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Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes 1939-01-02

Bowling Green State University

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The Board of Trustees of the Bowling Green State University met in a regular meeting in the Administration Building at 11:00 o'clock on January 2, 1939. All of the members of the Board were present: Edward B. Pedlow, president; E. E. Coriell, vice president; L. N. Montgomery, secretary; and Mrs. Bessie S. Dwyer, treasurer.

The minutes of the meeting of December 22, 1938 were read and approved.

Mr. J. J. Urschel present his commission dated December 29, 1938 for a term of five years expiring May 17, 1943 and took his seat as a member of the Board.

It was moved by Coriell and seconded by Urschel that the following resolution be adopted and that a copy of said resolution be sent to the family of Dr. R. E. Offenhauer and to the newspapers for publication.

Dr. R. E. Offenhauer, President of Bowling Green State University, met an untimely death Thursday afternoon December 29, 1938 resulting from an automobile accident.

He departed so unexpectedly as to leave the memory of health still in glow, and of activity still untiring. With his career still in full flower, now irreparable is the loss of his early passing—how poignant the yearning for the many years that we vainly hoped would still be his—ours.

R. E. Offenhauer was born August 10, 1881 at Montezuma, Ohio and was educated in the rural schools of Mercer county. He attended Marion Normal College from which he received a Bachelor of Science Degree. Later on he attended Otterbein College and later did post-graduate work at Harvard in 1909. In 1917 he received his Master Degree from Columbia University and in 1932 he received his doctor's degree from Ohio Northern University.

On August 4, 1907 he married Ella Mary Smith of Mendon, Ohio, who along with their three children, Robert, Wayne and Geraldine sorrowfully survive the President.

Dr. Offenhauer first started his career as an educator as a teacher in the rural schools of Mercer county. He taught there from 1889 to 1902. In 1905 he was elected Superintendent of Schools at Mendon and stayed there until 1907. In 1907 he became principal of the Mt. Vernon High School. In 1909 he became Principal of the Sandusky High School at Sandusky, Ohio. From 1914 to 1918 he was Superintendent of Schools of Erie County. In 1918 Dr. Offenhauer moved to Lima, Ohio and became Principal of Central High School in Lima, Ohio. He held this position until he was elected Superintendent of the Lima Public Schools in 1924, which position he held until August 25, 1937, when the Board of Trustees of Bowling Green State University elected his President of that institution.

Dr. Offenhauer was not only known in educational circles of Ohio, but for a number of years has been active in National Educational Councils and when he died was treasurer of the National Educational Association. He was affiliated with the Toledo Consistory and the Shawnee Commandery. He was past President of the Kiwanis Club of Lima, Ohio and also past President of the Lima Community Chest.

Another river of life has run out into the uncharted sea. We will realize full well that we cannot drown sorrow nor gild grief with words, but we can temper out emotions by memory of the good deeds of those whom we loved. He was a man of strong convictions, a worthy father, an outstanding citizen and the personification of honor, holding the respect of men for his leadership and their affection for his integrity. His greatest interest, however, was in his chosen profession. He stood at the very top of his specialty. He sought the intellectual light in his work. His face was always toward the East.

Hearts break, men die, flowers bloom, leaves fall, but the world moves on. Dr. Offenhauer would not have us stop a minute because of his passing. He would wish of those whom he assisted in educating to carry the lighted torch. Farewell, dear Colleague, we are richer in wisdom, for your having worked with us.

"Life's work well done; Life's race well run; Life's victory won; Now comes rest."

Hail and farewell.

Voted aye: Pedlow, Montgomery, Mrs. Dwyer, Coriell and Urschel. Motion carried.

