
BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 13, 1881.

The Board met in the University parlor at 3:30 P. M.

Present—Messrs. Bennett, Cobb, Mason, McLean, Millard, Pearman and Scott. Absent—Governor Cullom, Messrs. Bird, Fountain and Paden.

The record of last meeting was read and approved.

The Regent then read the following report, which was received:

REGENT'S REPORT.

To the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Industrial University:

GENTLEMEN; Since your last meeting attention has been given to the repairs and improvements authorized by you at that time.

A strong force was at once employed to take down the old Dormitory Building under supervision of Mr. Spencer, who was directed to use such methods as would most carefully save the material. During the progress of the work an accident occurred, due to the breaking of a decayed timber, by which two men were seriously injured. Both have recovered. It is believed that there was no lack of proper precaution, and that the University has incurred no liability on this account.

So much of the old material as could be used with profit in new construction has been so used. Of the rest enough has been sold to cover the expense of the demolition. Fair prices have been realized, and it has been thought wiser to dispose of the material than to incur a constant expense in its preservation. Meanwhile the State appropriation for buildings and grounds, needed for other purposes, will not be exhausted for this.

The new dairy house is about ready for use. The farm cottage is ready for plastering, and will be finished by the end of this month. The boiler house has the roof ready for the metallic covering, and the machinists are setting the boilers within. The stone base of the smoke stack is ready to receive the brick superstructure.

The work is now in such a state of forwardness that we expect it to be finished for use as soon as the season will require.

As soon as it was evident that the reduction of the old building would be accomplished without a serious inroad upon the fund for buildings and grounds, attention was turned to the painting of the main building, and the work is nearly finished. It is very evident that this work should have been done before, and that the property has suffered in consequence of the delay. I would suggest that the woodwork of the Mechanical building is in like need, and that it be painted this season.

Attention is called to the fence along the south line of Green street in front of the University Park. Its present condition is no credit to the State or the institution. A neat and durable fence, of cedar posts, wooden rails and iron rods, may be built at a moderate cost, and is much needed. I request that authority be granted to build such a fence, at a cost, including painting, not to exceed \$500.

Part of the ceiling of the mansard story of the West Wing fell two years ago, having been loosened by water when a wind had uncovered the roof. If this ceiling be repaired and the room restored to a useful condition it can be most profitably occupied. A large amount of material is now scattered through the various engineering departments, consisting of models, drawings, shop work, etc., which would be very useful and interesting if collected, as the nucleus of a museum of engineering art. We have cases already on hand fit for the place, and much of the exhibit brought from Springfield will find there a place most suitable for its preservation. No expense need be incurred, for some time, beyond that required to put the room in order, while all the schools in the College of Engineering will be benefited by this means.

An order was passed a year ago that the balance, if any should be left from appropriation for cases to be built in the museum, should be expended for a case in Professor Morrow's room, for the preservation of agricultural specimens; but no balance was found. I recommend that an appropriation of \$150 be made for a case along the west side of the Agricultural Lecture room.

The cinder walks in the park need both draining and protection from washing; this can easily be effected by laying a narrow gutter on either side, using half brick, so set as to show their square ends. We have a large supply of this material which is available for no better purpose. The position of the boiler house requires a rearrangement of the drives south of the main building.

An appropriation of \$800 was made for extending the cases in Library. I recommend, that the amount be used in extending the cases and balcony along the south side and so far on the west side as may be possible, according to the style of the work now upon the east side. The movable cases displaced by this extension may be arranged compactly at the south end in such a way as to facilitate the administration of the Library, by gathering the books most used in the immediate vicinity of the place where they are issued.

This work can be done in the Architectural Shops, and can probably be made ready to put in place during the winter vacation.

I recommend that authority be given to the usual committee to expend \$1,000 from the Library fund, for purchase of books and periodicals.

Prof. Taft asks for the purchase of a collection of foot-prints from the red sandstone of the Connecticut river. This collection I have inspected. It has been gathered by an expert, long engaged in searching the quarries of that very interesting locality. It could not easily be duplicated, and is fully worth the price asked, besides filling an important place in our museum.

I invite your attention to Prof. Burrill's request for an assignment from the Laboratory fund. While the sum asked is more than the exact share of the Department of Botany, the case is one in which a needed instrument cannot be had for a small price. The Professor of Chemistry cordially indorses the request, as one which will inure to the benefit of his department also.

