

1944

Feb. - May

MATHEMATICS

Academic Activities

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

✓ RESEARCH

Procedures

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

Material copied from the V-4 File regarding the need
to establish a mathematical institute--serious lack of proper
training in this field.

Filed in Vertical File under "V" for Veblen.

V-4

1924

2/23

~~ACADEMIC PROCEDURES~~

✓ RESEARCH

Academic Procedures

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

VEBLEN, O.

Biographical

FLEXNER, SIMON

Veblen to Simon Flexner on methods of supporting
financially research in mathematics.

Filed in Chronological file under 1924, 2/23.

V-4

✓ RESEARCH

MORSE, MARSTON

PHYSICS

Academic Procedures

Biographical

Academic Activities

Basic research not unique in 1930, Morse said.

Since was have flooded the carburetor--little basic,
much applied research.

Morse Interview, 6/21/56, p. 13, 14

1940

May - Aug.

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

WORLD WAR II

Government Relations

RESEARCH

Academic Procedures

Extract from the Report of the Director, Appendix to Minutes 10/14/40, p. 8.

See SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS - Academic Organization

1941

2/24

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICS

Academic Organisation

✓ RESEARCH

Academic Procedures

WORLD WAR II

Government Relations

Report of the Director, Appendix to Minutes 2/24/41, pp. 1-9

See SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS - Academic Organisation

1942

April - December

GENERAL

Government Relations

RESEARCH

Academic Procedures

GENERAL

Relations WOAI

AYDELOTTE, F.

Biographical

STEWART, W. W.

Conversations between Dr. Edwin F. Gay of Huntington Library, economic historian, and Aydelotte, began in April, 1942 concerning a survey of post-war international organization for peace. By June a conference had been held between Gay, Viner, Stewart, Earle, Loveday, and Aydelotte, and the group was in consultation with Joseph H. Willits of the Rockefeller Foundation. Further conferences were scheduled to bring in other university personnel and projects for consideration of the problems. (See memorandum dated June 28, 1942, filed Chronological File, drafted by Ralph Barton Perry of Harvard University, amended by the group and sent to a number of universities).

Willits avoided commitment in saying that the Executive

Committee of the Rockefeller Foundation doesn't meet until September, and suggested that a fellowship might be provided for any man Gay decided should be research secretary. If Viner participates, it would be a legitimate charge against the Rockefeller-Bamberger Foundation grant, he felt, and the balance of any expenses might be covered by a small grant-in-aid for which a budgetary proposal should be presented. At this time Bill Aydelotte was acting as Secretary for the several..... (Willits to Aydelotte, July 6).

Riefler was in Washington working. Aydelotte wrote him of the meeting concerning the proposed study at the Institute of post-war problems most recently held which in addition to the original consultants included Ralph Baron Perry of Harvard, Dunn of Yale, and President Ford of Minnesota and others.

Copy of a letter in file, Millikan to Gay, dated July 8, on Huntington Library stationery. Tells Gay that if he decides to stay in the east to do what Millikan and his colleagues believe is not as important a job as he is doing at Huntington, "the Trustees of the Library ought to be making plans for going at the matter of doing what they can to replace you

here, where your influence is so much needed, and that is a difficult undertaking." At the same time he allows his name to be used as one of the sponsors of the undertaking.

In addition to this bitterness, Millikan's letter displays another: "Aydelotte has also been trying to get Hubble into a job for him, in which, from my point of view, he would be wasting his energies."

Aydelotte to Willits, July 27, 1942. Five week-end conferences at the Institute during June and July have been held on the project, participated in by the men named above in addition to Noyes of the National Bureau. The group has become convinced there was a real opportunity for useful service provided as sufficiently able group of men can be assembled at the Institute to take the lead in the studies.

He applies for a grant-in-aid of \$2000 to assist in defraying the expenses of further survey.

Bill Aydelotte applied for a fellowship to act as secretary to the group July 13.

Willits to Aydelotte, July 30, 1942. He found the plans evidently not to his liking; first, the task proposed was too immense to be done well, perhaps. Though it involved research, it also involved careful and continuing analysis of policies over a very wide area and perhaps a subsequent, very extensive campaign of educational discussion--at least among the universities of the country. He professes not to know enough about the character of the university groups to know whether they will be able to fit the purpose of whatever emphasis might be determined for the studies, and, likewise, whether any attempt should be made to cover the whole gamut of international problems, or, perhaps, to concentrate on international political organization. He did not know what was being done by other agencies. The removal of Ed Gay he found disturbing.

He suggested that the thinking should be keyed not only to what the best thinking in America determined, but the best thinking in England, and that Toynbee coming over in September might be consulted. He suggests a session of some such group

as Aydelotte, the Institute social scientists, Gay, Toynbee, Hamilton Fish Armstrong, Viner and Loveday to ~~discuss~~ discuss what, if anything, should be done, and if the answer was affirmative, where and who among the available personnel should be in charge. He emphasizes that these are personal reactions. The Rockefeller Foundation made \$2,000 available for the surveys.

