Mr. Stoll expressed that by reason of the fact that this ground (about fourteen acres in all) might be sold to outsiders and cut up into building lots on which dwellings with undesirable outhouses might be placed, the University property would be damaged and subjected to untoward conditions. He believed therefore, that this Board should consider seriously the matter of purchasing the Mulligan property and adding it to the University grounds.

President Patterson agreed with Mr. Stoll that this property would be a desirable addition to University grounds and that the University, if possible, ought to acquire it. He suggested therefore, that a committee be appointed to ascertain what the property should be purchased for and report to this Board at a later meeting.

Mr. Stoll believed this step would be unwise because the property was so desirable as to excite the cupidity of real estate men or speculators who might cut it up into building lots and do the very thing the University did not want done. He believed that if the matter were deferred the chance of getting the property at a price within the means of the University would be diminished.

Mr. Gilbert moved that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees be authorized to negotiate for the purchase of the Mulligan property in question, with full power to buy said property, if it deemed proper to do so and to execute whatever notes and papers that might be necessary to that end.

Mr. Froman rose to a point of information to ask if there had not been a law passed forbidding any expenditure of money by this Board that had not been appropriated or budgeted for.

Mr. Stoll replied that it was the intention of the Executive Committee which had already discussed the matter, first to get the opinion of the Attorney General on that point. Mr. Stoll outlined briefly a tentative plan by which the property could be purchased and paid for out of University funds through an annual pro rata.

With the understanding that the Attorney General's sanction should first be gotten to the proposed purchase, Doctor Patterson offered an amendment to the original motion by Mr. Gilbert that the Executive Committee first ascertain what the property could be bought for and report back to this Board in subsequent meeting. Put to a vote the amendment lost by 11 to 4.

The original motion by Mr. Gilbert was then adopted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Enoch Grehan
Secretary