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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Held in Hartford at The University of Connecticut
Law School, June 1, 1962

Present: Mrs. Bailey Mr. Gill
 Mr. Benton Mr. Holt
 Mr. Bishop Mr. Jorgensen
 Mr. Budds Mr. Ryan
 Mr. Donahue Mr. Sanders
 Mr. Driscoll Mr. Watson

Also present: Mr. Waugh and Mr. Evans

Guests: Laurence J. Ackerman, Dean of School of Business Administration; Dr. Bert E. Hopkins, Dean of The University of Connecticut Law School; Dr. William Fisher, Assistant Dean of the College of Insurance; Dr. Griswold of the Hartford Branch of The University of Connecticut; Mr. William N. Seery, Chairman of the State Site Committee for the Medical-Dental School; Mr. George Conkling, State Finance Commissioner and member of the Site Committee.

Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairman Budds. With permission of the Board, the minutes of the May meeting were dispensed with in order to devote all time to discussion concerning proposed location of the Medical-Dental School.

Mr. Seery reported for the Site Committee and indicated the Farmington location as first choice and the Windsor property as second choice. Each site consists of 200 acres. Grading of property, provision for sewage disposal facilities and water supply at the Farmington site were discussed thoroughly.

M. Trail

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The Windsor location was also reviewed and, after much discussion and reference to maps, supplied by Mr. Seery, the concensus of opinion favored the Farmington Area.

The minimum requirement of the Site approximates 160 acres and it was recommended the entire plot be purchased to provide for future planning.

Mr. Budds presented a letter from Mr. William Pickett, Jr., President of the Law School Alumni, strongly urging that site for the Law School, in the West Hartford Area, is the proper one. He reasoned that further delay may jeopardize the present institution accreditation. He pointed out further, the many possibilities in this area of securing living quarters - for students and faculty.

Mr. Robert L. Kreshevsky of West Hartford recommends this tract as being eminently suited for the Law School and the people of that Town welcome location of the Law School in that area. Mr. Robert Weiss, Town Manager of Windsor, encouraged the locating of the Medical-Dental School on the Windsor Tract. He emphasized the park-like setting - support of the Chamber of Commerce and other Civic Groups in the Town of Windsor.

Dean Hopkins of the University of Connecticut Law School presented the following memorandum:

"In the present circumstances it seems appropriate to make this brief statement of my views about the still troublesome problem of law school site in reply to frequent inquiries from alumni and others as to my 'position.'

"More than five years ago a critical accreditation report on our School by the American Bar Association placed its greatest emphasis on the need for a new physical plant. Funds were appropriated for the project in 1958 by the special session of the General Assembly. No funds were included for site acquisition because the structure was planned for University owned land on Asylum Avenue, the Hartford 'branch' campus. When the Trustees yielded to organized opposition of neighborhood residents, attention shifted to a city-center location in connection with the south-end Redevelopment project.

"After very considerable effort and delay it became apparent that the attractive concept of a State educational center in that area was not feasible in the near future or at reasonable cost. Attention then turned to the 58 acre Phoenix site in West Hartford which was by general agreement the best of several alternatives. The site was acquired following an appropriation by the 1961 General Assembly and architectural and plot plans were completed in February of this year.

"In the meantime, during the several years of frustrated effort in site selection, the School was under continuing surveillance by the professional accrediting agencies. I submitted periodic progress reports, and there were two subsequent reinspections, the latest of which was completed last month. Each inspection report noted with satisfaction continual progress in the development of the School, but urged that 'the new building be erected with all possible dispatch.' The 'straight jacket' of physical plant limitation was apparent in all areas of school activity and frustrated the planned programs of academic development and growth.

"With the completion of the preliminary planning early this year it was possible with assurance to contemplate occupancy in September 1963, and reports were made accordingly to national accreditation agencies of the legal profession. Once again, however, we were confronted with delay while the site commission for medical education performed its statutory duty. If the University should acquire a site in greater Hartford appropriate in size and location for all of its Hartford activities, there would be obvious managerial economics and educational advantages in developing a single metropolitan campus.

"The selection of the Farmington site has presented to the University Trustees probably their most crucial problem of this decade, namely, whether that site is appropriate for all of the varied public educational enterprises within their areas of concern. I submit for consideration the following observations which bear heavily on that central problem from the special viewpoint of the School of Law.

- 1) In view of our accreditation problem and the several years of frustrating delays which have aggravated our difficulties, time is of the essence for the School of Law. We would be hard put to justify more delay while there is further prolonged public controversy over site selection for medical education, who will pay for access roads and utility connections (as for the Windsor tract), or other like problems only most remotely connected with legal education.
- 2) There is continuing general satisfaction with the present West Hartford site. The School of Law faculty, Alumni, and many professional associates and friends of the School favor completion of the new building on that site at the earliest possible date and, hopefully, by the projected September 1963 occupancy date.
- 3) If the Trustees decide that a single metropolitan campus is in the best long range interests of the State and University, it would seem to me that the Farmington site is clearly and vastly superior to the suggested north end location for our purposes of legal education. I should not presume to speak

of the complex requirements for medical education. If, however, press efforts to revive consideration of a north end campus are successful, I strongly recommend that legal education be withdrawn from that project, and that we proceed with all dispatch with present plans for construction on the West Hartford tract on Asylum Avenue."

Dean Ackerman covered the afternoon and evening program of the School of Insurance, registering that facilities were inadequate. From an accreditation viewpoint, these conditions cannot be tolerated much longer. He proposed the occupation of the present Law School after the new facility is erected.

Dr. Griswold of the University of Connecticut Branch favored remaining at the present location providing the ability to expand is granted. If expansion were not possible he would favor relocation. Transportation is a problem if located away from present site. Athletic facilities are a requirement if athletic programs are to be fostered.

Mr. George Conkling expressed the opinion of the Site Committee recommending the purchase of 200 acres at the Farmington location, in order to provide for future growth and the consolidation of all educational functions on one campus.

It was also pointed out that the Site Committee has the right, by State Statute, to select the site on which the Medical-Dental School is to be erected.

After considerable discussion covering many aspects of the whole problem, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. Many Trustees who had not had the opportunity of visiting the proposed sites took advantage of the invitation to make field visits to the areas which were proposed.

Respectfully submitted,

-s- J. Ray Ryan

J. Ray Ryan,
Secretary