

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

November 24, 1939

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Advanced Study was held on Friday, November 24, 1939, in Fuld Hall, Princeton, New Jersey.

Presents: Mr. Aydelotte, Chairman
Mr. Edgar S. Bamberger
Mr. Stewart
Mr. Maass, ex officio

Absent and excused: Mr. Houghton
Mr. Bamberger
Mrs. Fuld

The Chairman, Mr. Aydelotte, presided.

The Executive Committee considered a draft of resolutions concerning Dr. Flexner and voted to refer it to the Faculty with the suggestion that the draft be revised by a Committee of the Faculty collaborating with the Chairman of the Executive Committee and that the resolutions be adopted after revision as joint resolutions of the Faculty and Trustees. The resolutions, as revised and approved by the Faculty at a meeting held on November 24, are appended to these minutes.

The matter of Dr. Flexner's salary, pension, and title having been left by the Trustees to the Executive Committee with power, it was voted that Dr. Flexner receive full salary for the remainder of the calendar year, 1939. It was voted that the resolution passed on January 9, 1933, that upon his retirement Dr. Flexner receive a pension of \$8,000.00 per year 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 \$5,000.00, be amended in respect to the amounts mentioned and that Dr. Flexner's pension be

fixed at \$12,000.00 per year beginning January 1, 1940, and that his wife, Anne Crawford Flexner, in the event that she survives her husband should receive a pension of one half the amount, that is, \$6,000.00 per year, during her widowhood.

It was voted that Dr. Flexner should be given the title of Director Emeritus, and it was suggested that the Trustees should at the proper time make such alterations in the By-Laws as would make it possible for him to be elected a Life Trustee.

It was voted that the deed executed by the officers of the Institute for Advanced Study and delivered by Professor Charles W. Bray for a strip of land adjoining Professor Bray's residence be ratified, approved, and confirmed, including the delivery of the deed.

The Director reported the circumstances under which he had authorized Mr. Riefler to go to Guatemala, but that Mr. Riefler for personal reasons had been unable to take advantage of this opportunity. The Executive Committee authorized the Director to act in his discretion if similar circumstances should arise again.

The Director reported that he had received a request from Professor Whitton of Princeton University for space in which to conduct a study of short wave radio propaganda under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The Director reported that he had discussed this request with President Dodds, who had indicated that it would be a great service to Princeton University if the Institute would provide quarters to house this investigation. The Executive Committee thereupon authorized the Director to place at Professor Whitton's disposal such space as he needs

in the house at 69 Alexander Street, it being understood that the Institute will bear the expense of heating the house. This permission was granted for the present academic year with the proviso that it might be cancelled on sixty days' notice in case the property should be sold.

The Committee discussed the question of 69 Alexander Street and voted that the Director Emeritus or the Director of the Institute be authorized to take up with the President of Princeton University the question of the sale of this house to Princeton and offer the house to the University whenever there was suitable opportunity for sale at cost price on a four per cent mortgage for the full amount, with no down payment.

The Committee discussed the question of alterations of Olden Manor to make it suitable for a Director's House and authorized the Director and the Chairman of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds to obtain architectural plans and estimates from Mr. Larson.

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

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND FACULTY

The Trustees and Faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study take the occasion of Dr. Flexner's retirement to record in this joint resolution their sense of permanent indebtedness to him. The character of the Institute has been determined by his faith in the rôle of the creative scholar in society. It is this that led him, when he undertook to organize the Institute, to concentrate first and foremost upon the search for individuals, to insist upon complete freedom for those individuals in the pursuit of their scholarly objectives, and to endeavor to surround their lives with a dignified environment. These ideals, deeply held, account for the boldness of the Institute's plan, the flexibility of its arrangements, and the severity of its standards. He built the Institute around its scholars and did not try to fit them into a pre-arranged institutional plan.

The embodiment of his ideals in the Institute constitutes the latest phase of a career which spans the period, from Gilman to the present time, during which American education and scholarship achieved maturity. In that career his experience was long and varied, first, as a successful teacher, then, as a brilliant investigator of educational and social institutions, and subsequently, as a wise administrator of philanthropic funds. All this experience he placed at our disposal. Whatever prestige the Institute enjoys or may enjoy in the future, whatever service it may render to scholarship, will be based upon the foundations established by Abraham Flexner. Exerit monumentum aere perennius.