

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

January 9, 1933

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study was held at the Uptown Club, 60 East 42nd Street, New York, New York, on Monday, January 9, 1933.

Present: Messrs. Aydelotte, Edgar S. Bamberger, Louis Bamberger, Carrel, Flexner, Friedenwald, Hardin, Houghton, Maass, Weed, Mrs. Fuld, and Miss Sabin.

Absent and excused: Messrs. Lehman, Leidesdorf, and Straus.

The Chairman presided.

The minutes of the meeting held on October 10, 1932, having been distributed, their reading was dispensed with, and they were approved after the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the clauses of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on October 10, 1932, pertaining to the pensions of Elsa Einstein and Elizabeth M. D. Richardson Veblen, be and hereby are amended to read as follows:

That if his wife, Elsa Einstein, survive him she receive during her widowhood a pension of \$5,000 a year;

That if his wife, Elizabeth M. D. Richardson Veblen, survive him she receive during her widowhood a pension of \$5,000 a year.

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on December 7, 1932, having been distributed, were, on motion, received and ordered to be placed on file.

The President presented the following report:

As you will gather from the report to be made by the Director, the School of Mathematics of the Institute for Advanced Study will be opened on October 1, 1933. The Director has spent the months since our last meeting in making the necessary arrangements so that a modest start of very high quality can be made at that time. This is the most important piece of information which I have to communicate at this meeting. What else I have to say is of a personal nature.

Mrs. Fuld and I have taken the closest interest and the most profound pleasure in our association with this enterprise. We feel, however, that we wish in its interest not to be burdened with responsibility but rather to leave responsibility in the hands of the Director and the Trustees. We have discussed this matter fully with the Director, and it is our opinion, in which he concurs, that the By-Laws can be simplified so as to permit a gradual evolution by dropping the offices of President and Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, so that the executive management of the Institute will remain in the hands of the Trustees while the Director will be responsible for the scientific direction. In addition, Mrs. Fuld and I would prefer to resign as Trustees and to accept a suggestion made by the Director that we become Honorary Trustees with the privilege of attending the meetings of the Board, the meetings of committees, and membership upon committees. This statement on my part, with which Mrs. Fuld agrees, will indicate to you our confidence in the Board and our firm belief that the warm reception and commendation which the Institute has received indicate that it is destined to fill a need in the higher educational scheme of American education. I trust that this informal notice on our part will be accepted by the Board and that suitable amendments and nominations may be submitted at the annual

meeting of the Board. I assure you that my interest and Mrs. Fuld's interest have become keener and keener as time has passed and that we will do all in our power to promote the objects for which the Institute was founded.

I beg you to accept our warm thanks for your invaluable coöperation and support, and we look to you to maintain the high standard at which a beginning is now to be made.

The Director and several of the Members spoke with deep feeling of the wisdom and unselfishness with which Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld had devoted themselves to the creation of the Institute for Advanced Study and stated that they had been ideal founders in all respects.

Thereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the Report of the President be and hereby is accepted and incorporated in the minutes of the meeting and that the Director be and hereby is empowered and authorized to draft resolutions expressing the feeling and sentiment of the Board of Trustees in respect to the founders, Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld.

The following report was presented by the Director and, on motion, accepted and ordered to be spread on the minutes of the meeting:

At the meeting of the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study, held October 10, 1932, the Board approved the appointments of Dr. Albert Einstein and Dr. Oswald Veblen as Professors in the School of Mathematics. Since that date I have been mainly engaged in endeavoring to round out the mathematical nucleus, and it will appear from motions to be submitted at this meeting that I am recommending two additional professorial appointments, that of Professor Hermann Weyl of the University of Göttingen and that of Professor James Waddell Alexander of

Princeton University. With these two appointments a battery of four mathematicians of great distinction has been formed, and these men in close coöperation with the Princeton group ought to establish within a reasonable time one of the outstanding centers for mathematical teaching and research throughout the world.

Professor Weyl has had a distinguished career. He was trained by Professor Hilbert of Göttingen, who during his long career was head of the most distinguished mathematical school on the Continent of Europe. Subsequently he became professor in the Technische Hochschule at Zürich where Professor Einstein also achieved eminence. Less than three years ago Professor Hilbert retired from his post in Göttingen, and Professor Weyl was called to succeed him. Meanwhile, Professor Weyl has on two or three occasions visited the United States, spending a year in Princeton, lecturing at Yale and elsewhere. Despite the fact that he is only in the middle 40's, he is without doubt the most distinguished figure in mathematics in Europe. His addition to the staff of the Institute for Advanced Study is hardly second in importance to the appointment of Professor Einstein and will be so recognized throughout the learned world.

Professor Alexander is a younger man. I had the feeling that, as this is an American institution, the staff must be recruited as far as possible with Americans, provided men of sufficient promise and ability could be secured. There are hardly more than half a dozen American mathematicians eligible on this basis. After very careful thought Professor Alexander was selected on the basis of his scientific achievement and his comparative youth. The group as now constituted ranges in age with Professor Alexander, who is a little over 40, to Professor Einstein, who is in his 52nd year. Professor Weyl is about 45. Thus there is no danger that all the

leading members of the staff will retire at about the same time. There is indeed a spread of almost ten years, so that the traditions established by the first group should continue as replacements occur. In the making of these selections I have had the advantage of conference not only with Professor Veblen and his former associates at Princeton but with other mathematicians as well, and I think I am not overstating when I say that there is absolutely no difference of opinion as to the high quality of all the appointees.

