

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

---

WKU Archives Records

WKU Archives

---

1938

## UA1B3/7 Meeting Minutes

WKU Faculty

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\\_ua\\_records](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records)



Part of the [Adult and Continuing Education Administration Commons](#), [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), [Elementary and Middle and Secondary Education Administration Commons](#), [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), [Leadership Studies Commons](#), [Sports Studies Commons](#), and the [Student Counseling and Personnel Services Commons](#)

---

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact [topscholar@wku.edu](mailto:topscholar@wku.edu).

Minutes of Faculty Meeting, January 17, 1938

President Garrett called the meeting to order, and the first item for discussion was whether or not the faculty thought it best to offer entertainment to the Vanderbilt chorus over night so that our chorus might in turn spend the night in Nashville. Dr. Ford stated that his personal reaction was that it would be better to give the performance and return that night. Dr. Wilson stated that he had just been to Nashville with a group and he felt it would be much better to give the performance and return that night. President Garrett then stated that it looked as if the faculty could take the group down in their cars and return after the program. Mr. Craig then asked the date and was informed that it had not been settled as yet. President Garrett asked for the show of hands of those who would volunteer to take a group in their cars to Nashville. A large number responded.

President Garrett asked Mr. Kelly Thompson to explain the set-up for obtaining information about faculty members' visits to various communities to meet with alumni groups, etc. Mr. Thompson stated that the faculty were too modest to give information about themselves and that he failed to get the information unless someone else happened to know about it and turned the news item in to him. President Garrett said that he thought it would be desirable for those who expected to be away at such meetings to type a little notice of it and turn it into Kelly's office. Kelly stated that it would be much more valuable from the standpoint of publicity to have this information before the person made the visit than after. He could then see that proper publicity was given to the individual in the local paper in the town where the faculty member would appear. Dr. Ford made the statement that such information would be nothing more than a news item and that such items might be put in a news column and not be given a big caption individually which would give undue prominence to a relatively unimportant situation.

The next matter brought before the group by President Garrett was the college's participation in politics. He stated that the college was not concerned with politics, neither was it concerned ordinarily with legislation; but he stated that there was a fight on in Frankfort to elect county superintendents by popular vote. He said he had no hesitation whatever in saying that he had always stood for superintendents' being appointed by boards and not elected by popular vote. He said that he thought it not meddling for him to go so on record before the faculty or anywhere else in the state. He said that some of the group might feel the same way and had refrained from saying anything to their representative because they did not know whether he would approve of it. He said that he did not think the faculty members should button hole the representatives or members of the legislature to tell them how they stood but he thought there might be some who would have a "toe hold" on some member of the legislature, and it would be within the rights of the individual to express his opinion on such a highly professional issue as this.

President Garrett said that he had been wondering in his own mind whether or not it would be desirable or advisable to confine the chapel to three days a week and use the chapel hour on the other days to get out of the way other group activities. He said he felt he had been with the group long enough for them to begin to know pretty well in what terms he thought and that he had no desire especially for change, that the school had been getting along mighty well for a long time before he came and that he had a good idea that it would run over a long period even if he went home; and it was therefore with extreme hesitancy that he mentioned any change. He said that he was not oblivious for a minute to the vast influence of chapel, that it was the place where group solidarity was built and where children were made to realize that "we are Western students." But, he said, he doubted whether even the faculty when they were in

college were eager to hear as many speeches as are given in chapel when it is held five days a week. He said that even on the faces of the faculty he hadn't seen any looks of unholy glee. He said that if any change were made it would be with the faculty's agreement and advice. He said he rather felt that he should check it with the class group and see how they felt about it. He said that there were a number who came to chapel every day, some who came occasionally, and some who never came. He said that the chances were if the chapel were cut down to one day a week, on Wednesdays, there would probably not be as many in attendance as there are at the daily chapels now. He said this was the danger in cutting the number of chapel periods. He then asked for a discussion.

Dr. Skinner said that he most certainly favored such a program. He said that as a matter of fact he would prefer to have laboratory periods from eight to ten, but he rather thought that for the good of the school it would be better to use the period for extra-curricular activities.

President Garrett said that when the school went on the plan allowing the faculty to sleep a little later some of the laboratory periods were thrown out and that something would have to be done about it.

Mr. Loudermilk stated that he liked getting up later much better. He said he thought the school would be much better off to go on the plan which had been suggested.

