Trustees Correlate Social Service

At A MEETING of the Trustees on February 4th and on the recommendation of President Thomas S. Gates, plans were approved for the establishment at the University of a Bureau of Public Affairs whose chief objective will be to aid the University in extending its public service in every field and for correlating this important work at the University.

At the same time the trustees tentatively approved a proposal by President Gates under which the Pennsylvania School of Social Work would become affiliated with the University as one of its professional schools, and the new degrees of master of social work and doctor of social work would be granted by the University.

The mid-winter meeting of the trustees was held in College Hall and was presided over by Governor George H. Earle, marking the first time in thirteen years that a governor of Pennsylvania has exercised his prerogative to preside over a meeting of the University's trustees as president ex-officio of the board.

Dr. G. Lloyd Wilson, professor of commerce and transportation in the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University, who is now serving as consultant to Joseph B. Eastman, Federal Coordinator of Transportation, will be director of the new Bureau of Public Affairs at the University.

Assisting him in conducting the work of the bureau will be an advisory council of twenty-five faculty members. A number of these men have been active at various times in the Federal, State, or municipal service, and all of them are in close touch with the opportunities for public service open to specialists in their particular fields.

The chairman of this advisory council will be Dr. John Dickinson, who is professor of law at the University, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce of the United States.

In urging the establishment of the new bureau, to be known as the Bureau of Public Affairs of the University of Pennsylvania, President Gates read to the trustees the following statement, all the provisions of which were approved by the trustees:

"I believe the time is ripe for a broad expansion of the work of the University of Pennsylvania in the field of public affairs.

"A great university which has the duty of preserving and passing on the knowledge of the past,—must also, especially in a period of rapid social change such as the present,—keep abreast of the currents of the times and contribute its full share to the important tasks before us.

"As society becomes more and more integrated we may expect that the role of government will generally tend to increase and that there will be more rather than less union of our economic and political systems. Consequently we may expect that the challenge of the public service will appeal more and more to the best graduates of our colleges and universities. When the time comes, as it did in England nearly a century ago, that our civil service is on a non-political, merit basis, then I would expect the traditional prejudice of American college graduates against entering the public service fully to disappear.

"I anticipate also, as our common problems grow more intricate and baffling, that the demand for genuine experts with advanced training will increase rather than diminish. It is with pride that I regard the unbelievably wide range of expert public services which have been and are being rendered by the faculty of the University to the various units of government. During the past year more than a hundred members of our faculty have been engaged in such service.

"With such social changes in mind, I wish to recommend that we at Pennsylvania establish a University Bureau of Public Affairs. The general objective of this Bureau would be to aid the University in discharging its full obligation in this area. The Bureau would be responsible for examining the whole relation of the University to the public service (federal, state and local) and to public affairs generally, and for suggesting constructive steps. The Bureau would seek to achieve results through existing agencies and departments and without interfering with any individual contacts which exist or may come into being. Its task, in other words, would be primarily one of supplementing existing services in order that the University may still better discharge its obligation in the service of the public.

"More specifically, the Bureau would be charged with responsibility for:

"Discovering suitable opportunities in and aiding able students to enter the public service.

"Serving as a center of interest and advice (in cooperation with existing advising agencies) for students especially interested in the public service.

"Exploring the possibility of advanced training by the University of those who have already entered the public service.

"Exploring the extensive service now being rendered by faculty experts to federal, state and local governments with a view to seeing whether such service may be appropriately extended in any directions.

"Discovering opportunities for research by faculty members and facilitating such research.

"I suggest that the Bureau also be authorized to examine our training for the public service and for the public aspect of private life and to make suggestions wherever it appears that our educational offering needs strengthening. At present, however, both the faculty committee which has studied this matter and I consider that our present educational program offers excellent training opportunity for one planning to enter the public service. We have reached this conclusion for two reasons. In the first place, 'government service' is a term used to cover such a range of occupations that no specific training through a definite scheme of courses could be laid out to prepare students for it. Government activities have come to represent a cross section..."
group of male freshmen students as an experiment in teaching and living.

"The course which this experiment will take will depend upon the demands created through its operation. Its future will depend upon the degree of success with which it meets and the support accorded to it.

"Secondly, there is contemplated the development of this supplementary campus at Valley Forge for the benefit of the whole University, educationally, socially, and recreationally.

