

ARTHUR R. SEYMOUR
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA

April 21, 1913.

Dear President James:

As Adviser of Foreign Students I wish to make you a report of the work of the current year. It is a great pleasure to devote myself to the interests and needs of our foreign students, and it is an inspiration to be in touch with so many earnest students gathered here from all parts of the world. Following is a brief outline of my work:-

1. Statistics- The first semester of the current year we had 120 students from foreign countries and the colonies. This is an increase of nearly thirty over last year. This present semester there are 115 foreign students. It is interesting to note that several countries are now represented here for the first time, such as Brazil, Bulgaria and Denmark. The largest delegations come from China, Japan, Russia, India, Mexico and Canada. The other countries represented are Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Bulgaria, Egypt and South Africa. The colonies of Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines have sent eight students. Accordingly 22 countries and 3 colonies are represented. These figures tend to show that the U. of I. is becoming widely recognized throughout the world. About half of these students are following courses in engineering, a considerable number in agriculture, and some few in science and in literature and arts. Almost without exception our foreign students are taking technical courses aiming to prepare them for definite lines of work.

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2. Registration and credits- When new students arrive, all cases in which any doubt exists as to their entrance credits are referred to me. I pass on their certificates and make recommendations to the registrar's office. To do this requires familiarity on my part with foreign educational systems and with their various schools. This knowledge I obtain from foreign educational reports, preparatory school and college catalogs, and by considerable correspondence with Ministers of Education, and heads of schools in foreign countries. The grade of work done by students here is of assistance in valuing the foreign school. I frequently translate certificates of credits made out in a foreign language and these translations are filed with the original for record in the registrar's office. A few foreign students arrive who are not ready for the university and I look after them while in the High Schools. If I consider that a foreign student is deficient in English, I recommend to the registrar's office a special examination in English composition. If a student has done work of a university grade in addition to his entrance preparation, I consult with the heads of departments in which line the work has been done and make recommendations concerning the credits based on the man's certificate and my knowledge of the educational system by which the man has been trained. Transfers from foreign universities are becoming more frequent.

3. Rooms and board- It is of assistance to keep on file a list of houses where foreigners are welcome, for there have been frequent complaints that landladies furnishing rooms or board would not receive foreigners, especially Chinese, Hindus, Filipinos and Latin-Americans.

4. Scholarship- From the Assistant Deans and Student Advisers of the various colleges I receive the regular reports of the grades of the men

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during the semester. Students on probation and those doing a poor grade of work are carefully watched and advised. Often I find that a poor knowledge of English or the necessity of working one's way is the difficulty. I recommend tutors in English and find positions for men needing work. After consultation with the English department, they have planned to give next year a special course in Rhetoric I adapted to the special needs of foreigners. This should be of great assistance to all concerned and is what the foreigners have long felt the need of. I am now trying to have permission granted to foreigners to postpone to the second year their required work in foreign languages, in case their English preparation is not good. The action which I understand has been taken in the College of Engineering in putting the foreign language requirement in the second year will relieve the situation appreciably, as about half of the foreigners are in that College.

5. Correspondence with other Foreign Advisers- Correspondence with other Foreign Advisers has sometimes been of assistance in locating "bad pennies". Since I am the first of the Foreign Advisers, of whom there are now twelve or thirteen, newly appointed Advisers of other Colleges and universities write to me for information as to methods of work. It seems that the work has been developed here more than anywhere else and yet I often get helpful hints from other Advisers. Information concerning special lines of study and experiment, and greater ease in transferring from one university to another are afforded through the Foreign Advisers.

