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John Phillip Wernette - Biography

William E. Davis

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JOHN PHILLIP WERNETTE

8th University President

Served 1945 - 1948

Born Imlay City, Michigan

October 29, 1903

Dr. John Wernette brought a businesslike approach to the administration and government of the University.

Education

Dr. Wernette earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees at the University of California and his Ph.D. at Harvard.

Career

John Wernette became University President at the age of 42 after having taught in California and then becoming an associate professor in the Harvard School of Business Administration.

University Activities

Dr. Wernette instituted an 18 point program of policies and procedures in the selection of new faculty members aimed at improvements in the selection process. He also developed a program in faculty advancement policies which sough to insure that advancement would be on the basis of merit.
Several offices were established to give students help in various areas--the General Placement Bureau, the Veterans Office and the Testing and Counseling Services.

A faculty committee was appointed in 1946 to secure ever better teaching candidates for consideration as faculty members.

In 1946 all seniors were required to take graduated record examinations which would provide an objective for scholastic measurement.

Dr. Wernette published his book, Financing Full Employment through the Harvard University Press during his tenure at our university.

Dr. Wernette was dismissed by the Board of Regents in 1948.

Excerpt from William E. Davis’ Miracle on the Mesa.

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