It was moved by Coriell and seconded by Urschel that Dr. H. B. Williams, President Emeritus, be given all the prerogatives and authority conferred by the laws of the State of Ohio, and the rules and practices of the Board of Trustees upon the President of the University in addition to the duties assigned him as President Emeritus by action of the Board of Trustees on August 25, 1937; that he serve in this larger capacity, effective January 2, 1939, at the pleasure of the Board at a salary at the rate of $10,000 per calendar year and at the same time retain the rank, salary and duties of his present position as President Emeritus. Voting aye: Pedlow, Coriell, Montgomery, Mrs. Dwyer and Urschel. Motion carried.
It was moved by Mrs. Dwyer and seconded by Coriell that Dr. H. B. Williams, President Emeritus, be authorized to sign all documents and instruments, not requiring the signatures of the Board, or its officers; that he shall carry out as far as is possible the policies of the late president; and that he be, and hereby is, authorized to furnish all information required by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works and the Federal Works Progress Administration and to sign same with the title of President Emeritus. Voting aye: Pedlow, Coriell and Mrs. Dwyer; no: Montgomery. Mr. Urschel did not vote. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Dwyer and seconded by Montgomery that in the consideration of a successor to Dr. R. E. Offenhauer that no member of the present faculty will be eligible for the position. Voting aye: Pedlow, Coriell, Montgomery, Mrs. Dwyer and Urschel. Motion carried.

It was moved b Montgomery and seconded by Urschel that there shall be a thirty day period of mourning for Dr. R. E. Offenhauer and that during that time the flag at the University shall be flown at half-mast. Voting aye: Pedlow, Coriell, Montgomery, Mrs. Dwyer and Urschel. Motion carried.

By common consent of the Board, Dr. H. B. Williams will assume the chairmanship of the Building Committee. The membership of the committee consists of Dr. H. B. Williams, chairman, Mrs. Bessie S. Dwyer and Mr. E. E. Coriell. It was further agreed that the signature of the President Emeritus alone or the signatures of a majority of the committee would be sufficient to validate all documents requiring the signature of the Building Committee.

It was moved by Coriell and seconded by Montgomery that Dr. Williams be authorized to make application of the State Auditor's Office for an audit of the records of the University up to and including December 31, 1938. Voting aye: Pedlow, Coriell, Montgomery, Mrs. Dwyer and Urschel. Motion carried.

It was moved by Montgomery and seconded by Coriell that the meeting adjourn to meet again at the call of the president. Voting aye: Pedlow, Coriell, Montgomery, Mrs. Dwyer and Urschel. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

February 13, 1939

The Board of Trustees of the Bowling Green State University met in a regular meeting at its office in the Administration Building at 2:00 o'clock p.m. on February 13, 1939. The members of the Board present were Dr. Edward B. Pedlow, president; E. E. Coriell, vice president; Mrs. Bessie S. Dwyer, treasurer; and J. J. Urschel. Mr. L. N. Montgomery, secretary, was unavoidably absent. Dr. H. B. Williams was also in attendance as Acting President.

In the absence of Mr. Montgomery, Dr. Pedlow appointed E. E. Coriell to act as Secretary Pro Tem.

The minutes of the meeting of January 2, 1939 were read and approved.

Dr. Williams reported receipts for remittances to State Depository Trust Fund in the amount of $25,00 and remittances to State Treasurer in the amount of $3937.71. To Mrs. Dwyer he presented checks for indorsement in the following amounts: $32,541.01 for State Treasurer and $695.48 for State Depository Trust Fund. These were then forwarded to their respective depositories.

TO ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, OR INSTITUTION
Columbus, Ohio, January 24, 1939 No. 223

The Department of The Treasurer of State hereby certifies that the above payer, Bowling Green State University has on this date paid into the State Depository Trust Fund the sum of $25,00 collected from sources detailed and to be credited to the fund shown above.

L. E. Johnston, Cashier

TO ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, OR INSTITUTION
Columbus, Ohio, January 24, 1939 No. 363

The Department of The Treasurer of State hereby certifies that the above payer, Bowling Green State University has on this date paid into the State Depository Trust Fund the sum of $3937.71 collected from sources detailed and to be credited to the fund or account as shown above.

L. E. Johnston, Cashier