Meanwhile, Viner who had been asked to Yale for a year as Visiting Professor finally accepted it, (August 14, 1942) and subsequently decided that since he had written his own ticket at Yale he should not divert his efforts by attending numerous conferences in Princeton.

With Gay's and Viner's withdrawal, the group settled on Riefler who was working with the Board of Economic Warfare. Aydelotte asked Riefler if it would not be possible for him to come and assume the leadership of the study at Princeton, pointing out that Toynbee and the rest of the group seemed to think that the thoughtful and almost philosophical aspects of the study are just as important as the technical. (August 31)

He asked for a conference to discuss the matter. He did, and Riefler refused to leave his work (September 5, 1942). Meanwhile, Aydelotte was, of course, carrying on a good part of the correspondence.

As the meetings became more frequent and intensive, but perhaps a little larger attendance, Aydelotte found it necessary to go away for a vacation for two weeks, and it seemed apparent that a certain amount of the driving force went out of the group.

It is not clear exactly what arrangements the Committee was contemplating for the carrying on of the work in September. The sums of \$30,000 and \$40,000 were mentioned as possible costs. A revealing letter from Gay, September 18, 1942, to Aydelotte indicated that whereas Gay in his previous conversations with Willits had assumed, perhaps, that Willits was interested in a small grant, he had come to think that what Willits was really saying was that the project was too enormous, and that they had better lift their sites if they were going to reach the target. The group still did not have a Chairman, nor a full-time Director.

A meeting was held on October 10 and 11 to discuss:

- (1) ~~Taxidiansk~~ Functional approach to post-war organization arranged by Dunn with Viner and Loveday.
 - (2) Continuation of discussion of Lovejoy's memorandum on international police force.
 - (3) Continuation of discussion of Hoyer's memorandum: "Analysis of Problems of International Organization With Restricted Membership."
 - (4) Discussion of plans for permanent organization and personnel of the universities' committee. (Perry to Aydelotte, September 25, 1942)
- Meanwhile, Perry had wanted to send out a further memorandum to certain universities to follow up the ~~Exkxkx~~ June 28, 1942, memorandum, but Aydelotte thought it had better not be done until the foundation had decided to grant.

The October meeting was not held, as a ~~xxx~~ matter of fact,

pending further conversations with Willits.

Perry and Willits had a long discussion October 8.
Willits questions:

(1) Is not the task too pretentious: can a small group like the one contemplated organize and administer 180 cooperative groups, and will not that task absorb all the central groups' energies and prevent their thinking out their problems. Why not a small senior staff to perform the studies full-time free from every distraction.

(2) Is personnel available?

(3) Which of four possible objectives was to be realized: individual research on special topics; ~~1/2~~ survey, analysis and appraisal by a selected central group of scholars; mobilizing the scholars of the country more comprehensively than has been done by any other organization; adult education on post-war problems. Perry said he thought the ~~first two~~ second and third were the most important. He characterized Willits as interested but non-committal, and was unwilling to give any hint

of his reaction, but said it would be forthcoming in about two weeks.

Meanwhile, a letter dated October 3 was sent to the 180 cooperating groups, mostly professors in universities. (Perry to Aydelotte, October 14, 1942).

On November 3, 1942, Willits said no, and Aydelotte told Perry he thought that without subsidy the Central Committee could keep up with the 180 groups or more, and there is question whether this is Perry's or Aydelotte's view. (Aydelotte to Gay, Aydelotte to Perry, November 4).

Willits communicated with Gay informally, and Gay responded November 11. His response indicates that Willits proposed an alternative plan which is not outlined in the file, nor is Willits' letter to Gay. Apparently the nubbin of Willits' disagreement was the collaboration with the 180 groups. Gay found himself embarrassed because he didn't know whether Willits

had told Perry and Aydelotte what he was thinking. It is evident from his letter that Perry was the Chairman of the committee, and Aydelotte was chief sponsor.

On November 25 Willits informed Aydelotte that after conference with Viner and Corbett, it was decided that if a grant is made by the Foundation for them to work, they will do so at Yale. Viner has complete freedom to work, and Corbett having a fellowship, or a Guggenheim grant, has chosen to work at Yale. President Seymour of Yale has filed an application for a grant from the Foundation, and Willits thinks it will be granted at the December meeting of the Trustees. But he thanks Gay and Aydelotte for the initiative taken by Gay and his committee that has led to the intensive consideration of what is needed, which in turn "led to the proposal now contemplated. For this I am very deeply grateful to you and Ed and the committee."

To this Aydelotte replied December 2 in a philosophic ~~xxxx~~ vain, and asks whether he may mention the grants, in other words, has the Foundation acted. "It looks as if the long series of weekend conferences which we held here during the summer had

produced two interesting results: the Viner-Corbett project at Yale and Perry's work at Harvard. While I am sorry that there is no immediate follow-up here, the important thing is that the work should go on. My idea of one of the functions of the Institute is precisely that of exploration and of facilitating research regardless of the place where the work is finally done."