6. Clubs of foreigners- The clubs now flourishing are the Cosmopolitan, Chinese, Japanese, Hindusthani and Latin-American. You have asked me to act as their financial as well as social adviser and the former

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duty has at times necessitated an astonishingly large amount of my time and energy. This is particularly true of the Cosmopolitan Club, which attempted to purchase a house, but finally was compelled to give up the idea for the present. We still hope to bring this about in the future, and we shall prepare for it as soon as our past obligations are all met. The club is being well managed this year. The Chinese Club has been more successful than before in managing its club house at the present location and their social affairs are well handled. The preparation for the conference of Chinese students here in September is now occupying their attention. The Japanese Club is in a flourishing condition and affords much mutual aid to its members. The Hindusthani and Latin-American Clubs are new organizations of this year, which I am watching with great interest. I am frequently consulted for advice concerning their plans.

7. Personal acquaintance with the foreigners- Groups of foreigners are entertained at my house almost weekly, either by social evenings or at meals. In this way I attempt to know intimately all the foreign friends. Although this requires considerable time and some expense, I feel that it is one of the best means of coming to know them well so as to be of the greatest service to them. Personal visits to men in their rooms, especially when they are sick, are greatly appreciated, and I try to keep informed about all the sick ones.

8. Relations with business men concerning foreigners- Business men apply to me for information concerning the advisability of giving credit to foreigners of doubtful standing. Occasionally I have to use my influence to get certain individuals to pay their debts. Cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated by the business firms, although not always pleasant to me.

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9. Articles published concerning foreign students- Since being appointed by you the Adviser of Foreign Students I have published a Spanish bulletin concerning the advantages of this university. While national president of the Association of Cosmopolitan Clubs I wrote for our publication (monthly) several articles dealing with our foreign student problems and our national and international aims. The U. of I. Alumni Quarterly published an article by me of the Cosmopolitan movement. Information has been furnished by me for publications in foreign countries a line of effort which I hope to develop further.

10. Financial outlay- Considerable personal expense has been incurred in postage in summoning to my office for consultation foreign students needing attention, in correspondence with other Foreign Advisers, with prospective students, with foreign educators, etc. I trust that a way may be found for furnishing me with postage for this university work. I believe that the registrar and various deans do not meet such expenses from their own pockets as I have done up to the present. Such expenses as telegrams and cablegrams concerning missing foreigners or those in difficulty have been paid by me personally.

11. The Chinese Students Conference- The coming conference of the middle-west section of the Chinese students marks an epoch in the relationships of the U. of I. with the Chinese friends. Considerable time and assistance has already been given in getting the conference for Illinois and in arranging the program. I plan to spend about two weeks here to prepare for the conference and help in carrying it out. One feature I shall watch carefully is the news reports in the city and Chicago papers, and I shall attempt to have correct and not sensational reports sent out. We now expect from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy-five delegates. We plan to make this the best conference

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ever held.

12. Summer practical work- The latest development in my service to the foreigner is the attempt to secure for those who wish them positions for the summer in which they may do practical work to complement the theoretical work of the college year. Several deans and heads of departments are cooperating with me and I hope to find desirable opportunities for a considerable number of foreigners. This practical work is greatly needed, particularly by our oriental friends, and they have unanimously welcomed the plan. I shall request students at work during the summer to send me occasional news of their work and I shall correspond with the employers to ascertain if the students are making good. If this plan works well, I believe that it will be a splendid thing for this university, as well as for international business relationships for Illinois merchants and manufacturers.

I see that this report which I had intended to make brief has become somewhat extensive, so I shall bring it to a conclusion. When you first appointed me as Adviser of Foreign Students no one could have predicted how rapidly this work would develop. The energy and time which it has absorbed could otherwise have been devoted to research work, which would have gained me recognition from my department. The fact is that my rank and salary have remained the same. When I came here in 1906 you intrusted me with the building up of a Spanish department, and I believe that the records of the department of Romance Languages show a phenomenal development during the three years that this work was left in my charge. In 1909 the coming of a new man in Spanish with higher rank than I coincided with your intrusting me with the supervision of the foreign students, and I have attempted to carry out this second charge

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conscientiously, setting aside my personal ambition in investigative lines in favor of the trust you gave me. I hope that I have satisfactorily performed my service and that it is deserving of recognition.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur R. Seymour

Adviser of Foreign Students.