A Guide to the
Office of Commonwealth Relations
Records, 1958 – 1983

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UPF 500

Prepared by J. M. Duffin

July 2001
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PROVENANCE

Transferred from the Office of Commonwealth Relations in 1990 (accession number 1990:50).

ARRANGEMENT

The records are arranged in one series, General File. The files are ordered alphabetically within the series.

AGENCY HISTORY

The University of Pennsylvania has a long financial relationship with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in which the Commonwealth played an important role during major periods of expansion in the University’s history. Though the state has given money to the University at various times since the eighteenth century, it was not until the end of the nineteenth...
century that it frequently sought assistance from the state. Provost Charles Custus Harrison’s building expansion program at the beginning of the twentieth century began the tradition of regular and substantial aid from the Commonwealth in 1909. Much of the work with the state legislature and governor to obtain these appropriations was handled by special assistants to the Provost and, after 1927, the Executive Vice Provost (later Vice President).

The Office of Commonwealth Relations was formed in 1954 as part of the Department of Development and Public Relations during the reorganization of the University under the leadership of President Gaylord Harnwell. The function of the office is to coordinate and assist with efforts to seek funding from the state government for various programs at the University. Commonwealth Relations remained part of the Development Office until 1994 when President Judith Rodin placed the office under the guidance of the Vice President for Government and Public Affairs.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of the Office of Commonwealth Relations documents the review of the staff of the Master Plan for Higher Education prepared Commonwealth’s Board of Education in 1966, 1971, and 1978 as well as the relation of the University of Pennsylvania with the state on student scholarship and rental fees from the General State Authority. The collection consists of correspondence and reports.
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INVENTORY

Box 1 General file

FF 1 General State Authority, rentals, 1968-1973
FF 2 Higher Education Master Plan, 1965-1966
FF 3 Higher Education Master Plan, 1969-1971
FF 4 Higher Education Master Plan, 1978
FF 5 Senatorial Scholarships, 1958-1978
FF 7 State scholarships and loans, 1963
FF 8 University Museum, 1964-1972