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### Meeting Minutes of the Council of Hope College

Abel T. Stewart

Mary Otterness

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28 April 1875

Holland, Michigan

The major purpose of the meeting of the Council of Hope College were the examinations of students. Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte was in the chair. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, a major discussion at the meeting was the report of the Board of Education of the Reformed Church in America about the board's understanding as to the actual financial situation at the college. The report noted that the assets of the college were "very much overestimated." "Suitable practical business men" were to be appointed for the disposal of real estate. The treasurer, in his letter to the council, said he was not able to report without the aid of Pres. Phelps. However, the president was ill and could not attend this meeting unfortunately. [Could Phelps be ill due to the mounting financial problems at the college?]

Transcription by Mary Otterness, 2004.

*Minutes of the Council of Hope College*, 181-186.

Original in the Hope College collection at the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College.

1875.  
 April 28. The Council met in regular session at 11. A.M. For want of a quorum it adjourned till 2 P.M

Present Rev Doctor Van Raalte, in the chair. Prof. Charles Scott of the Theological Faculty.  
 Of the Classis of Mich. Rev J.W. Beardslee, and Abel. T. Stewart  
 " of Ill  
 " " Holl " H Niterwyk & P. De Pree  
 " " Wis. " J. H. Karsten and  
 " " Grand River " C Van Der Meulen  
 A Krickard  
 James De Pree

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev P. De Pree. An order of examinations was read and condensed so as to have two examinations proceed at one time. A special Communication from the Academic Faculty touching a case of discipline was read, and the request accompanying it was granted. The meeting was closed with prayer by C. Scott. The Council met in evening session and was opened with prayer by J.W. Beardslee. The reports of the faculties were read and referred to the Committee on report to Synod consisting of J.W. Beardslee N. M. Steffens & A Krickard.

Text A Communication was read from the General Faculty respecting a change of Books Text Books and studies in the Preparatory Dept and referred to the above committee for See paper marked A

A Special Communication from the Academic Faculty was referred to the above Committee.

A Communication from the Academic faculty marked B was read & referred to above Com. A Communication from the Managing Editor of De Hope was read and referred to a com consisting of Rev. Abel. T. Stewart & J. H. Karsten see paper marked C Closed with prayer.

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Ap 29. The Council met in morning session, was opened with prayer by Mr. Stewart and closed by Mr. Karsten. Met again in afternoon session The Seinor[sic] Theological Students were examined in modes of sermonizing and preaching & views for entering the ministry.

Resolved that the Seinor[sic] Academic Class be called in and informed that examinations had been sustained. Also the Sienor[sic] Theological Class.

Resd. that the former young Gentlemen  
 Henry Bacon            Laurens Dykstra  
 Robert B D Simonson    Evert Smits  
 Wm V Steele    and    John Visscher    be  
 Recommended for the Degree of A. B.

Approved Res<sup>d</sup> that the latter Gentlemen  
 Andrew Wormser & William Hezengurg  
 be recommended for their Professional Certificate

- The Certificate of the latter to note the dispensation in his case from Greek & the usual literary testimonials.
- Crispell Res. that Rev<sup>d</sup> Doctor Crispell be invited to preach a Sermon before the  
Sermon Graduating Theological Class at the Coming Commencement.  
Res. that the printed Report of Com of Conference with Council, sent in advance of meeting to members of Council, be referred to a Special Com. consisting of Messrs Beardslee, Steffens Krickaard[sic] and Scott.  
The following suggestions reported by the Com. on Paper A from the Academic Faculty were adopted
- Rules 1<sup>st</sup> that a Special com. of the Council be appointed to act with a com. of the Faculty & to draft a system of Rules for the Collegiate Dept to be brought before the Council for their approval
- Lectures 2<sup>d</sup> that the President of the College & Professors in the Academic Dept be requested to deliver courses of Lectures before their Students on subjects more or less connected with their own branches of Institution.
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1875. 3 that authority be given to the Faculty of any Department to fill temporary  
Vacancies vacancies in that Dept subject to the approval of the Ex. Com.  
filled by 4 that the President of the College and Secretary of the Council be authorized  
Faculties to report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction according to law.  
Rept to L.P.I.
- discharge A recommendation of the above Com. to appoint an Assistant Professor of  
of Latin & Greek for the Grammar school was laid on the table.  
Committees. The meeting was closed with prayer by Mr Stewart, the Special Com  
appointed on page 180 to report the name and object of all Committees now existing by appointment of Council reported the following on which it was Resolved as follows that the Com.  
On Endowment Interest & De Hope subscription page 77 be discharged  
Resumption of Female Education page 77 be discharged from that duty.  
Incorporation of Female Seminary page 62 & 3 and securing Female Teacher 91 be discharged from that duty.  
Real Estate Loans & sold page 78 from that duty  
Special Charge of Grammar School page 75 79 referred to on 84 from that duty.  
duty.
- Rules 79, By Laws or Rules 85, 139 from that duty.  
Lemmatta page 102 Discharged.  
Report pages 88, 90, 101 Discharged.  
Report on Theological Students 89 from that duty.  
Editorial Com. 97 Discharged. 157 from that duty.  
Changes in Lecture Room 109 Discharged.  
Hope Farm 82 Discharged 132 from that duty.  
Lectures 172 Continued to report at the june meeting  
Res<sup>d</sup> that all Committees on the Book be discharged, and that the Secretary and Rev Mr. Karsten be a com. to report what Committees need to be reappointed. The Ex. Com. in its irregularities a to member quorum be see page 54, 73, 158, 159, 175 was reported and left for correction at June meeting.

