

State University of Kentucky, March 11, 1913

The Faculty met in special session at the call of President Barker at 3:45 P.M. in the faculty room in the gymnasium building, those present being President Barker, Vice-President White, Professors Allen, Boyd, Dantzler, Freeman, Garman, Gillis, Hamilton, Jones, Kastle, Lt. Gullion, Lafferty, Mathews, Melcher, Miller, Norwood, Peter, Pryor, Noe, Rowe, Strauss, Tuttle, Turner, Tuthill, Tigert, Zembrod, Frankel.

President Barker stated that he had called the meeting with a view to sending to the Commissioners of the city of Lexington, an expression of the opinion of the faculty regarding the sale of liquors in saloons upon the immediate front of the University campus, and presented a resolution, inserted below, as afterwards amended, to that effect. The motion was made by Prof. White and seconded by Prof. Gillis, that the resolution as read, be adopted, and President Barker invited the fullest discussion of the resolution. Dr. Tuttle expressed the opinion that the implied threat of removal of the University at the close of the resolution, ^{beginning with the words "this failing" etc.} had better be eliminated, and so moved, seconded by Prof. Frankel. The amendment and resolution as a whole, were discussed by Professors Allen, Miller, Lafferty, Pryor, Dean Hamilton, Melcher, Dr. Kastle and others.

Dr. Kastle moved as a substitute that we eliminate from the resolution all references to any threat of removal of the institution. The motion of Dr. Kastle being duly seconded, was carried, and after some verbal modifications, it was ordered, upon motion of Professor Allen, duly seconded, that the resolution as amended by the substitute, be adopted by the faculty. The motion was carried, and the resolution, as adopted, follows:

"We, the Faculty of State University, Lexington, Kentucky, desire to make public our position on the subject of the sale of liquor by retail within four hundred feet of the University campus.

At its last session the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky enacted a law forbidding such sale, and upon the validity of that law we have depended from that time to this, believing that at the expiration of the licenses then in force the authorities of the city of Lexington would not reissue them.

We were both surprised and grieved to find that the Commissioners of the city of Lexington, without any sort of authority therefor, declared the Statute unconstitutional and issued licenses to the saloons within the forbidden circumference. We are advised and we firmly believe that the law is constitutional and will so be held by the courts before which the question may come for adjudication. Waiving this and admitting for the time being that the act is unconstitutional still it expresses the wish of the representatives of the people of Kentucky as to the sale of liquor within the prescribed distance from the campus of the University, and it seems to us that the Commissioners of the city of Lexington could well have afforded to carry into effect the wishes of the people of Kentucky on this subject, even though those wishes were expressed in an abortive Statute.

The placing of the University in the city of Lexington was a declaration on the part of the people of Kentucky of their confidence in the people of Lexington that they would do whatever was necessary and in their power to protect the morals of the students committed to their care. This is a solemn and sacred trust and cannot be betrayed with honor. We deprecate the idea that any man or set of men have a vested interest in debauching the morals of the youth of the State.

Whiskey has always been regarded as dangerous to the good morals of the community in which it is retailed, and it has been so held by every court where the question has come up for adjudication. The granting of licenses to retail liquor is a concession by the public to the spirit of private liberty, and this concession has always been safe-guarded in such a way as to preserve inviolate as far as possible the public welfare. The idea being to grant as much to private liberty as was consistent with public safety. It has always been deemed dangerous to bring the retailing of liquor within the reach of inexperienced youth, and, therefore, our Statutes have always forbidden the sale of liquor to minors. The retailing of liquor has nearly everywhere been prohibited within a certain distance of school houses and places of public worship, and it does seem to us that a decent respect for the sentiments of the people of Kentucky requires that the spirit of this Statute should be carried into effect in the ordinances of Lexington even if it be conceded that the Statute itself is unconstitutional.

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE, that we appeal to the Commissioners and to all good citizens of the city of Lexington, to undo the great wrong that has been done the University by the refusal of the Commissioners to protect its students from the temptations of vice and by failing to protect the innocent young girls who attend the University from having to walk through crowds of drunken hoodlums who congregate along the streets and sidewalks in front of these saloons."

The meeting then adjourned.

C. W. Matthews.

Secretary.