MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CLEMSON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
HELD IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, STATE CAPITOL,
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
December 27, 1951

This meeting of the Board, jointly with the Athletic Council, was called at the request of President Poole to clarify the Athletic situation due to Clemson being placed on probation by the Southern Conference. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 11:05 A. M. The Board members present were: Messrs. R. M. Cooper, Chairman, Paul Sanders, T. B. Young, James F. Byrnes, Edgar A. Brown, B. T. Leppard, J. F. McLaurin, W. A. Barnette, F. E. Cope and J. B. Douthit, Jr. Members of the Athletic Council present were: Messrs. Lee W. Milford, Chairman, J. H. Mitchell, Gaston Gage, T. W. Morgan, Sam R. Rhodes, Goode Bryan, Rube Fike, and ex officio members, J. C. Littlejohn and G. E. Metz. Others present were: President R. F. Poole and Secretary A. J. Brown.

The Chairman stated that due to the special objective of the meeting the usual formalities of a Board meeting would be dispensed with. President Poole was recognized and he presented the following statement:

CLEMSON’S PROBATION AS IMPOSED BY THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE — DECEMBER 1951

"On December 14, 1951, the Southern Conference moved successfully to place Clemson and Maryland on probation for one year if they played in bowl games in January 1952. The Conference voted to prohibit either team from playing other members of the Conference in football although they would be permitted to play each other. Also, the Conference specified that state acts requiring teams to play each other would be honored by the Conference. Competition in other sports by the two institutions was not barred.

The above action seems to be the result of blundering and dictatorial methods by certain college presidents. For many years the Southern Conference was regulated by the Chairman of Faculty Committees on Athletics or Athletic Councils. I think the men were able and conscientious and the Conference was conducted on high ethical and moral standards. The aims and objectives were sound and there seemed to be a spirit of harmony and mutual trust among the member institutions and honorable intentions were respected and adhered to at all times.

On March 3, 1951, President Gordon Gray of the University of North Carolina, under the sponsorship of the Presidents of Davidson, Wake Forest, North Carolina State, Duke, and the University of North Carolina, invited the Presidents of the seventeen colleges that were members of the Southern Conference to be his guests at Chapel Hill to discuss college athletics. The idea of college presidents holding a meeting to discuss athletics seemed to be meritorious and the invitation was accepted. Mr. Gray was elected President of the meeting. The invitation and preliminary agenda were not identified with the Southern Conference although the Commissioner and President of the Conference were both present for the meeting.

I am listing below the proposed agenda for the March 3 meeting of Southern Conference presidents.

1. Should the presidents of the member institutions of the Southern Conference actively concern themselves with the conduct of inter-
collegiate athletics? In other words, is not their obligation and responsibility as great in the field of athletics as in the classroom, laboratory, etc.?

2. If they should so concern themselves, what are the specific matters which should receive their attention? At least, should they not undertake to put themselves in a position to certify that their respective institutions are in compliance with Southern Conference regulations and rules whatever they may be?

3. If this undertaking is jointly shared, can there then be developed an atmosphere of trust and mutual confidence?

4. Should the presidents agree that there should be a uniform minimum entrance requirement for individuals who are to receive grants-in-aid on a basis of need?

5. Should not the presidents agree, irrespective of Southern Conference regulations, that once a prospective student has applied for entrance and has been conditionally or unconditionally accepted by the institution to which he has applied, upon notification any other president would order such a student declared ineligible should the student be later enrolled in his institution?

6. Should the presidents not agree that their institutions will comply with the N.C.A.A. recruiting provisions, although they are not to be found in the Southern Conference regulations?

On September 28, 1951, after the football season had started, a second meeting of college presidents was held in Chapel Hill. At this meeting the institutions present voted by considerable majority to prohibit bowl games. The Presidents voted to instruct their representatives to the Southern Conference (scheduled to meet in Richmond on December 14 and 15) to refuse permission for any member of the Conference to participate in a bowl game on January 1, 1952.

In compliance with the Southern Conference By-Laws, Clemson asked for permission to participate in the Gator Bowl on January 1, 1952. The Conference membership was polled through the Commissioner and for the first time in the history of the Conference the request was denied by a substantial majority.

It is evident that the Presidents attending the meeting in Chapel Hill in September acted in haste and placed themselves in an untenable position on bowl matters. It seems to me that those who were in haste to condemn bowl games, spring practice, and the two platoon system, showed bad manners and dictatorial methods.

For some reason, not clearly understood, the Conference, meeting in Richmond on December 14 and 15, not only failed to recognize but refused to consider recent undesirable happenings at and among member institutions. The newspapers have carried accounts of scandalous happenings at William and Mary, student riots at North Carolina State College where the football coach was relieved of his position, and at the University of North Carolina when the coach was on the verge of losing his position. Although the Conference was willing to eliminate bowl games it ignored the opportunity to eliminate the basketball conference and the playing of games in off-campus areas where the majority of the athletic scandals have originated. The recent actions of the Conference do not seem to be influenced by and directed at those athletic situations among conference members which involve unethical and unsound moral standards. So far as we know, nothing has happened at Clemson as a result of bowl participation that compares with the above situations which were ignored.

