University of New Mexico Board of Regents Minutes for April 10, 1920
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
Saturday, April 10, 1920, at the Office of Mr. A. A. Sedillo.

Present: Messrs. Reidy, Sedillo, Montoya, and Hill

Receipt of a check for five hundred ($500.00) dollars, as a contribution from the McKinley Land and Lumber Company through Colonel Breece, was reported by President Hill and the check was turned over to the Treasurer, Dr. Reidy.

Dr. Reidy reported the receipt of two checks from Santa Fe respectively for: $9,000.00 $11,655.96.

A letter from Professor J. W. Garner, Ph.D., of the University of Illinois who had been invited by President Hill as authorized by the Executive Committee to deliver the Commencement Address, was read. Professor Garner suggested possible subjects for discussion in this Address. The Committee decided that it would prefer an address dealing with Americanism, and attempting to show what Americanism means, what America stands for among the Nations, how the radical elements in society are trying to undermine the institutions and ideals for which America has always stood, and in which remedies are suggested by which the radical movement may be suppressed.

In further correspondence concerning the twenty-five thousand dollars which President Hill had requested from Dr. Rose of this Board for the erection of a State Health Laboratory on the Campus, the following letter was read:

"Dear Dr. Hill:

Your valued letter of March 31 has been received. I regretted my failure to see you in Albuquerque, but I am indebted to Professor Clark for showing me over the University, including the laboratory.

The consensus of opinion of those with whom I conferred would indicate that even though the development of the laboratory should not be neglected, that the most pressing need of assistance is in aiding three or four counties to organize departments of health and demonstrate methods for the effective handling of a few of the most important health problems. Such demonstrations, they believe, will lead the State and the Counties to increase their appropriations to an extent which will permit a more satisfactory development of the several divisions of the State Board of Health, such as the Laboratory Division, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, etc."
Attention was called to a message from the Business Director John P. Williams, as follows:

"It was reported to me several days ago, that the Springer Transfer Company was again beginning to haul dirt from University property, at a place located a mile northeast of the Men's Residential Hall. I found there were several excavations showing that dirt had been taken from this place in years past but evidently little had been taken as yet this spring.

It seems that in the past the University has hauled gravel for building purposes from Springer's land, and they have felt that this has given them the privilege of taking this dirt in return. However, so far as I have been able to learn, there was no agreement or understanding to this effect.

Mr. Knight, of the Springer Transfer Co., came to see about the matter, after being notified that we would expect them to discontinue this practice, unless some other arrangements were made, and I have told him that unless they could come to some agreement with the Board of Regents and the President we would have to hold to the decision not to have this dirt taken away.

It might be that if Springer alone did this hauling and was careful to keep the ground leveled, as they have not done in the past, that it would not cause any particular harm. However, if Springer is hauling, other transfer companies in the city will also go to this same place, and it will be a matter of but a short time until we will have quite a problem on our hands in stopping them.

John P. Williams".

It was ordered by the Executive Committee that removal of this gravel by Springer Transfer Company or any one else should be prohibited unless definite and satisfactory agreement is made.

President Hill called attention to the fact that Professor Roscoe R. Hill had made an oral and also a written request demanding that he be permitted to withdraw from his work at the University on or about May first, in order to accept a position at a higher salary in Washington. President Hill stated that after strong protest against such withdrawal, he had orally acquiesced with the understanding that the matter would be taken up with the Board of Regents and in the light of facts to be presented, President Hill reported difficulty in coming to any satisfactory oral understanding with Professor Hill and read to the Board the following letter which he had written to Professor Hill on
Since our last conversation with you and Dean Mitchell, I have canvassed the situation with regard to your intention to leave here at an early date and before May 1, 1920. I have also received your note of April 6, 1920. Previous to a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents, which will take the matter of your contract under consideration, I desire to write this summary of the situation as concerns you.

First, if you persist in your determination to quit at the end of less than thirty days in order to take a temporary position of a different character but which pays an increased salary, I think you are making a grave mistake, as I told you emphatically during our last two conversations. It will be an injury to your students and to this institution. Although I am not called upon to advise you personally, I do not believe that your proposed action will improve your professional standing.

Secondly, whatever you may have telegraphed the State Department concerning the position offered you in the office of the Foreign Trade Advisers, nevertheless, I still insist, if they desire your services urgently, that the authorities might be persuaded with our help, to keep the position open for you at least until June 9, 1920. I have already assured you of my willingness to communicate with Secretary Colby urging that the position be kept open for you until that time.

Thirdly, I have opposed and am opposing the idea of your trying to telescope your work so that you can leave your classes a month ahead of time. Aside from the immediate consequences here, the establishment of such a precedent might play havoc in the conduct of an educational institution such as this.

Fourth, your original suggestion that you be paid a years salary up to October 1, 1920, in order that after telescoping or transferring your work, you might leave on May fifth, is of course, in violation of the letter and spirit of your contract and this proposal I have not endorsed and cannot endorse.

Although the Board of Regents may fail to consent to your departure after thirty days notice and before the completion of your immediate work should you leave about May first, the best I would recommend toward the settlement of salary in this event, would be about eight-ninths of the total amount agreed upon for the years services to the University ending October 1, 1920. If you will read your contract, I believe that you will understand this would be a liberal payment in consideration of some seven months actual service and in view of the plight in which you propose to leave your classes.
Fifth, please note that in writing your letter of April 6, 1920, to me (which I told you to write if you proposed to leave against my advice and direction), you have not given the thirty days notice but have made it appear that you will leave on April 30, 1920, which, of course, is even more unsatisfactory than your oral proposal.

My practical suggestion is that you fall in willingly today, Saturday, April 10, 1920, with my offer to take up immediately with the authorities in Washington the matter of postponing your engagement until the close of your work here. This proposition I made to you orally on Tuesday, April 6, and repeated to you on Thursday, April 8. This, I believe, is due yourself and due the University.

I am, 
Cordially yours,
David S. Hill.

After reading this letter aloud by Mr. Sedillo, and careful consideration of the matter, the following resolution was passed unanimously by the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents:

"The Executive Committee of the Board of Regents at a meeting on last Saturday afternoon passed the following resolution unanimously:

RESOLVED: It is the sense of the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents that Professor Roscoe R. Hill be made to live up to his contract of August 28, 1919.

I should be glad personally to help you retain the appointment which you have accepted in Washington with the understanding that you are not to leave your classes here until June, and I feel certain that the Board is willing to join heartily in this effort.

I am,
Cordially yours,
David S. Hill.

Date April 10, 1920

Signed:

(copy) J. A. Reidy
Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Regents.