

1930

5/20

GENERAL (PURPOSE)

Corporation

✓ DEGREES

Academic Procedures

Certificate of Incorporation

"...Purpose...is the establishment...of an institute for advanced study, and for the promotion of knowledge in all fields, and for the training of advanced students and workers for and beyond the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and other professional degrees of equal standing." (p. 17).

Admission of students "with and/or without payment of dues or charges." (p. 19)

Degrees include honorary degrees (p. 19)

Bulletin No. 1

1931

9/25 9/24

✓DEGREES

MITRANY

FRANKFURTER, F.

FLEXNER, A.

~~KUBER~~ HABERLER

Academic Procedures

Biographical

Vertical File, Frankfurter-1

1932

1/5

GENERAL

Relations W.O.A.I.

GENERAL

Academic Procedures

✓ DEGREES

See Robert P. Brooks (Political Science, Swarthmore) letter to Dr. Flexner on proposed policies of IAS

Vol. 1, Appendix to minutes of 4/11/32 (first set of minutes in Vol. 1)

1933

4/24

GENERAL

Academic Procedures

✓ DEGREES

Dr. Flexner reported in part:

".... A great many applications for admission to the Institute have been received, most of them lying in fields outside the field of pure mathematics. These have necessarily been declined. A small number, whose interests coincide with that of the group above mentioned, have been accepted. I am anxious that the first year the number of students shall be small in order to give the members of the staff an opportunity to work out their plans in cooperation with one another. The continued financial depression makes it unlikely that at this moment we will be troubled with an excessive number of acceptable applications. It may be, however, that a few students highly qualified may apply who will need some form of financial assistance. To this end the budget contains an item of \$5,000 to be expended in part or whole by the Director on the recommendation of the mathematical staff to aid young workers to continue beyond the Ph.D. degree. No one, who has not received the Ph.D. degree from an institution of high standing, has as yet been considered qualified for admission."

Vol. I, No. 13, Minutes, p. 3

1933

7/31

✓DEGREES

Academic Procedure

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

Flexner (Ontario, Canada) to Veblen (Hancock County, Maine): Excerpt

"..... I don't want to begin giving Ph.D. degrees, for I don't want to involve the staff in theses, examinations, and all the other paraphernalia. There are plenty of places now in which men can get a Ph.D. degree. Our work ought to be beyond that stage."

File IV-19

1934

1/29

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

✓DEGREES

Academic Procedure

NOMINATIONS

Administration

Minutes, p. 12:

"After discussion regarding possible developments in the field of economics and politics, it was, on motion,

"RESOLVED, That the Director be and hereby is authorized in his discretion to present at the April (1934) meeting of the Board of Trustees a nomination in the School of Economics and Politics with the terms and conditions necessary to secure the ablest available scholar in that field."

"The Chairman announced the appointment of the Committee on Nominations to report at the annual meeting as follows:

Mr. Samuel D. Leidesdorf, Chairman
Mr. Percy S. Straus
Mr. Walter W. Stewart
Honorary Trustees
Chairman
Vice-Chairman"

"On motion it was

"RESOLVED, That Mr. Hardin be and hereby is instructed to obtain permission from the Board of Education of the State of New Jersey in order that the Institute may, if it desires, be in a position to grant degrees."

1934

2/24

✓ DEGREES

Academic Procedures

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Academic Organization

PROFESSORS

Academic Personnel

MEMBERS

HARDIN, JOHN R.

Biographical

John R. Hardin to Charles R. Hardin, February 24, 1934.

Asks him to prepare necessary papers to present to the Board of Education of New Jersey for the granting of authority to grant degrees. (Directed by the Board meeting in January, 1934).

"The Institute is actually in going order with a fully equipped School of Mathematics, which has already received international recognition. It is located at Princeton, and has a staff of five professors. There are twenty-one students (they style them 'workers'). Two of them have Ph. D. degrees.

