

Subgroup 6

Series 4

16 a.

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OREGON STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

GRADUATE DIVISION

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON MEDICAL SCHOOL

OREGON STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
PORTLAND EXTENSION CENTER

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILDING
MARQUAM HILL
PORTLAND, OREGON

November 9, 1939

Chancellor F. M. Hunter
President G. W. Peavy ✓
President D. M. Erb

Gentlemen:

Herewith I am enclosing copies of letters sent to all departments of the University, the State College, and the Medical School which offer the Ph.D., M.A. and M.S. degrees. These two letters are the result of our conferences some weeks ago.

Very sincerely yours,

O. Larsell

O. Larsell, Dean
Graduate Division

OL:MM
ENC:2

Copy of letter sent to departments offering M.A. and M.S.
degrees only.

November 9, 1939

Dear Professor:

In view of numerous changes in recent years in the Oregon State System of Higher Education it appears desirable to review the status of requirements for the Ph.D. degree in the various fields of knowledge represented on our campuses, the facilities for work leading to this degree and the feasibility of offering such work in the various departments.

It is desirable that as many departments as can properly do so, by reason of personnel, equipment and the subject matter treated, develop their graduate work to the level of offering the doctorate. Only by so doing can the institutions most effectively perform that part of their function which involves the growth of scholarship in the State and of contributing their fair share to the sum total of human knowledge. The alternative is for most of our departments to remain at the level of undergraduate teaching and of offering the M.A. and M.S. degrees with the limited growth in scholarship and recognition which this involves.

It should be recognized that at present our institutions should not undertake to offer the Ph.D. degree in all subjects. We cannot expect at the present time to compete with the older and wealthier institutions in some of their more ambitious and expensive programs. There are certain limited fields, however, in which, by virtue of our special facilities and of individuals on the staff who may be regarded as authorities, the doctorate could well be emphasized. If this can be done at the proper level of excellence our institutions will gain a standing which will enable them to serve both the State and the Commonwealth of Scholarship more fully.

It is, of course, self-evident that unless the doctorate can be offered at a high standard, the institutions in the long run will be hindered rather than helped by offering it at all. At present some departments which very properly could accept candidates for the doctorate have been reluctant to undertake the responsibilities involved. Other departments which some years ago made arrangements to offer the degree have been so changed in personnel or otherwise that their programs and facilities should be reviewed.

This plan to take stock is entered upon after consultation with Chancellor Hunter, Presidents Erb and Peavy, and Deans Taylor and Weniger, all of whom fully endorse the proposal. One form of letter is being sent to the departments of the University, the State College, and the Medical School, which are now indicated in the catalogues as offering facilities for earning the Ph.D. degree. A modified form of the letter is being sent to departments offering the M.A. or M.S. degrees only. It is important that the replies submitted represent, so far as possible, the views of the Graduate Faculty members of each department rather than of the department head or chairman alone. May I ask you, therefore, to send me the replies of your department to the following questions:

1. Would it be desirable or feasible to offer doctoral work in the department?
2. If so, specify the nucleus available: (a) faculty members with specialized research interests and attainments; (b) material facilities in library collections, laboratory equipment, museums, or field work.
3. What divisions of the subject matter of your department or school do you consider essential for doctoral training?
4. Specify what additions to staff or facilities would be necessary to equip the department for a doctoral program.

On the basis of this information the Graduate Office will undertake a study of what can be done and how best to proceed toward furthering work leading to the doctorate and the growth of the Graduate Division in this direction. A report will be made to the General Graduate Council before any action is taken to change the status quo. It is planned to have a meeting of the General Graduate Council early in December. I would greatly appreciate having your reply within the next two weeks, if possible.

Very sincerely yours,

O. Larsell, Dean
Graduate Division

OL:MM

Copy of letter sent to departments offering Ph.D. degree.