"Through the two elements of the plan it is the hope that the University of Pennsylvania may show the way toward a significant educational development in which the aim will be to preserve, at one and the same time, the advantages of the scholarly resources of a great university and the virtues of a country college.

"The proposal is in no sense to move any part of the present University from Philadelphia but to supplement the University’s present work and facilities through a modest residential and tutorial unit at Valley Forge and through the development there of opportunities for wholesome recreation and social life under favorable auspices.

"The fund of $1,000,000 to be raised for the improvement of undergraduate and graduate scholarships will be devoted to the establishment of 30 Franklin Scholarships and 10 Franklin Fellowships.

"These awards, intended to provide annual stipends of $1,000 each, or as much thereof as may be required in each individual case, will be made to students of exceptional ability who show promise of rendering useful public service in their future careers. Thus, the awards will comprise a particularly appropriate memorial to Benjamin Franklin, founder of the University, who constantly emphasized the ideal of public service which the University itself hopes to promote through these proposed fellowships and scholarships.

"The construction and endowment of a new chemistry building for which $2,000,000 is asked, is an undertaking which the University cannot postpone without jeopardizing the efficiency of its instructional and research work in this basic science.

"With growing recognition of the indispensable part which chemistry is playing in the development of new industries and its close relationship to other sciences there has come a steadily increasing enrollment in courses in chemistry together with a greater demand for wide-spread research work in this field.

"As a result, our laboratory facilities have been taxed to the point which makes the construction of a new chemistry building imperative if the University is to maintain its work in this field on the plane which has characterized it in the past.

"The University Library building was erected in 1891, and was enlarged in 1915 through the addition of the ‘Duhring Memorial Stack.’ Still later other physical additions were made to house the Henry C. Lea Library of Medieval History and the Horace Howard Furness Memorial Library of Shakespeareaniana.

"Despite these various additions, all of which were made possible by generous friends of the University, the Library building is today—and has been for a number of years—handicapped by its lack of facilities to house adequately its more than 826,000 volumes, and, of course, its consequent inability to make any provision for logical future growth.

"Constituting, as it does, the very backbone of the University, the continued development of the Library and its facilities must be a matter of constant concern to all those interested in the University’s welfare. Not only must its invaluable collections be properly housed, but assurance must be given that these collections as well as future accessions, will be most conveniently available for use by scholars at all times and under the most favorable conditions possible.

"Those objectives can be attained only by the construction and adequate endowment of a new Library building, for which $2,000,000 will be sought in the coming campaign.

"Finally, there is included in the list of special projects the raising of $500,000 for the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, an institution known throughout the world for its extensive collections in archaeology and ethnology, and its research work in those fields.

"Part of the sum requested for the support of the Museum is essential for the support of field expeditions and research work which already have been planned and to which the Museum necessarily is committed in the furtherance of its scientific program.

"The remainder of the fund is required for the physical improvement of the Museum, and for the maintenance of the educational activities carried on within the Museum, which constitute an invaluable contribution to the cultural life of the community.

"The Bicentennial Campaign program, as finally approved by the Trustees of the University, is the outgrowth of a year’s study on the part of a Planning Committee of the University of Pennsylvania Fund.

"During that study, in which the committee received the cooperation of deans, various faculty members, and administrative officers, thorough consideration was given to every phase of the University’s work and the extent to which limitations were being imposed upon it by lack of sufficient funds.

"The campaign objectives, now made public for the first time, represent the minimum requirements which must be met if Pennsylvania hopes to maintain its traditional position among the leading universities in this country.

"That these requirements will be met, loyally and generously, by the thousands of alumni and friends to whom the University will direct its appeal, is my firm conviction.”

The Planning Committee of the University of Pennsylvania, which will function in the future as the Bicentennial Fund Planning Committee, has as its chairman, Robert T. McCracken, prominent attorney of Philadelphia, who is an alumnus and an associate trustee of the University.

In addition to Mr. McCracken, the committee includes President Gates; Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, provost; George A. Brakeley, Dr. George Wm. McClelland and Dr. Alfred Stengel, vice-presidents of the University; F. Corlies Morgan, treasurer; Dr. Joseph H. Willits, dean of the Wharton
carry the title—Pennsylvania School of Social Work affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania.

