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MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REGENTS
WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE
JANUARY 8, 1966

The Board of Regents of Western Kentucky State College reconvened in the office of the President of the College on Saturday, January 8, 1966, at 10 a. m., CST, to continue the hearing of the appeals of Samuel A. Lawson, Frank Bonasso, and Robert N. Johns to the Board of Regents from action of the College Disciplinary Committee placing them on indefinite suspension on December 2, 1965--this meeting being continued from the first meeting of the Board on this matter which was held on December 18, 1965. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Harry M. Sparks, Chairman of the Board.

Members present, in addition to Dr. Sparks, were Messrs. Bemis Lawrence, Douglas Keen, Hugh Poland, Maxey B. Harlin, and Dr. J. T. Gilbert. Absent was Dr. W. Gerald Edds.

Also present, in addition to the appellants and their legal counsel, Mr. J. Granville Clark, were Dr. Kelly Thompson, President of the College; Messrs. J. David Francis and Charles English, legal counsel for the Board; Dr. Raymond Cravens, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties; Mr. Dero G. Downing, Vice President for Administrative Affairs; Miss Georgia Bates, Secretary to the Board; Mr. and Mrs. Horace F. Lawson, parents of Samuel A. Lawson; Dr. and Mrs. Sam Peter Bonasso, parents of Frank Bonasso; and Mrs. Robert N. Johns. Mr. Steve Pyevac, court reporter from Louisville whose services had been engaged by the Board, was also present.

Chairman Sparks presented letters dated January 6, 1966, from Samuel A. Lawson and Frank Bonasso and a telegram dated January 7 from George Chakos of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in which they stated that they wish to withdraw their appeals to the Board of Regents and, in the cases of Lawson and Bonasso, abide by the decision of the Board. He also read his replies to the communications, which had been sent after consultation with the other members of the Board, in which their requests for withdrawals had been approved. Inasmuch as these communications are contained in the transcript of the hearing, which is a part of the official record, they are not being recorded in these minutes.

The parents of Lawson and Bonasso were given the privilege of excusing themselves or remaining for the hearing on the appeal of Mr. Johns. They chose to remain.

Attorney Clark directed three requests to the Board and its counsel and sought confirmation of a previous action:

1. That Page 282 of the 1964 Talisman, which had previously been withdrawn, be made a part of the record.

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2. That Lawson and Bonasso, if called by counsel for Johns, be allowed to testify.

3. That only one representative of the College be present for the hearing.

4. That a copy of the official record of the hearing be given to the "defendants."

Inasmuch as all requests were granted, Dr. Cravens and Mr. Downing left the room.

The following witnesses were called by Mr. Clark:

Dr. Jim Wayne Miller, Department of Foreign Languages faculty member

Samuel A. Lawson

Thomas Hilton McGloshen, Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church of Russellville

Robert N. Johns

President Kelly Thompson

Following a 45-minute break for lunch, questioning of President Thompson was resumed at 2 o'clock.

Witnesses called by legal counsel for the Board were--

Mr. Robert L. Sleamaker, Acting Head of the Department of Elementary Education and member of the Disciplinary Committee

Dr. Raymond L. Cravens

Dr. Paul G. Hatcher, Dean of the Potter College of Liberal Arts

Dr. H. L. Stephens, Head of the Department of Biology

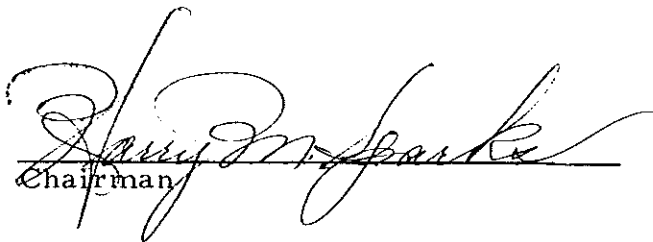
At this point, the Board went into executive session, following which Mr. Francis announced that counsel for the Board would present no closing argument. The closing argument of Attorney Clark consumed approximately thirteen minutes.

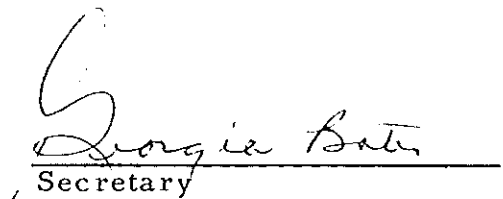
At the conclusion of the hearing and following an executive session, the following decision by the Board of Regents was rendered and read aloud by Chairman Sparks in the presence of Robert N. Johns, his wife, and legal counsel to conclude the hearing:

Mr. Lawrence moved that the Board of Regents sustain and affirm the disciplinary action taken by the Committee and the President of the College in the indefinite suspension of Mr. Robert N. Johns. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gilbert and carried unanimously.

Immediately after the reading of the decision, President Thompson requested an executive session with the Board, at the conclusion of which he made a statement to those assembled in the room. Dr. Thompson stated that he had had a lengthy conference with the Committee which had heard the case and that the Committee had told him that, in the interest of the students, they would support applications from the students for readmission to the College at the beginning of the second semester of the year if the President should decide to extend such consideration. The President stated that he had held conferences with Mr. Lawson and Mr. Bonasso and their parents, at their requests, and wanted them to have this consideration. He added that he had had no opportunity to meet with the parents of Mr. Johns, but, in the same spirit of student interest, he would extend the same consideration to him.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Poland, the meeting was adjourned.


Chairman


Secretary