

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The university of Nebraska was established by an act of the state legislature on the 15 of February, 1869. The law provides that it may embrace five distinct colleges: first—a college of science, literature and the arts; second—an industrial college, embracing agriculture, practical science, civil engineering, and the mechanic arts; third—a college of law; fourth—a college of medicine; fifth—a college of the fine arts.

The university is maintained by two funds: an endowment and a regents' fund. The endowment fund is permanent, and cannot be used by the regents for any purpose. It must be invested in reliable stock, which will yield not less than seven per cent annually. This fund consists of the principal arising from sales of endowment lands, both by congress and the state constitution. The regents' fund is a temporary university fund. It is used to pay the current expenses of the university. This fund is derived from three sources: first—from the United States, second—from the state, and third—from the students. It is composed of the proceeds of the endowment fund; of a tax of three-eighths of a mill on the dollar valuation of the grand assessment roll of the state; and the matriculation, diploma, laboratory and other fees paid by the students. Before any of this fund can be used by the regents, it must first be appropriated by the legislature. There are, however, two funds that are received by the university direct from the general government and do not pass through the state legislature: first—moneys accruing under the provisions of the "Hatch bill" which authorized the establishment and maintenance of an agriculture experiment station in connection with the college of agriculture and mechanic arts, and second—a fund acquired by the "Morrill bill", an aid to the original land grant act which provides for the establishment of the college of agriculture and mechanic arts. Expenditures from the temporary university fund are made only upon vouchers drawn up in the university finance office, approved by auditor of public accounts who issues warrants against appropriations made by the legislature. The secretary of the board of regents is the chief fiscal officer of the university. The salaries of officers and instructors are paid quarterly; and janitors, the watchmen and other laborers regularly employed, are paid monthly. Expenditures of each department in the university are under the supervision of the head of each department; but all bills must pass through the office of the secretary of the board of regents, and be paid by him.

THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

The general government of the university is vested in a board of six regents. They are elected by the voters of the state at large, at the general elections. The term of office is six years, and it is so arranged that two members are elected every two years. If a vacancy occurs between two elections, it is filled by an appointee of the governor, and he holds the office until the next general election. This fall a regent will be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Estabrook. His place has been filled by Victor Rosewater who was appointed by Governor Holcomb.

The members of the board receive no compensation, but they are reimbursed their actual expense in discharging their duties. The board has power to make and use the university seal; to acquire and dispose of university property; and to appoint its own presiding officer and secretary. The board has the authority of removing professors and instructors; and is authorized to confer degrees of honor and to grant diplomas to students recommended for such honors by the college faculties. It is the duty of the board to enact laws for the government of the university; to elect a chancellor, and such other officers as are necessary to carry on the work of the institution; and to prescribe the duties of the officers and instructors, and to fix their compensation. The members of the board are required to meet twice each year at the university.

There are three general meetings of the board of regents: An annual, and two regular meetings. The annual meeting is held on the Tuesday next preceding the annual commencement. The regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday after the first Wednesday in April and December. Special meetings are called whenever the executive committee deems it expedient, or on a written request of three regents. All meetings of the board are held at the university, and they are usually open to the public.

The board has four standing committees; first—an executive committee, second—a finance committee, third—a university and library committee, fourth—a committee on course of

study. The president of the board is chairman of the executive committee. This committee has general supervision of all university property; it has authority to institute suits; it prepares a biennial report of the board to the governor; and attends to all other executive business entrusted to it by the board. The finance committee has general management of the finance of the university. It is required to make a full report of the financial condition of the institution, at the annual meeting of the board; and to make an estimate of the receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year. The fiscal year closes on the last day of November of each year. The university and library committee has general supervision of the grounds and buildings of the university and college farm. It also has general charge of the university library and cabinets. The committee on course of study has supervision over the courses of study, in the various departments of the university. But this committee cannot change the course of study in any college without referring a motion to change the course to the faculty of the college in which a change is to be made.

THE CHANCELLOR.

Next in authority to the board of regents, is the chancellor. He is elected and may be removed from office by the board. He is the chief executive officer of the university, and acts as a sort of mediator between the faculty and the board of regents. He is required to give his entire time to university duties. It is his duty to see that the regulations and orders of the board of regents are complied with; and he is charged with the responsibility of maintaining good government in the university. The board of regents demands a written report from him annually, on the condition of the university; and he has the right to present and discuss, at any meeting of the board, matters that pertain to the general welfare of the institution. The chancellor has general supervision over the associated colleges in the university; he is president of the university senate, and the general faculty, and the various college faculties. He conducts the daily chapel exercises; and he performs other duties entrusted to him by the board of regents.