"4. The board of trustees of the School shall have the duties and responsibilities of a constituent board of the University. The president and persons shall be ex-officio members of the board of the School. The School shall be subject to the Statutes of the Corporation of the University, adopting the system of instructional titles and appointments. The faculty of the School shall become part of the faculty of the University. Thereafter appointments, reappointments, and promotions to positions of professorial rank shall be recommended by the board of trustees of the School to the executive board or the trustees of the University.

"5. Control of admission of students to its courses and determination of curriculum would be, as in the other professional schools of the University, under the jurisdiction of the board of trustees of the School on which the University would have representation. The University would recognize field work as an essential part of the curriculum. The School would continue offering extension courses, both credit and non-credit.

"6. Upon recommendation of the School the University shall award the following professional degrees:

(A) Master of Social Work to candidates who are graduates of a recognized college or university, who have completed two years of professional training, including class instruction and practice under supervisors approved by the School, and who have submitted a thesis indicating knowledge and competence in some phase of social work to be approved by the faculty of the School. Not less than fifty per cent of the work in the first year or ten per cent in the second year shall be in class room instruction.

(B) Doctor of Social Work to candidates who have completed two years of work in an accredited school of social work; two years of practice in social work in a competent social agency; a third year of work in residence in the Pennsylvania School of Social Work; and there after an additional year of practice at the end of which there shall be submitted a thesis in the candidate's major subject which will be a contribution to the theory or practice in that field.

"The School will not credit toward either the degree of Master of Social Work or the degree of Doctor of Social Work any work done in the School by students prior to 1930.

"This agreement shall go into effect as of July 1, 1935. The School will change its fiscal and scholastic year to correspond with this date."

The Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania School of Social Work consists of E. Lewis Burnham, president; Robert Dechert, vice-president and chairman of the finance committee; Earl G. Harrison, chairman of the committee on research; Mrs. Henry H. Bonnell; Mrs. Gerald W. Caner; Miss Helen D. Harbison; Miss Ruth Karlson, president of the Alumni Association; Mrs. I. Albert Liv- eignt; Mrs. Louis C. Madeira; Eric A. McCouch; Arthur E. Newbold, Jr.; Judge Theodore Rosen, George D. Widener and Mrs. George Bacon Wood.

The school has a faculty of four men and six women, in addition to which there are seventeen persons engaged to conduct specific courses. The 1934-35 enrollment of students in the first and second years and in the advanced curriculum totals 158, while the extension enrollment in the first semester was 311, and the enrollment in the 1934-35 summer school and institutes was 102.

University Wedgwood Plates

The University of Pennsylvania Wedgwood plates came into existence in 1930. Dr. Josiah Penniman had seen similar plates which had been produced for other universities and felt that Pennsylvania alumni might like to possess such plates.

An informal group consisting of Mr. Charles L. Borie Jr., Professor Paul Cret, Mr. William H. DuBarry, Dr. Josiah Penniman and Mr. Paul B. Hartenstein, undertook the development of this idea, in consultation with Mr. Francis Carr, also an alumnus, who at that time was connected with representatives of the Wedgwood interests in this country.

After much study of the many views upon the campus the twelve center pictures for the plates were chosen and a suitable border was devised that is unique, historical and effective. The views chosen were:

College Hall
University Museum
Engineering Building
A Dormitory View
Provosts' Tower
Houston Hall
Bennett Hall

In the design of the border a view has been introduces of the original buildings of the Old Charity School of 1746 at Fourth and Arch Streets, from which the University developed; another view is that of the Presidential Mansion at Ninth and Chestnut Streets, which was built by the State of Pennsylvania as the residence of the President of the United States, but which was first occupied as its second site by the University in 1802. The third view introduces is that of the old College Hall and Medical Hall built of the site of the Presidential Mansion in 1829 and occupied by the University until 1872. At the bottom of the plate appears the University seal. The thistle is used in the most conventional parts of the border recalling the Scotch influence upon the University during its early days, the first Provost, William Smith, being a graduate of the University of Aberdeen, and the founder of the Medical School, John Morgan, being a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. Also, garlands of laurel and oak leaves are used denoting honor and strength.

The Wedgewoods in England have developed the suggestions of the University into a reality, and a set of a dozen plates has been evolved that is pleasing and interesting.

The plates were delivered in October 1931, and in answer to an aggressive advertising campaign practically all the sets ordered were sold. There are still, however, about fifty dozen left.