I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to the authorities of Princeton University, who have whole-heartedly coöperated with me in the endeavor to make our own group as strong as possible. The men chosen are personal friends of the men already engaged in Princeton, and there is therefore every prospect of the most wholesome and intimate coöperation. Among themselves the men have agreed that their respective students may attend the seminars and lectures of each other, so that, while the identity of the two institutions will be absolutely preserved, they may functionally have the effect of a single great organization.

After the first appointments were made by the Board, I communicated with the proper officials of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund, and the National Research Council. They have all informed me that they will be delighted to send fellows from different parts of the world to work in the School of Mathematics of the Institute. Indeed, Dr. Tisdale, who has charge of fellowships in the natural sciences for the Rockefeller Foundation in Paris, has written me that the Foundation has awarded a fellowship to the most brilliant young Dane working in this field in order that he may spend next year in our School of Mathematics. Additional fellowships of this kind will undoubtedly be granted in the near future, while applications from outsiders continue to be received

and are being passed upon at present by Professor Veblen.

At a former meeting of the Board I was authorized to prepare a second bulletin. This has been done as far as I am myself able to do it. I am now waiting for brief statements from Professor Einstein and Professor Weyl regarding the opportunities which they propose to offer.

The Graduate School of Princeton University has been built up upon the basis of a low tuition fee, namely, \$100 per annum. It seems to me that at the outset it is expedient to adopt the same scale.

I have conferred with the authorities of the State Department in respect to the visas of foreigners who may be appointed to the Institute or who may desire to study in it, and I have been assured that no difficulties of any kind are to be anticipated.

The Report of the Finance Committee was covered by the informal report of the Treasurer, which in Mr. Leidesdorf's absence was made by Mr. Flexner, who stated that the resources of the Institute are now larger than when the original gift was made.

Mr. Maass, Chairman of the Committee on Site, reported progress.

The Director reported that acting under the instructions of the Executive Committee he had offered a professorship in the School of Mathematics to Professor Hermann Weyl on the terms set forth in his letter dated December 7, 1932. Thereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the action of the Executive Committee in reference to the appointment of Professor Hermann Weyl to a professorship in the School of Mathematics be and hereby is authorized and approved.

The Director nominated Professor James Waddell Alexander a professor in the School of Mathematics on the following terms:

That his appointment as Professor in the School of Mathematics date from October 1, 1933; that his salary be fixed at \$10,000 a year, of which he will contribute 5% to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, the Institute contributing an equal sum monthly; and that, unless his term of appointment be prolonged by mutual consent, he retire at 65 years of age.

On motion, the nomination of Professor James Waddell Alexander as Professor in the School of Mathematics was approved.

The Director stated that American mathematicians had formed the American Mathematical Society, which is devoting its efforts to the cultivation of an increased interest in higher mathematics in American institutions of learning and to the publication of transactions too large for periodicals. The expenses of the Society are met by contributions mainly received from American universities, almost all of which are members paying an annual subscription varying from \$100 to \$500 a year. He recommended that the School of Mathematics of the Institute be identified with this movement. Thereupon, on motion, it was

RESOLVED, That the Institute for Advanced Study become a sustaining member of the American Mathematical Society for a period of five years by the payment of Two hundred Dollars (\$200.00) annually during that period.

The Director stated that, while the teaching and training of promising young mathematicians would be a permanent object of the School of Mathematics, it is important to realize that research and publication are inseparable. There is nothing to be gained from research if those results are not available to others working in the same field. In the field of mathematics the opportunities for publication in America are limited. Some years ago the mathematical group at

Princeton University established the Annals of Mathematics, towards which the University contributed in cash and services approximately \$2,000 a year. The Rockefeller Foundation made an annual contribution over a five-year period, which expires this year and which will not be renewed. The Director recommended that the Annals should henceforth over an experimental period of five years be the joint medium of publication of the School of Mathematics of the Institute and the Mathematical Faculty of Princeton University under an editorial group composed equally of members of the two groups. It was thereupon, on motion,

RESOLVED, That the Institute for Advanced Study hereby appropriate Two thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) annually over a five-year period towards the expense of publication of the Annals of Mathematics to be issued under the joint editorship of the School of Mathematics of the Institute and of the Mathematical Faculty of Princeton University.

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

Mr. Percy S. Straus, Chairman
 Mr. Frank Aydelotte
 Miss Florence R. Sabin
 Mr. Louis Bamberger, ex officio
 Mrs. Felix Fuld, ex officio

Mr. Friedenwald suggested that a telegram of most cordial greetings be sent by the Board of Trustees to Professor Albert Einstein and his wife who were landing in America on the day of the meeting; whereupon, on motion, the Director was authorized to do so.

At the request of Mr. Bamberger, Mr. Maass called the attention of the Trustees to the fact that pensions and widows' annuities had been provided for members of the faculty, but that no such provision had been made for the Director. He stated that Mr. Bamberger wished it known to the Trustees that it was the desire of Mrs. Fuld and himself, if the Trustees concurred, that provision be made to pension the Director upon his retirement and to provide an annuity for his widow.

The matter was generally discussed, Mr. Flexner, although present, not participating in the discussion or in the ensuing vote. Thereupon, on motion, duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED, That upon the retirement of the Director he be granted a pension of Eight thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) per annum to be paid by the Institute for Advanced Study, and that in the event of his death there be paid to his wife, Anne Crawford Flexner, should she survive him, during the period of her widowhood, a pension of Five thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per annum.

It was suggested that the annual meeting be held on Monday, April 24, instead of April 10, 1933. Notices will be sent out as usual, and the meeting on April 10 will be adjourned till April 24 on account of lack of a quorum.

There being no further business, on motion, the meeting adjourned.