The deans are third in authority in the management of the institution. They are at the heads of the distinct colleges in the university. At each annual meeting of the board of regents a dean is elected for each college. He has general charge of the examinations of his college; he issues certificates, and assigns students to their proper classes; he makes a semi-annual report of the condition of his college to the chancellor; and he performs all other executive duties that present themselves to the head of his college. One of the deans is designated by the board as senior dean. He is ex-officio vice-president of the general faculty, and in case of a vacancy in the office of chancellor, the senior dean becomes acting-chancellor. The chancellor and the deans constitute a nominating committee; and before the board of regents can elect a professor or instructor, he must first be nominated by this committee.

INTERNAL GOVERNMENT.

The internal government of the institution is under the supervision of the general faculty. The by-laws of the board of regents provide for a university senate, which is composed of the professors of all the colleges in the university. But the senate does not meet regularly, and the general faculty performs the duties that are outlined for this body. The general faculty is composed of all the professors and associate professors in the academic and industrial colleges. The chancellor is president of this body and the senior dean vice-president. A secretary is elected by this faculty whose duty it is to keep a record of all the proceedings of the body; and file an official copy of all resolutions intended to influence the actions of the board of regents, with the chancellor who embodies the essential facts in his reports.

The work of the general faculty is done chiefly through committees, of which there are twelve. A committee on emergencies consisting of the chancellor and the deans, passes upon matters that require immediate attention and cannot wait for a meeting of the faculty to be called. An enrollment committee is composed of the deans and one professor. The business of this committee is to receive and enroll all new students except those who enter the university from accredited high schools; and to determine entrance credits. A committee of three professors is charged with the work of arranging and printing the time schedule. This committee must consult the heads of the various departments, and arrange the daily work so as to accommodate the majority of instructors and students. A credit committee is composed of five professors and the registrar. This committee has power to grant additional hours of registration

and to pass upon doubtful cases of credits. The library committee consists of the librarian and four professors. The general management of the library is entrusted to this committee. It apportions all moneys, appropriated for library purposes among the departments of the university; decides on firms from which books are to be purchased; and selects the books for the general library. A committee on accredited high schools is composed of the chancellor and five professors. The business of this committee is to formulate the system of accredited schools; to examine and pass upon reports from schools; and to inspect and credit the high schools of the state. A committee consisting of two professors and the dean of the school of graduate instruction, has general management of graduate work. A committee of five professors superintends the preparatory work. There is also a committee of three on unclassified students. A committee on publications is composed of three professors. This committee has general supervision over all university publications. It publishes the "University Studies"; confers with the executive office concerning the publishing of the catalogue and course of study and is required to look after the college papers. A committee on university extension work is composed of the chancellor and two professors. It plans the work, prints the syllabi and decides on lecturers for the courses. An athletic committee is composed of five professors, and five members of the athletic association. This committee has full control of all university athletics. All committeemen are elected by the general faculty, except two members of the athletic committee, who are chosen by the athletic association.

THE GENERAL FACULTY.

Each college has a faculty of its own, which passes upon all matters relating to the management of the separate colleges, unless such a matter is in some way connected with the management of another college in the university. All regulations which effect instructors or students in more than one college are made by the general faculty. The professors and associate-professors in the college of science, literature and the arts, constitute the academic faculty; and the professors and associate-professors of the industrial college compose the industrial faculty. The faculty of the college of law is composed of all the instructors of that college that give at least ten lectures during the year. The college faculties arrange the courses of study; they determine on qualification for admission to the colleges and make all necessary arrangements for the internal government of the colleges. They also make recommendations for graduation, and dispose of all cases of discipline involving suspension, dismissal, and expulsion from the university.

Below the deans are the professors who are at the heads of departments. Each professor has the management of his own department. He plans his courses, and is held responsible for the work done in his department. Below the professor is the associate-professor, the adjunct-professor, and the division instructor. There are also a number of assistants employed in the various departments. Each professor or instructor is required to keep a record of his classes, and to report to the registrar, at the close of each semester, the number of students in each class, the standing of each student, and the number of recitations held during the semester. The instructors are also required to make a complete report of their work to the chancellor.

The final standing of each student is determined by making an average of his standings in daily recitations, his grades on monthly tests and his mark in a final examination at the close of each semester. Students who have a final record of sixty per cent or more are marked "P", and the student receives credit for his work on the registrar's book. Those who have not done satisfactory work are marked either "C", "F", or "I". "P" standing for pass, "C" for condition, "F" for failure, and "I" for incomplete. A condition must be made up within a year or it becomes a failure, and those who fail must take the work the first time it is taught after such a failure. Incomplete work becomes a condition unless made up within a semester, and no credit can be given until work is made satisfactory to the instructor under whom the study has been taken.

