7-9-1923

Letter to H.A. Morgan from W.O. Lowe

W.O. Lowe

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Recommended Citation
Dr. H. A. Morgan,
University of Tennessee,
Knoxville, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I have noticed through the public press that some four or five of the Instructors at the University at this time will not be recommended for re-appointment during the coming year. Getting my information, wholly, through the public press it appears that there is no charge against the ability of the Professors and apparently the only charge is that they have voiced some sentiments opposed to the present Administration. It appears further from the press that these Professors are being treated like children in that they are not permitted to express an opinion in regard to the affairs of the University, even within its own organization, without the penalty of losing their positions.

There is some adverse criticism now and as the matter continues this criticism gathers more momentum. If the matter continues very much longer there is likely to be an open breach which will result, I believe, in a very determined fight before the Trustees between the two factions, the University Alumnae and citizens of the State being a party on one side or the other.

Even if the fight does not pass the Board of Trustees it will be detrimental to the University's interests and if it continues there is considerable likelihood that it will get into the State Legislature. This of course would be deplorable since the appropriation would probably be materially reduced.

The Professors who are not recommended for next year, according to the newspapers, will state that they have not been disloyal to the University. Would it therefore not be possible for you to call in each of these gentlemen and put the question to them as to whether or not they had been and then would it not be highly dignified, proper and in order for you to re-consider and retain these gentlemen for the coming year.
July 9, 1923

Dr. H. A. Morgan—continued.

It seems to me that the entire misunderstanding has been caused or at least aggravated by the press. Why let the mistakes of a third party disrupt the University? A dignified statement signed by all parties could be given to the press stating the misunderstanding and leave "a good taste in everyone's mouth".

Your attention is further called to the fact that I am your supporter, and that the motive which prompted this letter is first for what I believe for the good of the University and second for your welfare.

Yours sincerely,

W. O. Lowe

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