

Minutes of the Meeting of the
State Board of Agriculture
in
Executive Session
December 21, 1940

Present: Mr. Berkey (Chairman); Messrs. Akers, Brody, Jakway; McPherson; Mrs. Masselink

Absent: No one.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 o'clock P.M. by the Chairman.

The purpose of this special meeting was to consider the request of President Robert S. Shaw that he be retired from active duty as President on June 30, 1941.

President
Shaw retires

On motion of Mr. Brody, seconded by Mrs. Masselink, it was voted to approve the request of President Shaw for retirement on June 30, 1941. All voted yes.

John A.
Hannah
appointed
President
M.S.C. effec-
tive July 1,
1941.

On motion of Mr. McPherson, seconded by Mr. Jakway, it was voted to tender the position as President of Michigan State College to Secretary John A. Hannah effective July 1, 1941. All voted yes.

Secretary Hannah was summoned before the Board and informed of the action of the State Board of Agriculture. He agreed to accept the position.

Upon invitation President Shaw appeared before the Board.

The Board approved the following statement prepared by Chairman Berkey that was presented to the press:

Approval of
statement to
press.

"About two years ago President Shaw indicated to me and other members of the State Board of Agriculture that it was his intention to retire from active duty at the end of the 1940-41 school year. On several occasions since that time he has reiterated this intention in his discussions with individual members of the Board.

"Several weeks ago he reminded me, as Chairman of the Board, that he wished to retire at the end of the present year and suggested that the Board should take such steps as it deemed proper to provide for his retirement and the selection of a successor.

"With extreme regret the Board accedes to this request.

"President Shaw has devoted his life to the upbuilding of Michigan State College in varying capacities, - as Professor of Agriculture, Dean of Agriculture and Director of Experiment Station, Acting President, and, since May 1928, as President.

"During the period of his presidency, Michigan State College has unquestionably made greater progress than in any similar period in its entire history. The student body has almost trebled. The buildings have more than doubled in total area. The College farm properties have been greatly added to. The personnel of the institution has greatly increased in number and many of the outstanding members of the faculty, research and extension staffs have been brought to the College during this period.

"The College has gained recognition by all of the accrediting agencies that accredit colleges and universities and is given ratings of the highest grade.

"The development of the entire College has been symmetrical and uniform with no one activity, department or phase of work being allowed to over-expand at the expense of other functions or departments of the institution.

"The College campus has not only grown in size but has grown greatly in beauty and is recognized everywhere as one of the most beautiful in the nation. Thousands of trees and shrubs of every variety that can be made to grow in this climate have been planted. Many hundreds of these trees have been outright gifts by Mr. Shaw, grown by him in his own farm nursery and given to the College.

"The lands and activities of the Agricultural Experiment Stations have been greatly augmented. The Agricultural Extension activities of the College have been developed so that all of the County Agricultural Agents, Home Demonstration Agents and 4-H Club Agents are full-time members of the College staff. In this program the total membership of the 4-H Clubs of this State have increased from a few thousand to more than 65,000 members in 1940.

"President Shaw has always insisted that the College and all of its employees keep entirely free from partisan politics and from all political implications. He has continuously made every effort to retain at the College a democratic attitude and friendly spirit among the student body, the faculty and employees and in their relationships with the public.

"It has always been the first function of Michigan State College to serve the people of Michigan, particularly the agricultural interests of Michigan.

"The great growth and development of the College and the high place that it now holds in the appreciation of the citizens of Michigan is an imperishable monument to his splendid services.

"It is with sincere regret that we announce his retirement effective as of July 1, 1941. We feel that he is entitled to the opportunity that he seeks to be relieved of the responsibilities of the position that he has filled so well.

"The Board has had many months to consider the matter of a successor to President Shaw, and realized that no more important duty had developed upon it in many years.

"John A. Hannah has been associated with Dr. Shaw as Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture for the past six years. During this period he has had charge of the huge building program of the College. He has actively participated in all of the normal functions of the Secretary of the College and has had charge of the high school publicity program designed to promote greater cooperation and good will between high schools of the State and the College. His activities have resulted in the development of much credit and good will toward the institution.

"The Board is aware of the splendid progress that has been made in the fields of Engineering, Home Economics, Veterinary Medicine, Applied Science and Liberal Arts but feel that the President of the College should be a man with a keen appreciation of the importance of maintaining and increasing the effectiveness of the services of the College to the agricultural interests of Michigan. Mr. Hannah is a graduate of the Agricultural Division of the College. He served for ten years as an extension poultryman and is internationally known for his work in this field. He was engaged in special work for the U.S.D.A. when he was asked to become Secretary of the College and gave up a more lucrative position to take over that position where his conduct has made him a natural selection for promotion to the office of the presidency of Michigan State College.

"The Board feels that the best interests of the College will be served by the elimination of a period of uncertainty in the college's administration by the immediate appointment of Mr. Hannah to the presidency to be effective July 1, 1941, upon the retirement of President Shaw."

The meeting adjourned at 9 o'clock P.M.

Robert S. Shaw
President

John A. Hannah
Secretary