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Letters to Dr. H.A. Morgan, Ira G. Sloan from T.A. Wright

T.A. Wright

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July 9, 1923.

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

Dear Doctor:

I think we should, the first of this week, get together on our budget matter and settle our questions for next Monday and Tuesday. I will be out of town Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week.

I want to impress on you two matters:

(1) That a plan of the government of the University should be reduced to writing and brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees again and formally passed by them and made a matter of record. I recognize, as you know, that this was once adopted by the Board of Trustees, but from what I have been able to learn, it is not a matter of record. This would be a great relief to you at all times by simply citing it as the method for carrying on the business.

(2) I sincerely hope that you and Dean Hoskins have preserved the files of the local papers, and especially the News. In them occur many articles that show the trend of affairs, interviews, etc., of different faculty members that would be of great advantage in the future, and probably at our Trustee meeting. I think you should especially preserve the News of Saturday last. I am also impressed that when the Board of Directors act upon the matters now agitating a number of the Professors, and apparently the entire town and student body, that we should be prepared to make public a considerable statement of the whys and wherefores.

I enclose you with this a copy of a letter I am writing to Ira G. Sloan in reply to his letter of July 5th enclosing me a copy of his letter to you of that date; also copy of a letter to a man by the name of Mitchell here in reply to his letter to me. I know Mr. Mitchell very well. He is an Irishman and gifted in many ways, but not in holding his tongue.

Yours very truly,

T.A.W.

Encs.
July 9, 1923.

Hon. Ira G. Sloan,
Madisonville, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 5th instant containing copy of a letter to Dr. H. A. Morgan, President of the University of Tennessee, in regard to Dr. John R. Neal. I have read, as you have, the newspaper accounts of the trouble at the University, and of the fact that it is currently reported that some of the Professors are not going to be recommended for re-election. Dr. Neal has talked to me about it, as have some of the other Professors.

A number of times since I have been on the Board the Deans and the President have failed to recommend for re-election Professors, but it so happens that this is the first time that I have known of the matter being taken up in the public press or questioned by the Professors who have not been recommended for re-election. As a member of the Board I cannot prejudice any of these matters, and am sure you would not want me to. I am content, however, for the present, as I feel all the friends of the University should be, to await results, in the full conviction that the management of the University must be lodged somewhere, and that from his reputation as all the people of the State know it, and his character as I know it, we can put great reliance in Dr. Morgan doing what he thinks is right, and a great deal of confidence in his judgment when the facts are known by him. I trust that none of us will get excited and that the grand old school will go on to greater and better things as it has through the years of the past.

Very truly yours,

TAW/HD

Ccy. to Dr. H. A. Morgan,
University of Tennessee,
City.

(not noted on original)
Mr. H. L. Mitchell,
Samson Building,
City.

Dear Harry:

I was glad to receive your letter of the 5th.

I think you must know how I feel toward and about our old time friend John R. Neal. I am, as you say, a member of the Board of Trustees, and of course cannot undertake to prejudge these matters, and I am sure that all of us, in the meantime, are fully justified in relying upon Dr. Morgan to do the thing that he believes to be right and for the best interest of the University, and also rely on the fact that his judgment in a matter of this kind is worth a great deal, especially when I am sure he would not act without knowing all of the facts. Don't you rather think that his reputation and his character ought to mean very much to the friends of the University when his success is called in question, as I feel that it has been by some misguided people, or some people acting with the thought not for its best interests.

Yours very truly,

TAW

Ccy. to Dr. H. A. Morgan,
University of Tennessee,
Knoxville, Tennessee.

(not noted on original)