D, Post-War Organization Study Correspondence

1946

2/4

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

Academic Personnel

GENERAL

Government Relations

✓ RESEARCH

Academic Procedures

Professor Morse informed the Faculty that the I. A. S. had joined a number of universities and scholarly ~~and~~ institutions in signing a letter addressed to Major General L. B. Groves, requesting that a regional laboratory for research in nuclear physics be established at or near Princeton. In the discussion, Professors Powley and von Neumann pointed out that there existed a certain ambiguity concerning the role of free research in such a laboratory. Neither considered it a real danger, since the Institute would always be free to withdraw its cooperation.

D File, Faculty Minutes, February 4, 1946

1946

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PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

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✓ RESEARCH

Academic Procedures

PAULI

Biographical

VON NEUMANN

Pauli and Von Neumann reported that the Institute had joined a number of universities and scholarly institutions in a request to General Groves for a regional laboratory for research in nuclear physics at or in the neighborhood of Princeton. In the discussion which followed, Pauli and von Neumann pointed out that there was a certain ambiguity concerning the role of free research in such a laboratory, but each considered the Institute would be free to withdraw if such happened.

Faculty Minutes, 2/4/46

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DIRECTOR

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CONTRACTS

Government Relations

✓ RESEARCH

Aca. Procedures

MORSE, HENRY ALLEN

Biographical

THOMPSON, HOMER A.

Meritt presented Homer Armstrong Thompson for nomination. Morse and Veblen willing to take immediate action; Barle and Weyl advocated postponement.

Morse reported on possible offer of the Naval Research to supply funds for pure sax research provided the project was sponsored by a member of the Faculty of the Institute and a contract made by the Institute. Panofsky questioned advisability of cooperation in research with a military organization. Von Neumann, Veblen and Morse likened it to the Computer Project, the only difference being that the project was in pure science on a topic initiated by Professor Morse and the proposed recipient. The research will be done whether

the grant is received from the Navy or not, but the grant will facilitate the research and assist with the financial burden.

Earle reported Moe's resignation without answer to the faculty committee letter of March 5, 1946. Report on formal appointment by Director of Committee on Succession: Alexander, Earle and Panofsky. And appendix containing Committee's letters February 4, 1946 (to Faculty on candidates), March 5, 1946 (to Moe asking for meeting), March 5, 1946 (to Faculty reporting on narrowing to five names by Committee).

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PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

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opinion on

Morse asked for a statement of ~~opinion~~ a possible of the Office of Naval Research to supply funds for pure research provided that the problem to be studied and the project were sponsored by a member of the Faculty of the Institute and a contract made by the Institute. Panofsky questioned the advisability of cooperation in research with a military organization. Von Neumann, Veblen and Morse expressed the opinion that the need of freedom of research in mathematics was understood by the people who were handling the problem for the Government. Professor Morse said that we were already doing it in the U. S. P.

Faculty Minutes 11/4/46

1949

10/3

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

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The Minutes disappear and become the briefest of memoranda. In this memorandum it is stated that the: "Decision with reference to contracts embodied in attached letter." This is hardly true, and certainly not adequate. See letter September 26, 1949 attached hereto.

"September 26, 1949

"Dear Mr. Chadwell:

(This letter has already been copied and is in the file.)

From Oppenheimer to Chadwell regarding contracts with government.

Faculty Minutes, 10/3/49 p. 211, letter is on page 212.

1956

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ECONOMICS

Academic Activities

TEACHING

Academic Procedures

✓ RESEARCH

PRINCETON

Relations WOAI

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Government Relations

HOWARD, S. E.

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

WARREN, ROBERT

VINER, JACOB

EINSTEIN, ALBERT

Interview with Professor S. E. Howard, Princeton
University, June 6, 1956.

Filed in Vertical File under Interviews of Howard.

1956

6/21

PRINCETON (8, 9, 10)
 HARVARD (1)
 MATHEMATICS (2, 7, 14)
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 APPOINTMENTS (2, 3, 4, 5)
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 STEWART (2, 3)
 FLEXNER (3, 7, 8)
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 WIENER, NORBERT (4, 6)
 WEYL (5, 8)
 EINSTEIN (6, 8, 11, 12, 16)
 VINER (9, 10)
 AYDELOTTE (10, 11)

Relations WOAI
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 Educational Institutions
~~Expansion~~ Administration
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 Biographical

Interview with Morse 6/21/56.

Filed in Vertical File under Morse Interviews.

1957

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✓ RESEARCH

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Academic Activities

PHYSICS

GOTTMAN

Biographical

EINSTEIN, A.

Interview with Jean Gottman, February 7, 1957.

Filed in Vertical File under Gottman Interviews.