President Garrett stated that some man in Nebraska had made a survey of the teachers' colleges to ascertain the number of programs given a week, and it was found that a number have only one chapel a week and some five, and all in between. Some of them made chapel non-compulsory and then decided they didn't need chapel so often and didn't meet but once a week, and now they don't have any at all. He said that he knew the faculty here were sold on the value of chapel and didn't want anything like that to happen

He said if there were enough seats he would not hesitate to tell folks that they were expected to be in their seats. He said that chapel was semi-compulsory now.

Miss Jeffries then arose and said that she didn't suppose she had any right to speak unless the right conceded to years, that she could perhaps remember further back as a student than anybody else, that in the early days there were no extra-curricular activities and that all of those things were taken care of during the chapel period. She said that "some of us even today feel like missing chapel is something like missing dinner. I feel like that about chapel. I like it and I think we need it, but a good deal has been cut off chapel and put into other things. I, too, have tried to sponsor a class at four o'clock in the afternoon. It seems to me that we have advanced to the point where we can keep the things of the old chapel and take those things that have been amputated and build them into a program of a couple of hours a week on the old days. In this way the activities would be distributed rather than crowded into one hour five days a week."

Mr. Craig spoke next saying that he did not consider the proposed change very radical. He said that he did not believe there was any place where there were better chapels or better speeches and that as long as this continued, there would be no trouble getting a crowd. He said that those who didn't come to chapel weren't worth it anyway, that they were not setting the standards of the school by any manner of means. He said that going to the lunch rooms was all right, that he did it himself after chapel, but the people who staid at the lunch room during chapel were not setting the standards of the school. He said that ~~he~~ would rather have half of the students at chapel who wanted to be there than to have all of them there including half who didn't want to be there. He said that the problem was for the executive department of the school and if the time were to be used for something else, he thought it ought to be given to the groups that were the largest.

Dr. Stickles then spoke as follows: "I have been thinking about the chapel programs for a number of years, and I know that the universities, wherever I have been, where I was as a student, and where I have been since, do not have the daily chapel, and I realize that what has already been said is largely true. It used to be that everything that had to do with holding the school together took place at chapel. I would hate very much to see it disappear—for the good of the school, the executive, and everybody. When we changed to the new schedule it was understood that we were to quit at twenty minutes until ten and not run over the period. No idea of mine is so important that the world will stop rotating if I don't get everything said. The new arrangement was made so that there would be ten or twenty minutes after chapel for the departments to have conferences, and all agreed to it. In the summer during the second term when we have only one chapel a week, the school continues to run. I make a motion that we have beginning with next semester only three chapels a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays."

Kelly Thompson: "I hope the members of the faculty will excuse me. I know I am young and just back here. There is a tradition of chapel at Western. Some of you are not familiar with it out in the field. I could stand here and name you thirty or thirty-five high schools whose chapel programs are patterned on Western's. There is no question, evidently, from the discussion that a new problem has arisen. Before the motion is passed, I suggest, in order to keep the word from spreading, about tomorrow, all over creation, that we have done away with chapel two days a week, that we say we are still having chapel five days a week but that Tuesdays and Thursdays are being devoted to specific things."

Dr. Stickles withdrew his motion.

Dr. Ford: "Already in conversation with President Garrett I have stated my position with regard to chapel."

He has reiterated that here. The decision is an administrative one and not one for the faculty to make. Since the motion has been withdrawn, I move that as a faculty we bind ourselves to support wholeheartedly the president in whatever decision he may make. I am scientist enough not to be hostile to a change when a change is needed, and I wouldn't want to vote for something that would bar the president in making a change. A question of judgment enters into it. It ought to be a special matter to be decided by him and the Board of Regents. I am going to support wholeheartedly any action taken. There is one other question with regard to chapel-- this is for the purpose of raising the question only-- I have some doubt that after displacing the chapel hour, if we have solved the problem. If we like to sleep late, why not convene classes at 8:15, 9:15, and out at 9:45 and back to chapel. There is too much drag, and I think the lag into chapel is what largely ruins it. Any outstanding speaker knows that you have to marshal the crowd and move along. I don't think that if we change to a three-day-a-week chapel with the present hour that we will have solved the problem.

"If my motion meets with your approval, President Garrett, I would like for you to consider it, otherwise, it is withdrawn."

President Garret said that he had brought the matter before the group to get their reaction and that he believed the change he had proposed had met with their approval. He asked if there were any more discussion before a vote were taken on Dr. Ford's motion. The motion that "as a faculty we bind ourselves to support whoeheartedly the president in whatever decision he may make" was put and passed with no dissenting vote. President Garrett then said, "If any of you think this change is bad, I earnestly request that you come to my office and put your feet under the table and tell me why you think it is bad."

The meeting adjourned.