

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-
FOURTH CONVOCATION OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK, HELD JULY 6TH -
8TH, 1886, PP.75-303**

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UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURTH CONVOCATION

OF THE

University of the State of New York,

HELD JULY 6th, 7th AND 8th, 1886.

BEING A PART OF THE 100th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

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APPENDIX III.

THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

I.

SKETCH OF ITS ORIGIN, OBJECTS AND PLAN.

[Reprinted from the proceedings of former years, by direction of the Convocation.]

At a meeting of the Regents of the University, held on the 9th day of January, 1863, the reports of colleges and academies, and their mutual relations, being under consideration, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That it is expedient to hold annually, under the direction of this Board, a meeting of officers of colleges and academies, and that a committee be appointed to draft a programme of business for the proposed meeting, to fix the time and place, and to make such other arrangements as they may deem necessary.

The committee of arrangement on the part of the Regents were Chancellor Pruyn, Governor Seymour, Mr. Benedict, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Clinton, Mr. Perkins and Secretary Woolworth.

The meeting was held according to appointment, on the 4th and 5th days of August, 1863. Chancellor Pruyn briefly stated the objects entertained by the Regents, which were mainly "to consider the mutual relations of colleges and academies, and to promote, as largely as possible, the cause of liberal education in our State. While it is a part of the duty of the Regents of the University to visit the fourteen* literary colleges, and more than two hundred academies subject to their supervision, it is obvious that this cannot be done as frequently as desirable, and that some such method as is now proposed, whereby teachers may compare views with each other, and with the Regents, and discuss methods of instruction and general modes of procedure, is alike practicable and necessary.

"A law enacted more than three-fourths of a century ago was cited, by which the University was organized and clothed with powers similar to those held by the University of Cambridge and Oxford in England.

"The University of the State of New York, though generally regarded as a legal fiction, is in truth a grand reality. The numerous institutions of which it is composed are not, indeed, as in England,

* Now twenty-six (1886.)

crowded into a single city, but are scattered, for popular convenience, over the entire State. It is hoped that the present meeting will more fully develop this fact, in accordance with which the officers of colleges and academies now convened are cordially welcomed as members of a great State University. It is also confidently expected that the deliberations now inaugurated will result in the more intimate alliance and co-operation of the various institutions holding chartered rights under the Regents of the University.

The Chancellor and Secretary of the Regents were, on motion, duly elected presiding and recording officers of the meeting. A committee subsequently made permanent for the year and designated as the executive committee, was appointed by the Chancellor to prepare an order of proceedings. Among other recommendations of the committee, the following were submitted and unanimously adopted :

The Regents of the University of this State have called the present meeting of the officers of the colleges and academies subject to their visitation, for the purpose of mutual consultations respecting the cause of education, especially in the higher departments. It becomes a question of interest whether this convention shall assume a permanent form and meet at stated intervals, either annually, biennially or triennially. In the opinion of the committee it seems eminently desirable that the Regents and the instructors in the colleges and academies should thus meet, with reference to the attainment of the following objects :

1st. To secure a better acquaintance among those engaged in these departments of instruction, with each other and with the Regents.

2d. To secure an interchange of opinions on the best methods of instruction in both colleges and academies ; and, as a consequence,

3d. To advance the standard of education throughout the State.

4th. To adopt such common rules as may seem best fitted to promote the harmonious workings of the State system of education.

5th. To consult and co-operate with the Regents in devising and executing such plans of education as the advanced state of the population may demand.

6th. To exert a direct influence upon the people and the Legislature of the State, personally and through the press, so as to secure such an appreciation of a thorough system of education, together with such pecuniary and legislative enactments, as will place the institution here represented in a position worthy of the population and resources of the State.

And for the attainment of these objects the committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions :

Resolved, That this meeting of officers of colleges and academies be hereafter known and designated as "The University Convocation of the State of New York."

Resolved, That the members of the Convocation shall embrace,

1. The members of the Board of Regents.
2. All instructors in colleges, normal schools, academies and higher departments of public schools that are subject to the visitation of the Regents, and (by amendment of 1868) the trustees of all such institutions.
3. The president, first vice-president, and the recording and corresponding secretaries of the New York State Teachers' Association.

Resolved, That the Chancellor and Secretary of the Board of Regents shall act severally as the presiding officer and permanent secretary of the Convocation.

Resolved, That the meeting of this Convocation shall be held annually, in the city of Albany, on the first Tuesday in August [see amendment], at 10 o'clock, A. M., unless otherwise appointed by the Board of Regents. [*Amended*, in 1873, as to the time of meeting, by making it the first Tuesday after the Fourth of July, except when the Fourth occurs on Monday, in which case it shall be the second Tuesday thereafter.]

Resolved, That at each annual Convocation the Chancellor shall announce the appointment by the Regents, of an executive committee of seven members, who shall meet during the recess of the Convocation, at such time and place as the Regents may direct, with authority to transact business connected with its general object.

At the fourth anniversary, held August 6th, 7th and 8th, 1867, it was

Resolved, That the Regents be requested to invite the attendance of representatives of colleges of other States at future anniversaries of the Convocation.

At the fifth anniversary, held August 4th, 5th, and 6th, 1868, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That there be appointed by the Chancellor, at each annual meeting, a committee of necrology, to consist of three persons.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of each member of the Convocation to notify the chairman of the committee of necrology of the decease of members occurring in their immediate neighborhood or circle of acquaintance, as an assistance to the preparation of their report.

Resolved, That the secretary publish, with the report of each year's proceedings, the original resolutions of 1863, as they are or may be from time to time amended, together with the two foregoing, as a means of better informing the members of the Convocation in regard to its nature and the purposes of its organization.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

AN ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION.

Passed April 11, 1879.

The Regents of the University of the State of New York declare and ordain as follows.

SECTION 1. The University Convocation hitherto existing is hereby constituted and established as the Convocation of the University of the State of New York, and shall continue to be called and known by the style of "The University Convocation." It shall consist of such members of the Board of Regents of the University and such instructors, officers and trustees of the several colleges, academies and other seminaries subject to the visitation of the Regents and constituent members of the University, as shall at the time being attend. The purpose of the Convocation shall be to secure an interchange of opinions on the subject of education and of literature, science and art, and to advance their standard in this State; to harmonize the workings in the State system of education; and by essays, treatises, discussions and resolutions, on subjects connected with literature, science and art and with the credit, interest and welfare of the University and the institutions composing it, to recommend to such institutions and to the Regents, for their consideration, such action as may be expedient and lawful.

§ 2. The Convocation shall meet in the city of Albany, at the Capitol, on the first Tuesday after the Fourth of July, except when the Fourth occurs on Monday, in which case it shall be the second Tuesday thereafter, or at such other time and place as may be directed by the Regents. A quorum shall consist of those present at any actual sitting of the Convocation. The Board of Regents shall always be in session during the meeting of the Convocation, with such recesses of the Regents and of the Convocation as may be expedient. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and the Secretaries of the Regents shall be the presiding officers and secretaries of the Convocation, with power to substitute others to perform their duties respectively, *pro tempore*, not longer than one day.

§ 3. At the time of the Convocation shall be held the annual Commencement of the University, and such degrees as may be ordered by the Regents shall be then publicly announced and conferred by the Chancellor except when the Regents shall otherwise provide.