All the others have already been teaching. Some of them have reached the rank of associate professors or assistant professor in the most prominent institutions of this country and Europe. They have been at work for as much as eight or ten years, during which they have made notable contributions to mathematics....~~They~~ They are variously financed. Some of them pay their own way entirely and a tuition fee besides. Others are sent by the National Research Council,

to which the Rockefeller Foundation makes an appropriation for the purpose; others by the Rockefeller Foundation; still others have been granted leave of absence on half pay by their own institutions, despite the fact that these institutions are hard pressed financially, and in these instances the Institute has made a grant-in-aid. Others grants-in-aid have been made and will be made. Plans for other schools are under consideration, as well as for permanent buildings, etc."

JRH Correspondence from January, 1934 to December, 1936

1934

10/8

✓ DEGREES

Academic Procedures

Minutes, p. 13:

"The Director reported that he had received a letter, dated July 21, 1934, from Mr. Charles H. Elliott, Commissioner of Education of New Jersey, stating that the State Board of Education had granted the Institute for Advanced Study a license to confer the degree of Doctor of Philosophy upon those students who complete programs of study leading to that degree which are similar in scope to those offered in leading American universities. The Director explained that it was no part of the policy of the Institute to confer degrees, earned or honorary, but that following the advice of Mr. Hardin it seemed wise to obtain permission to do so, even though no use of the permission was contemplated."

Vol. I, No. 20

12/11

✓ DEGREES

Academic Procedures

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOAI

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

EISENHART

They have had a conference— Eisenhart, Veblen, and Flexner, and Flexner has gone over again the four bulletins which have already been published.

He quotes from Bulletin No. 2, page 1, and says that in subsequent bulletins the following specific statement is made:

"In some fields universities provide admirable opportunities for work beyond the Ph. D. degree, but with the exception of ~~medicines~~ and certain other branches, the country has not hitherto possessed an institution in which young men and women could continue their independent training beyond this stage, and in which research could be carried on with adequate

support without pressure of numbers or routine, and unhurried by the need of obtaining practical results."

He said the reference to medicine embraced the Rockefeller Institute, "and to some extent similar facilities are available in a few medical schools." Dean Eisenhart's suggestion ~~quarantine~~ that in the future the Institute should enroll only post-doctoral students, therefore, harmonizes with the statements which have been printed, although a few exceptions, not on reflection worthwhile, have previously been made.

Flexner was opposed to the multiplication of rules and regulations. He thinks that the question of importance attached to degrees is one which cannot be answered in such a way as to make sure that one is doing in every individual case the wisest possible thing. He cites Johns Hopkins as holding to the rule that admission is restricted to ~~men~~ holders of the A. B. Degree, though there were worthy persons equally fit to enter the school who had not yet obtained the degree. In the same way the Rockefeller Institute has followed the practice of admitting only persons who have obtained the M. D. Degree

although it is an arbitrary decision, and there may be some individuals who could qualify for admission, and would be just as good as some who are admitted ~~with the restriction~~ pursuant to the restriction. "The same reasons lead me to believe that on the whole and in the long run we should insist that persons who have not obtained the Ph. D. Degree should obtain it at one of the many graduate schools in this country before being registered as a member of the Institute."

~~White, Eleanor, Abraham~~

IV-20

³
1955

12/11

GENERAL (PURPOSE)

Corporation

✓ DEGREES

Academic Procedures

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

TAUB, A.

GIVENS, W.

Digest of Flexner's letter, ^{+ Veblen} of December 11, 1935 relating to a discussion which Eisenhart, Veblen, and Flexner had on the question of admission to the Institute of other than post-doctoral members.

Filed in Chronological File under 12/11/35.

File IV-20

1935

12/18

GENERAL (PURPOSE)

✓ DEGREES

PLEXNER, A.

VEBLÉN, O.

TAUB, A.

GIVENS, W.

RIDENOUR

BLEICK, W.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Flexner to Veblen in regard to giving Ridenour a full-time post

as instructor.

Filed under 1935, 12/18

File IV-20

Corporation

Academic Procedures

Biographical

Relations WOI

Chronological file

1935

12/¹⁹18 and
12/23

GENERAL [PURPOSE)

Corporation

✓ DEGREES

Academic Procedures

FLEXNER, A.