According to President Gray, the penalty of probation was originated on the University of North Carolina campus after Clemson and Maryland accepted bowl bids. In the meeting of College Presidents
at Richmond the motion was offered by Chancellor House of the University of North Carolina and was seconded by Chancellor Harrelson of State College. The pre-arranged probation procedure was known by some of the college presidents but not all of them knew before the Conference convened. At the proper time to consider the matter no one seemed willing to act. President Gray was detained and another session of the College Presidents was called after he arrived in Richmond.

The Southern Conference is made up of church, private, military, state, and land-grant institutions and there is great athletic rivalry among the seventeen member schools. Most of the schools have never competed with the larger schools in anything like an equal chance. During the history of the Conference the University of North Carolina and Duke University have been at the top. The former accepted at least one bowl bid without first polling the Conference. Both institutions have had the pick of athletes. The Southern Conference took no action to equalize financial support of its member institutions. Whether or not it will confiscate part of the gate receipts at institutions that have large stadia and are well supported by the public is not yet indicated. On the basis of denying bowl bids in the face of and against trustee approval it seems only logical for the Conference to move in that direction if there is serious intent to de-emphasize athletics. If there is any genuine loss of integrity at an institution resulting from athletics it centers around unethical practices, poor sportsmanship, below-standard courses and curricula, and low moral standards of conduct. It therefore seems queer that North Carolina and Duke could afford to take the leadership unless they are willing to bring their own institutions to the level of Davidson College, not many years ago truly a member of the big five, but now far outclassed.

At Clemson we believe in and aspire to maintain good, clean athletics. We know our athletes are here to get an education. I am attaching a statement from the Registrar which shows the situation at Clemson. The College Treasurer handles all receipts from games and none of the money is used for scholarships. Athletic Scholarships are awarded by the Iptay Club which is composed of more than six thousand members who pay ten dollars annually. This money is placed under the custodianship of the College Treasurer and no athlete receives any actual money. From Iptay funds an athlete's expenses are paid in accordance with the published schedule of fees. Each year the Athletic Department presents its budget along with the budget of other departments. The Athletic budget is acted upon by the Administration and the Board of Trustees just as other budgets are handled.

At Clemson members of the Coaching Staff are secure and are on the retirement basis just as are other members of the faculty. Mr. Howard, head coach, has been at Clemson for more than 20 years and his assistants also have long tenure records. We can challenge any institution to show a cleaner record.

In my opinion, barring bowl games solves nothing. Action of the Southern Conference has placed many of the Presidents of member institutions in an untenable position because they have ignored the situations that may affect the moral integrity of the institutions. I am not laying the entire blame for Clemson's probation at President Gray's door. I want to know more about what he and his backers will do to put Duke and North Carolina on a par with other southern institutions and how far they will go to eliminate unethical practices and low moral standards.

Academic Standing of Athletes at Clemson

Of 51 Block C men enrolled at Clemson in October 1946, 46 have been awarded the bachelor's degree, two are still enrolled but are in line for graduation in January, 1952, and the remaining three students are no longer in college. This information has been compiled in the Registrar's Office, and is based upon a study of the students whose names were listed in the 1947 college annual as men awarded
major letters for participation in intercollegiate athletics.

The average grade point ratio of the 46 graduates is 3.60 compared with ratios of 4.05, 4.19 and 4.08 for students graduated during 1947, 1948 and 1949 respectively. While participating in extracurricular activities, a fourth of these graduates completed the requirements for graduation in eight semesters or less while the average for the group was nine semesters. This average of nine semesters to complete the requirements for graduation compares with the average of eight and one-half semesters for all graduates according to a comprehensive study made in 1950.

A study made of the cumulative grade point ratios of 223 students currently enrolled at Clemson who participated in intercollegiate athletics during 1950-1951 indicates that this group had an average grade point ratio of 2.74 and a median ratio of 2.35. This compares with an average ratio of 3.08 and a median of 2.59 for the entire student body enrolled during the current semester.

After some discussion of Dr. Poole's statement, Dr. Milford was recognized and he enlarged upon and called particular attention to several items in the statement. He answered numerous questions from members of the Board. When other members of the Council were given an opportunity to speak, Dr. Fike gave his impression of the Southern Conference meeting he attended and the evidence of premeditated action to be taken and evidence that the delegates had been instructed how to vote. He was most complimentary of the action at the meeting by Drs. Poole and Milford. The discussion developed that the Board commended Drs. Poole and Milford for their action and conduct at the Conference meeting and the conclusion was reached that no further action by anyone connected with Clemson College was appropriate or necessary.

Mr. Cooper called attention to the election of Mr. Donald S. Russell as President of the University of South Carolina and suggested that the Board might wish to take formal action in recognition of the honor conferred upon him and the personal financial sacrifice made by Mr. Russell in accepting the Presidency of the University. This suggestion received hearty approval of the members and it was moved by Mr. Brown and duly seconded: That President Poole convey to Mr. Donald S. Russell by appropriate congratulatory letter this formal action of the Board in congratulating him on his election and wishing for him a long, happy and successful tenure of office as President of the University of South Carolina.

Unanimously approved.

There being no further business it was moved by Mr. Barnette: That the Board now adjourn.

APPROVED

Adjourned: 12:45 P. M.

APPROVED

CORRECT:

R. M. Cooper, Chairman

A. J. Brown, Secretary