November 9, 1939

Dear Professor:

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1. Does the department feel that it has the facilities and the instructional staff with specialized research interests which would justify it in accepting suitable candidates for such training?
2. If so, into what divisions would you divide the subject matter of your field? In which of these do you require the candidate to have a reasonable mastery? Do you accept doctoral candidates for all of these fields? What specialization, over and above the mastery of certain required fields, do you require? Do you have any other requirements, such as service courses outside the department, or specified minors? Should service courses be required in your field, in some instances, without graduate credit?
3. Indicate the staff members whom you consider qualified by scholarly interest and activity to give instruction on the doctoral level in particular fields? When possible, list publications resulting in national recognition of particular fields of research by department members. Specify any other qualifications or recognition you consider important.
4. Mention any special facilities in library collections, laboratory equipment, museums or field work of the department or school.
5. Which of the departmental divisions considered as essential for doctoral training do you think need to be strengthened? Specify in what way. In which of the departmental divisions would you consider instructional and other facilities inadequate to justify doctoral specialization?
6. If the department feels that it should not continue to offer doctoral training, what additions to staff or facilities would be needed to qualify it to continue?

On the basis of this information the Graduate Office will undertake a study of what can be done and how best to proceed toward

- 3 -

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Very sincerely yours,

O. Larsell, Dean
Graduate Division

OL:MM

November 14, 1939.

Mr. D. M. Goode,
Box 2725,
Stanford University, California.

My dear Mr. Goode:

The attached correspondence is self-explanatory. It occurs to me it would be well for you to read this over. If you have any suggestions to make, please advise. Believe you would also better return Dr. Larsell's letter, with accompanying papers.

Respectfully yours,

W. A. Jensen
Executive Secretary.

B

Box 2725
Stanford University
California

November 19, 1939

Mr. W. A. Jensen
Executive Secretary
Oregon State College
Corvallis, Oregon

Dear Mr. Jensen:

Dr. Larsell's letter of November 9, with its accompanying papers, is enclosed. I am glad to give you my comments. In general the canvass that Dr. Larsell is making seems to be highly commendable. I assume that he is interested, as dean of the Graduate Division, to build and improve the graduate work throughout the System. Whenever change in the existing structure, even in its superficial aspects, is under consideration, however, it is important to be alert lest someone, under cover of changes, seize the occasion to make changes that ought not to be made.

Without regard to possible attempts at encroachment, I believe that Oregon State College, in considering the questions raised by Dean Larsell, should be guided by the following general principles:

1. Existing authorizations to give master and doctor degrees should be retained. I am sure need exists in each case. If personnel or equipment should be deemed at present inadequate, the need for the work still remains, and it should be recognized that, without the authority to give the degrees, the personnel and equipment will be difficult if not impossible to obtain.

2. Regarding the doctorate in fields that do not now offer it, I can have at this distance, with no opportunity to discuss the problem with representatives of the schools, only a general feeling, but I do feel strongly that the matter should be viewed in an aggressive manner and with an eye to the future, not merely five years but twenty-five years hence. It might be considered that with the School of Science now on the campus there might be less need to develop the doctorate in engineering, home economics, forestry, and pharmacy. As I see it, however, the presence of the School of Science now makes possible earlier development of such advanced work than would be possible without it. (It seems to me that in engineering we should be soon ready. In home economics, I should like to see Oregon State pioneer graduate work in the same way it pioneered undergraduate work in the field.)

The field of the School of Science needs to be carefully guarded, especially in certain respects, and while I am sure Dean Gilfillan is alert to each of these respects I shall

mention them because they are connected with the Medical School and Dean Larsell might easily be biased:

1. Any statements regarding our work in bacteriology, biochemistry, and zoology should be phrased so as to include as integral parts of our major work the fields of "anatomy, bacteriology and hygiene, biochemistry, pathology, and physiology" in which the Medical School announces graduate work leading to M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. All work in these fields (except when pursued by holders of the M.D. degree or by medical students who are working toward the M.D.) falls within the broad field of "the biological and physical sciences" assigned to the State College. We should defend this field, and we should occupy it; this means specific mention of these particular fields when we announce the scope of our graduate work.