Biographical

VEBLEN, O.

TAUB, A.

GIVENS, W.

RIDENOUR

BLEICK, W.

HIRSCHFELDER, DR. J. L.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOI

Letters from Veblen to Flexner and Flexner to Veblen

Source: IV-20

Filed in Chronological file, 1935, 12/18

1935

GENERAL (PURPOSE)

✓ DEGREES

FLEXNER, A.

VEBLER, O.

TAUB, A.

Givens, W.

RIDENOUR

BLEICK, W.

HIRSCHFELDER, DR. J. L.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Veblen to Flexner

12/27

Corporation

Academic Procedures

Biographical

Relations WOI

"I appreciate your remarks about the part-time arrangement, and although my experience does not agree with that which you cite, I hope that you will find me accepting the decision in the same loyal spirit in which it is taken. Indeed, I did not suggest the meeting of the mathematical group at which your letter of December 11 was discussed, but merely circulated your letter for the information of my colleagues."

1948

2/2

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

✓ DEGREES

OPPENHEIMER, J. R.

Academic Personnel

Academic Procedures

Biographical

Oppenheimer raised a question with the faculty of granting doctoral degrees. Veblen expressed himself as flatly opposed on the ground that there would be so few that each would have an excessive value. I asked Oppenheimer what made him suggest it. He said that when he came to Princeton he was helping three or four University of California men with their doctoral theses. They were at the Institute. He would have liked to give them a degree from the Institute, and this was the sole reason for which he raised the question. He came to see later, he said, that it would not be a good thing because of the limitation of the fields, etc., and because, mainly because, the Institute was not set up to handle graduate work. At first he misunderstood the question and said, "Oh, you mean that time / all that hassle about my saying the Institute was an educational institution, and I said, no, I didn't mean that. This was a specific reference to degrees. He didn't remember it, but

he said that the attitude of the faculty was perfectly right.
there

He said that/~~ik~~ was also a question raised with him ~~about~~ by some of the trustees on the advisability of the Institute granting honorary degrees, and that he expressed himself as flatly opposed to that in the very beginning. There is no record of any such discussion in the records so far as I have been able to ascertain.

Interview with Oppenheimer, July 1, 1957

1948

2/2

✓ DEGREES

ACADEMIC PROCEDURES

The Director asked the faculty before meeting again to consider the question of granting doctorate degrees at the Institute. The charter permitted this to be done. The Director asked the faculty to consider any dangers they might see in the practice. Professor Veblen pointed out that if just a few degrees were given they would have an excessive value, and stated he would be opposed. The matter was to be discussed at the next faculty meeting.

Minutes Faculty Meeting, February 2, 1948, File V-1

1956

3/26

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

FOUNDERS

✓ DEGREES

EINSTEIN, A.

EISENHART, LUTHER P.

VERLEN, O.

Relations WOA1

Academic Personnel

Corporation

Academic Procedures

Biographical

Interview with Luther P. Eisenhart, March 26, 1956.

Filed in Vertical File under Eisenhart Interviews.

Interview with Luther P. Eisenhart, 3/26/56

1956

5/28

ART

Academic Activities

ARCHEOLOGY

FACULTY

Academic Personnel

MEMBERS

✓ DEGREES

PRINCETON

Relations WOAI

LIBRARY

Facilities

LEE, RENSSELAER

Biographical

MOREY

PANOFSKY

de TOLNAY

Interview with Rensselaer Lee, May 28, 1956.

Filed in Vertical File under Lee Interviews.

1957

2/14

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

JOHNS HOPKINS

GROSVENOR INSTITUTE

✓ DEGREES

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

STEWART, W. W.

FLEXNER, ABRAHAM

PINTNER, SINGH

POSDICK, RAYMOND

Foundations

Educational Institutions

Academic Procedures

Academic Organization

Biographical

Interview with W. W. Stewart, February 14, 1957.

Filed in Vertical File under Stewart Interviews.