

12-15-16

The faculty met in adjourned meeting Friday, December 15th. President Barker presided. Quorum present.

The Secretary asked to be instructed as to what date should be put on the diplomas granted December 12th. by the Board of Trustees. On vote of the faculty it was decided to date the diplomas December 12th., 1916, and that they be considered members of the Class of 1916.

Report was made to the faculty that Mr. O. B. Chisholm's diploma had not been issued, and the minutes of the faculty of 1909 and the minutes of the Board of Trustees of 1909 authorize that Mr. Chisholm's diploma be granted as soon as his work was complete.

The President instructed the Registrar and the faculty of the college of Agriculture to ascertain the facts and to issue a diploma if the work had been completed.

Judge Lafferty made a request that Mr. Otey be granted a duplicate diploma as the original had been destroyed by fire. A general discussion followed and the question was left unanswered.

Professor Miller read the names of the candidates for Master's degrees to be issued in June, 1917. The Secretary of the faculty was instructed to send a list of the names to the heads of each department.

The Secretary read the following petition from the battalion in regard to compulsory chapel, which the faculty voted to respectfully decline.

" We, the undersigned members of the University of Kentucky cadet battalion, present to your consideration certain facts relative to the compulsory convocation attendance which became effective on Tuesday, December the fifth, 1916, and ask the discontinuance of same.

We sincerely deplore the unconventional conduct on that occasion. We take this opportunity to indorse your administration, to disapprove of such as are inclined to antagonize you by unfair and underhand methods and express our complete confidence in the motives which have always influenced your acts as President of this University. This petition is not offered you in any spirit of insubordination, but to you as one whom we have found to be our friend. We present the following facts and await your decision with assurance - not necessarily that it will be in our favor, but whatever it is it will be a just one and worthy of you.

1. Compulsory attendance at convocation is a violation of the constitution of Kentucky. The Bill of Rights, Section 5, is to this effect: "Nor shall any person be compelled to attend any place of worship." "No human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience".
2. It is unsound ethics to try to force a man to be religious. The school and the church should be divorced as entirely as the state and the church. We grant that most of the members of the battalion are indifferent on religious matters; but some doubtless have conscientious scruples against attending any place of worship other than that of their own denomination.
3. Compulsory chapel attendance is arbitrary and contrary to the spirit of democratic institutions. It goes against the grain of the American student to be forced to do something by the authorities just because they can do it. It savors of the methods of German militarism and Russian autocracy.
4. We see no difference between convocation and chapel. Both are apparently religious in essence.
5. Attendance at general convocation is not required in the catalogue. It is not a drill requirement, nor is credit given for it toward graduation.
6. The members of the battalion are the victims of ~~una~~ unfair and unjust discrimination, in as much as no effort is made to force the other members of the Freshman and Sophomore classes to attend convocation. Every cadet who was reported absent by the First Sergeants on last Tuesday must do two hours of squad drill. Numerous other freshmen and sophomores were absent and will suffer no punishment.
7. Also, we have no desire to destroy ^{the traditions} of this University. We do not favor the abolition of the senior corner, which would result if the co-eds or the battalion were placed in it.
8. The faculty of this University are negligent in their chapel attendance. We say with assurance that a larger per cent of students than of the faculty have been present at every chapel exercise held this year.
9. We do not believe that force is the true solution of the chapel problem. If the chapel exercises are made interesting, the students will attend.
10. The requirement of chapel attendance is not to the best interests of this University. Disorderly conduct in chapel will bring undue notoriety upon the University. Furthermore, compulsory chapel attendance will tend to keep students away from the University.

In conclusion, we regret the untoward demonstrations in chapel last Tuesday. These were not intended as an affront to the President, nor as ^{an} insult to or disturbance of religious exercises. They were a protest against forced attendance. A sense of injustice rankled in the breasts of the cadets. The means hit upon to express their disapproval were ill-advised and ungentlemanly. We do not defend such conduct. We condemn it unreservedly."

This petition was signed by 113 cadets.

Secretary.