(The situation is similar in the case of pharmacology, in which the School of Pharmacy should watch its field, as the Medical School announces the M.A. and Ph.D. in this field. It would be desirable, for this reason, for the School of Pharmacy to be offering the doctorate.)

2. Any statements or rulings applying to the Medical School should be scrutinized for assertions or implications that might not be in harmony with the situation sketched above. For example, the Medical School should not be allowed to appropriate "human anatomy, human physiology" by any process of implication. (If it proposed to appropriate the field of human pathology, however, I do not see how we could object, as that would appear to be truly its field. I doubt not that there may be a pure-science side of human pathology that we might hold; otherwise, why does the Medical School lump pathology along with anatomy, physiology, etc.

3. For strategic reasons (I suppose there are other sound reasons also) we should give the doctorate in bacteriology. I hope very much that the department is in position to ask for authority. In asking for such authority I believe that Dr. Langton and Dr. Henrietta Morris, who are now listed as (part-time) members of the departmental faculty, should be claimed as contributors to the graduate work in particular. It was understood at the time they were listed under the Bacteriology heading (present catalog, p. 111) that they would be available as members of graduate committees and participants in the departmental seminars. I cannot go into detail here, but there is an important opportunity involved here, and the time is ripe. Unless we move, the School of Physical Education will have the lead. If we move, we shall have the lead in the portion of the field that belongs to us. (There should be little discussion of this matter, except within close circles.)

4. Under mathematics we should remember that the Survey assigned "Mathematics and Statistics" to Oregon State College. It is well to keep statistics in the picture; also to watch the University (particularly social science) in the matter. The University needs generous provision of service work in statistics, but should not be allowed to usurp.

Mr. Jensen - 3

During the past year, when the catalog of the Graduate Division was in preparation, these matters were given attention by both Dr. Weniger and Dr. Gilfillan. I assume you will wish to call this letter to the attention of both these men and hence enclose copies for that purpose.

My studies are becoming very "numerous" at this stage of the term, and I feel very busy. The work all continues to be challenging and valuable.

News from Corvallis--football victories, earthquakes, record enrollments--sounds interesting indeed. I am eager to be back at term end, to renew contacts and tackle a few duties. Of the last-named I am praying, of course, that there may not be too many.

With cordial regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Delmer Gorde

Box 2725
Stanford University
California

November 19, 1939

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Executive Secretary
Oregon State College
Corvallis, Oregon

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With cordial regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

November 22, 1939.

Dr. F. A. Gilfillan,
Dean of Science,
Oregon State College.

Dear Dr. Gilfillan:

You are familiar, I think with Dr. Larsell's memorandum to the President of some few weeks ago. This memorandum I sent to Mr. Goode. He has returned the correspondence with a memorandum of comment. It occurs to me that you might wish to peruse Mr. Goode's memorandum. An extra copy of Mr. Goode's comment is enclosed, in case you wish to retain same for your files. Please return all other papers.

Respectfully yours,

W. A. Jensen,
Executive Secretary.

OREGON STATE COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
CORVALLIS, OREGON

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 27, 1939

Mr. W. A. Jensen
Executive Secretary
Campus

Dear Mr. Jensen:

I am returning herewith the material which you sent, along with the letter from Mr. Goode, of which I am retaining one copy.

I believe I have had in mind most of the points which Mr. Goode has made with reference to the allocation in certain biological science fields. One reason for securing Dr. Butts right now, even with a loss to organic chemistry, was in order that we might not allow Dr. West of the Medical School to preempt this field.

With regard to the doctorate work in Bacteriology, I believe that this might now be attempted, although it must be admitted that this is probably the weakest department in science as regards graduate work. The young man, whom Copson secured a year ago, is a very appreciable addition to their graduate facilities.

I shall be glad when Mr. Goode returns, in order that I might discuss with him certain phases concerning the work in Mathematics.

Very truly yours,

F. A. Gilfillan
F. A. Gilfillan

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Enc.