All degrees are conferred on commencement day by the chancellor, acting under authority of the board of regents. But no degree can be granted until recommended by the college faculty under which the candidate has pursued his studies. A candidate for any degree must pay a fee of five dollars to the secretary of the board of regents before a diploma can be issued. The degree of Master of Arts is conferred upon graduate students who pass satisfactory examinations in work pursued under the direction of the dean and committee on graduate in-

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struction; and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy is given for three years graduate study and the presentation of an acceptable thesis.

When a student enters the university he must pay a matriculation fee of five dollars, and in the law college a tuition fee of forty-five dollars annually. The registrar keeps a record of the name, age, and place of residence; and also an account of the date of entrance, the degree registered for, the studies pursued, and the time of graduation or withdrawal of each student.

Any student who desires to be dismissed from the university, can receive an honorable dismissal by applying to the chancellor, unless there is some good reason for refusing it. A student who is habitually neglectful of his duties, and is not likely to fulfill the purpose of his presence at the university, must be notified by the chancellor that he may withdraw. If such a student does not withdraw in a reasonable time, he must be dismissed. If a student should continually resist the government of the institution, or if his conduct should be such as to injure the prosperity of the university, he must be suspended. Students are prohibited from frequenting gambling houses or saloons, or from using intoxicating drinks, or from doing anything contrary to the rules of morals. The right of petition cannot be denied the students by any university authority, but no meeting of the students can be held on the university grounds or in any building on the campus without the approval of the chancellor. The students have a number of organizations that meet regularly at the university, such as literary societies, Christian associations and debating clubs. They have, also, athletic and oratorical associations, political and economic clubs, and a number of Greek letter fraternities, and each class has a class organization.

All students of the university as well as the general public, have free access to the library, which is composed of departmental collections. The library is under the direct control and management of a librarian who is appointed by the board of regents. The librarian sees that the rules and regulations of the library committees are combined with. He also makes an annual report of the condition of the library to the board of regents, and keeps a complete record of all the volumes of the entire collection. When regular work is being carried on, the library is open from eight o'clock in the morning until ten at night; from nine in the morning until five in the evening during short vacations; and from nine until noon during long vacations.

Chapel exercises are held every morning from 9:50 till 10:20, and during this time the library reading room and the chancellor's office are closed, and no class work is carried on. The chancellor usually leads the exercises which consist of short Scripture reading, prayer and song.

The statutes of the state prescribe that provision shall be made for the education of women apart from men, but no arrangements of this kind are made, except in hygiene lectures and in gymnasium work. Young women are required to take thirty minutes of exercise in the gymnasium on four days of the week for two years, and young men are required to drill in the battalion three hours each week for three years.

The corps of cadets is under the command of an officer of the regular standing army, detailed by the president of the United States, as superintendent and professor of the military department in the university. All rules and orders relating to the organization and government of the military students are made by the commandant. Routine duty is conducted in accordance with the regulations of the army of the United States. Arms are furnished the department by the general government, and they are subject to inspection at any time under the authority of the president. The commandant of cadets is required to make quarterly reports to the adjutant-general of the United States, and also to the adjutant-general of the state, on the condition of the department. The names of the three most distinguished students in military science and tactics are inserted in the United States army register, when each class graduates; and cadets holding offices in the battalion at the time of graduation, receive commissions from the governor. Cadets are required to appear in uniform at all drills, and a strict record is kept of the attendance and the military bearing of each cadet. Promotions in the battalion are based upon scholarship, capacity and fitness for command.

All manual labor about the institution is under the management of the steward, who is also acting-superintendent of the grounds and buildings. Below him is an assistant superintendent who has charge of the campus and the buildings, and a watchman, who keeps guard at night. The janitors and attendants in the boiler house are also under the direction of the steward. The by-laws of the board of regents state that the steward shall be the chief fiscal officer of the university, but the office is constantly becoming of less importance, and the secretary of the board acts as treasurer, now. The secretary of the board of regents is aided by an accountant, and the chancellor is assisted by an executive clerk. Two guides are employed to show visitors about the buildings, and friends are always cordially received at the university.

From the organization and government of the institution can be seen the true relation of the university to the national government, to the state, and to the citizens. Every member of the commonwealth should make the best of the free instruction it offers.

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