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The Special Com. on Paper A reported the following

resolution which was adopted. Res<sup>d</sup> that the proposed changes in the course of Study & Text Books in the Preparatory Dept be adopted. The Com. on a communication containing a proposition with reference to a piece of land College property reported that they had conferred with Mr. Keppel & recommend that no action be taken in the matter, adopted H Niterwyk chairman.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Mr. Stewart

Met again on Friday the

30th.

At 9. A. M. Prayer was offered by P. De Pree.

Special report.

The special report on Printed report of Brd of Education was read and adopted as follows "The Communication from the Board of Education—after giving an exhibit of the financial Condition & prospects of H. C. makes certain suggestions in which this Council as well as the Board & the Gen. Synod are deeply interested. In regard to the statements of Said Report your Com. simply remark that on page 1<sup>st</sup> the Promissory notes amounting to 12,030,05 seem to be considered as on the same footing with the investments in the hands of the Board of Direction. The former however are subject to considerable reduction as to value and cannot be counted as worth more than \$9000. or \$10,000 in cash. 2<sup>d</sup> that the debts of the college stated on page 2 were more than \$14000. on may 1<sup>st</sup> 1874. They have since increased to \$19000. This does not include the \$5000 borrowed from the Board of Direction in 1873. 3<sup>d</sup> that the assets on page 3<sup>d</sup> are very much overestimated. The full cash value of all the Real Estate belonging to the College cannot be over \$40,000 under the most favorable Conditions, and this is already subject as a just lien thereon to the amount of End. Moneys invested in the James Suydam Park. The Indian Village lot & De Hope, amounting to

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Real Estate

\$19045.05 With regard to the suggestions of Said Report your Com offer the following Res 1<sup>st</sup> that a Special Com. be appointed to report at the June meeting on the general subject of the disposal of the real estate belonging to Hope College & to nominate 'suitable practical business men' who shall have charge of the same if it deems advisable. Res 2<sup>d</sup> that suggestions 3, 4, & 6 on page 7 be referred to the Com on Synods report. x In conclusion your Com are pleased with the interest manifested by the Board & their Com in the operations & success of this college & offer the following Resolution. Thankful for all former previous favors from the Board of Educat this Council respectfully request said Board to continue its Cooperation & aid to the most allowable extent & to unite with us in securing wise and efficient action from the next General Synod."

x that they may recommend such action as they deem proper in the premises to the General Synod. The Com. appointed on Res first consists of Messrs Niterwyk P. De Pree & Stewart.

Treas

A letter was received from the Treasurer expressing his inability to make a

report report without the aid of the President of the College He was requested to report what he could.  
 The Council hears with regret that the President of the College is lying on a sick bed unable to take any part in the proceedings of this body or to make any report on matters connected with his office and do therefore Resolve that the Pres. & Adressor of the Council be a Com to Convey forthwith the sympathies of the Council to President Phelps with the hope & prayer that he may soon restored to his wanted health & ask if have any communion[sic] verbal or otherwise to make to the Council before its adjournment.

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April  
1875

The Council met in afternoon session and was opened with prayer by Mr Niterwyk.

The report to the Synod was read, accepted and afterwards reread and adopted by sections The special report on printed report by Board of Education was ordered to be sent to the Board It was further Res<sup>d</sup> 1 that the Secretary of the Council have the report to Gen Synod printed and also that a copy of the same, be according to the requirements of the Constitution forwarded to the Particular Synod of Chicago.

2<sup>d</sup> that the Pres. of the Theological Faculty be instructed to inform the Theol. Students the Council will hereafter expect an explanation of them of all unexcused absences from duties assigned to them by the Faculty.

3<sup>d</sup> Res. that Rev C. Scott, H Niterwyk with the Pres of the College be a Com. to prepare rules for the good of students & to report at the June meeting.

Rules

4<sup>th</sup> that said Com. be instructed to insist one rule against students marrying & fix such penalty for the violation of it as may be sufficient to prevent it.