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Letter to President H.A. Morgan from Dean Hoskins

James Hoskins
University of Tennessee - Knoxville

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July 13, 1923.

Dr. H.A.Morgan, President
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear President Morgan:

I am submitting the recommendation from Dr. J.A.Thackston, Head of the Department of Education, that Dr. J.W.Sprows, Professor of Secondary Education be not reappointed. I concur in this recommendation.

Some time in March Dr. Thackston informed me of the situation in the case of Dr. Sprows. After careful consideration it was decided that Dr. Sprows should be called to my office and notified by Dr. Thackston that he would not be recommended for reappointment because he was not adapted to the field work and had failed in getting satisfactory results in this work.

This notification was given to Dr. Sprows on or about April 1st. He left the Dean's Office and immediately began an agitation of protest. He questioned the authority of the Administration to notify him that a change should be recommended, sought legal advice and assistance, and gave the impression that he had been dismissed in violation of academic freedom. He did not confine his agitation to the faculty but he extended it to the students and to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean.

JDH:H