REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE UNIVERSITY, NO. 485, JANUARY, 1915

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JANUARY, 1915.

BOSTON:

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The Commonwealth of Wassachusetts.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION RELA-TIVE TO CHAPTER 105 OF THE RESOLVES OF THE YEAR 1914 ON THE PROPOSED ESTABLISH-MENT OF A STATE UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE FREE INSTRUCTION TO PERSONS REGULARLY IN ATTENDANCE, AND TO PERSONS WITHIN THE STATE NOT IN ATTENDANCE, AND ON OTHER MEANS OF PROMOTING HIGHER EDU-CATION.

Introduction.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

The Board of Education respectfully submits herewith, in accordance with chapter 105 of the Resolves of the year 1914, a report on a plan for the establishment of a State university to provide free instruction to persons in regular attendance, and, through correspondence or otherwise, to persons resident in the State not in personal attendance. There is included, also, in accordance with the resolve, suggestions as to a plan for the self-support of persons in regular attendance at such university. Finally, the Board includes a series of observations and recommendations relevant to the establishment of a State university and to other means of promoting higher education.

The resolve is as follows: -

Resolved, That the board of education be requested to report to the next general court, on or before the second Wednesday in January, a bill embodying a plan for the establishment of a state university, to provide instruction with free tuition and books to:—

a. Persons properly entered and in regular attendance at the university; and as to such persons the board is requested to report plans for their self-support during attendance.

b. Persons within the state, not in personal attendance at the university, but who may be reached by correspondence or otherwise.

The board of education is further requested to submit such recommendations and statements relevant to the establishment of a state university and to other means of promoting higher education as, in its judgment, should be placed before the general court.

In compliance with the above resolve this report contains the following material: —

A form of proposed act establishing a State university as indicated in the resolve, including provisions for free instruction, within which correspondence and extension courses for persons within the State but not in attendance may be organized.

A review of the arguments commonly offered in favor of the establishment of a State university in Massachusetts.

A review of the arguments commonly offered in opposition to such proposal.

Brief discussions of certain proposed substitutes for a State university, as: —

- (a) State scholarships in existing institutions.
- (b) Organization of extension and correspondence courses, through the co-operation of existing higher institutions of learning.
- (c) An organization to promote co-operation between existing institutions and State and municipal departments needing expert assistance.

Statistical tables dealing with the number, resources, teaching force and student enrolment of higher institutions of learning in Massachusetts, and of the principal State universities are presented in the appendix.

PROPOSED ACT.

An Act establishing the University of Massachusetts.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby established in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, within the metropolitan district of Boston, an institution of learning by the name and style of the "University of Massachusetts."

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Section 2. The government of the University of Massachusetts shall be vested in a board of regents, to consist of seven members chosen from the state at large, which board the governor shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the council. The terms of office of said regents shall be seven years from the first day of July in the year in which the appointment is made, subject to the provisions of the following section.

Section 3. At the first regular meeting of said board of regents the said members shall determine, by lot, so that one member shall serve for one year, one member for two years, one member for three years, one member for four years, one member for five years, one member for six years, and one member for seven years.

Section 4. The board of regents and their successors in office shall constitute a body corporate, by the name of "The Regents of the University of Massachusetts", and shall possess all the powers necessary or convenient to accomplish the objects and perform the duties described by law, and shall have the custody of the books, records, buildings and other property of said University of Massachusetts. The board shall elect a president, secretary and treasurer, who shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the by-laws of the board. The secretary shall keep a faithful record of all the transactions of the board. The treasurer shall perform all the duties of such office, subject to such regulations as the board may adopt, and for the faithful discharge of all his duties shall execute a bond in such sum as the auditor of the commonwealth may direct.

Section 5. The time of the election of the president, secretary and treasurer of said board, and the duration of their respective terms of office, and the times for holding the regular annual meeting and such other meetings as may be required, and the manner of notifying the same, shall be determined by the by-laws of the board. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a less number may adjourn from time to time.

Section 6. The board of regents shall enact laws for the government of the university in all its branches, elect the requisite number of professors, instructors, officers and employees, and fix the salaries and the term of office of each,

and determine the moral, physical and educational qualifications of applicants for admission to the various courses of instruction; but no instruction either sectarian in religion or partisan in politics shall ever be allowed in any department of the university, and no sectarian or partisan test shall ever be allowed or exercised in the appointment of regents or in the election of professors, teachers or other officers of the university, or in the admission of students thereto, or for any purpose whatever. The board of regents shall have the power to remove the president or any professor, instructor or officer of the university, when, in their judgment, the interests of the university require it. The board may prescribe rules and regulations for the management of the libraries, museums, laboratories and all other property of the university and of its several departments, and for the care and preservation thereof, with penalties and forfeitures, by way of damages, for their violation, which may be sued for and collected in the name of the board before any court having jurisdiction of such action.

Section 7. On or before October first of each year the regents, through their president, shall submit to the state board of education, for transmission to the governor, a report for the year ending on the preceding thirtieth day of June. This report shall exhibit in detail the progress, conditions and wants of the university, the courses of study which have been offered, the number of professors and students, the amount of receipts and disbursements, together with the net costs and results of all the important investigations and experiments, and such other information as they may deem important or the board of education may require. This report shall include all estimates which the regents intend to submit to the auditor of the commonwealth for transmission to the legislature.

Section 8. The board of education shall transmit the report described in section seven of this act to the governor not later than December first of each year, and shall accompany such report with such comments, suggestions and recommendations as it may deem important.

Section 9. The president of the university shall be the president of the faculty or of the several faculties as they may be hereafter established, and the executive head of the in-

structional force in all its departments; as such he shall have authority, subject to the board of regents, to nominate all instructors to the board of regents, to make such recommendations as he may deem advisable for the proper conduct and development of the university, and to give general direction to the instruction and scientific investigations of the university. The immediate government of the university shall be entrusted to the faculty, but the regents shall have the power to regulate and approve courses of instruction, to confer such degrees and grant such diplomas as are customarily conferred in universities, and to confer upon the faculty through by-laws the power to suspend or expel students for misconduct or other sufficient cause described by such by-laws.

Section 10. The object of the University of Massachusetts shall be to provide, for the inhabitants of the commonwealth and such others as the board of regents may from time to time admit in accordance with provisions to be established in their by-laws, means and opportunities for obtaining general and professional education supplemental and additional to that which is now provided for the inhabitants of the commonwealth by schools and colleges supported in whole or in part by revenues derived from taxation. Provision shall be made by the regents for the organization and support of correspondence and other extension courses, as they may deem necessary.

Section 11. The university shall be open to female as well as male students, under such regulations as the board of regents may deem proper.

Section 12. No student who shall have been a resident of the commonwealth for one year next preceding his admission shall be required to pay any fees for tuition in the university, except in professional departments. The regents may prescribe rates of tuition for students in professional departments, and fees for the use of apparatus and equipment. The regents may also establish suitable tuition rates for students who are not residents of Massachusetts. The regents shall establish, in connection with the university, an employment bureau for the purpose of enabling graduates of the university to find suitable positions, and to assist students, during the period of their attendance, in finding needed remunerative employment.