I ask from the same fund \$150 for acoustic apparatus for the Physical Laboratory.

It will be remembered that two years ago a request was made that the Machine Shop be permitted to build a drill press for its own use. This machine served, in building, as a practical lesson for two years to the students of that department by whom it was constructed. It is now finished, a very necessary and creditable piece of work, and one which attracts much attention as an exponent of the practical character of our instruction. In continuation of the same policy, and for like useful ends, I ask that authority be given to construct a milling machine, to cost not over \$175. The work will extend over one year, and probably more, while the machine will add greatly to the facility of the shop.

Professor Wood renews his request, made at the last meeting of the Board, for an appropriation of \$100 for construction of a rifle range. An entirely suitable place has been found on the south farm, beyond the cemetery, in which location both the Professor of Agriculture and the Regent concur.

For the usual appropriations for current expenses, I refer you to the schedule of the Business Agent, which I ask you to approve. I further suggest that from the legislative appropriation of \$5,700, made at the last session, you direct that the salaries of two months be paid.

I present a report from Professors Weber and Scovell on the progress which they have made this season in the preparation of sugar from sorghum. The quality of the product is better than that of last year.

Some photographs and drawings belonging to the University yet remain at Philadelphia, which were part of the Centennial exhibit. An organization of teachers of the city of Philadelphia ask that this remainder be transferred to their collection, and I recommend that the request be granted.

I refer to you a communication from the Hon. Geo. B. Loring, Commissioner of Agriculture, who asks that the University be represented at conventions called by him at the Department of Agriculture, in Washington, in January next.

I respectfully report that under your authority the Faculty have reappointed Prof. J. C. Feitshans, of Springfield, to be instructor in elocution, and Mrs. Abbie Wilkinson, late of Bantoul, to be instructor in music, for the year now current. Both of these instructors to be paid, as heretofore, by the fees derived from their respective classes.

I again ask your attention to the need of assistance in the School of Mechanical Engineering.

A proposition from the Hon. C. B. Smith, in reference to some work which he desires to have done at the machine shops, was referred at your last meeting to a committee. Judge Smith has not brought the subject forward in such a way that it can be presented to you for action, and I suggest that the reference be continued until the next meeting.

Near the close of last term a few of our students appeared with badges of a newly organized college secret society. Well acquainted as I am with the workings of such societies in the older colleges, familiar with their best and worst phases, I believe that their naturalization in this University would be harmful, and that once having taken root, it would be nearly impossible to eradicate them. My predecessor, Dr. Gregory, discussed this question very fully in his communications to this Board, which then expressed a very decided opinion against the societies, but made no order as to the course of action to be adopted in the premises. The advice which was suggested did not produce any effect and the societies continued for some time, but having no affiliation with societies in other colleges, died after a time, when a number of its active men left the University. The case is now different, and if action is to be taken, it should be taken now.

Professor Burrill asks for \$50 for purchase of seeds and flower pots for use of green house. He also asks extension of time nominating a man for Horticultural work. At this season of the year no harm can come from the delay.

I present the requests of Professors Pickard and Roos for increase of salaries.

S. H. PEABODY, *Regent*.

September 13, 1881.

After hearing the report the Board adjourned to 7:30 P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Board assembled on time; present as before.

The following appropriations and assignments of funds were made:

For painting woodwork in mechanical shop.....	\$100 00
For fence in front of main building.....	500 00
For case for agricultural lecture room.....	150 00
For improvements of walks and drives.....	100 00
For extension of library cases.....	800 00
For books and publications.....	1,000 00
For collection of fossils, freight, etc.....	350 00
For microscope and objectives.....	450 00
For flower pots and seeds.....	50 00
For acoustic apparatus.....	150 00
For construction of milling machine.....	175 00
For construction of rifle range.....	100 00

It was voted that the State appropriation for current expenses (\$5,700) be used for salaries, and that the Business Agent is directed to arrange the payments and vouchers.

The photographs of the University left at the Philadelphia Exhibition, were donated to the Teachers' Association of that city.

The Regent, the President of the Board and Prof. Morrow were appointed delegates to the convention at Washington, they to appoint one of their number to read a paper.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock A. M.