

**University Archives
South Caroliniana Library
University of South Carolina**

**Records of the President
William S. Currell
1914-1922**

This series has been microfilmed.

Biographical Note:

William S. Currell became president of the University of South Carolina in 1914, and guided the institution through the dramatic changes inflicted by World War I. Currell was a Charleston native and a graduate and a professor of English at Washington and Lee University. He focused his administration on improving Carolina's academic standards, and was so successful that the University became South Carolina's first state-supported institution of higher learning to be admitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the region's accrediting agency. Currell also became the first president of USC to have a formal inauguration ceremony.

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Roll # 0672

Academics:

- Bacteriology: Correspondence re: new bacteriology course.
- Bible Courses: Debate as to whether a state university should have a Chair of Bible Studies
- Commerce and Finance, School of: Efforts to establish School of Commerce and Finance at USC.
- Education, School of: Correspondence re: status of School of Education, including report on finances and course of study.
- Engineering, School of: Correspondence re: bill to establish engineering schools at Land Grant Colleges.
- Mathematics, Department of: Applications for position in Math Dept.
- Medical College: Discussion of establishing a Dept of Public Health and Preventive Medicine as joint effort of USC and Medical College.
- Modern Languages, Department of: Correspondence re: continued teaching of German Language and Literature during WWI; applications for vacancy.
- Physics, Department of: Applications for vacancies.
- Physical Education: Correspondence re: bill to establish physical education programs in SC schools.
- Psychology and Philosophy: Applications for vacancies; Correspondence from National Committee for Mental Hygiene.
- Standards: Correspondence from faculty to Currell re: the raising of academic standards; includes Oscar Keith, Josiah Morse, Stephen Taber, Patterson Wardlaw.
- Summer School: Includes inquiries from students as to courses offered during summer school; applications for vacancy; dorm room availability.
- Summer School for Enlisted Men: Correspondence re: Army enlisted men allowed to attend USC summer school.

Accreditation for West Point Nominees: Correspondence with West Point Superintendent on allowing USC students to enter West Point on certificate instead of taking entrance examinations.

Advertising: Information on advertisements placed by USC in various publications, including newspapers, magazines, and yearbooks.

Alumni: Information on various alumni activities, including efforts to produce alumni directory.

Alumni Scholarship Class of 1888: Establishment of scholarship fund by Class of 1888.

Roll # 0673

Athletics, Baker: Correspondence between Dean L.T. Baker and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association, President Currell, and Prof. C.G. Gunter (USC Graduate Manager) re: SIAA membership, regulations, and eligibility of players.

Athletics, Currell: Correspondence between Currell and SIAA and Dean Baker re: SIAA membership, regulations, and eligibility of players; National Collegiate Athletic Association; USC Athletic Field; and Carolina Clemson games, including contract for 1916 game.

Bulletins, Requests for: Requests for bulletins produced by USC.

Camden Public Library: Correspondence re: assistance given to Camden Public Library by USC Library.

Chamber of Commerce: Plans to include USC material in educational folder produced by the Chamber of Commerce.

Child Labor: Correspondence with National Child Labor Committee on education and child workers.

Coker, David R.: Awarding of McMaster Medal to Coker.

Colleges and Universities, Out-of-State: Correspondence with presidents of various universities, including topics on academic requirements and commencements.

Davidson College
Miscellaneous
New York University
Peabody College
University of Alabama
University of Chicago

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
University of North Dakota
Vanderbilt College
Washington and Lee University

Colleges and Universities, South Carolina: Correspondence with presidents of South Carolina colleges and universities on various topics, including academic standards and commencements.

Clemson University
Converse College
Miscellaneous
South Carolina Medical College
Winthrop Normal and Industrial College
Wofford College

Commencement: Plans for USC commencements in 1916 & 1918.

Committees/Organizations: Correspondence with state/national committees and organizations.

Bureau of Education: Primarily correspondence re: an "examination" of USC by the Bureau of Education; also re: surveys and course suggestions.

General: Correspondence with various organizations, including National University Extension Association and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Laymen's Missionary Movement: Information on efforts to enlist Christian laymen in missionary movement.

Ministerial Relief: Raising money for Presbyterian Church Endowments.

National Association of State Universities: Primarily plans for conferences and issues facing state universities.

National Economic League: Membership correspondence.

National Education Association: Information on membership drive and "national emergency in education."

National Institute for Moral Instruction: Information on the purpose of NIMI.

National Research Council: Information on project in Psychology.

National Security League: Correspondence re: membership and national preparedness.

Roll # 0674

Peace Committee: Background information on Peace Committee and the League to Enforce Peace.

Southern Conference for Education and Industry: Background and membership information.

Southern Education Society: Plans for annual conference.

State Teachers' Association: Information on annual meeting program and membership.

YMCA, General: Correspondence with Edward King, YMCA General Secretary, re: extension courses, meetings, prospective students; W.D. Weatherford re: a regional YMCA Army camp; other information on meetings and projects.

YMCA, National War Work Council: Information on meetings and projects, primarily on educational services abroad during the war and social hygiene lectures.

YMCA, Secretary, 1914: Correspondence by General Secretary Will U. Guerrant including reports on projects and the resignation of Guerrant.

YWCA: Report on the work accomplished 1914-1915.

Debates: Correspondence re: intercollegiate debates.

Exchange Lectures: Correspondence with University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill re: establishment of exchange lectures series.

Extension Department: Primarily correspondence between Currell and Reed Smith re: work of the Extension Dept.

Faculty: Correspondence between Currell and members of faculty on various topics, inc.: planned courses, students, applications, leaves of absence, resignations.

General

Keith, Oscar L.

McCutchen, George

Mills, J.E.

Moore, A.C.

Morse, Josiah

Rector, Victor

Rowe, W.E.

Smith, Reed

Snowden, Yates

Taber, Stephen

Thomas, J.P.

Wardlaw, Patterson

Wauchope, George

Wright, M.A.

Fire Protection: Information on fire protection systems for schools.

Flinn Legacy: Correspondence re: receipt donation after Mrs. Flinn's death.

Founders' Day 1915: Invitations/acceptances/declinations to speak/attend Founders' Day.

Founders' Day 1916: Invitations/acceptances/declinations to speak/attend Founders'

Day.

Fraternalities: Inquiries re: existence of fraternities at USC.

Garnet and Black 1914: Correspondence re: overdue account of 1914 Garnet and Black.

Roll # 0675

General Correspondence 1915: Topics include admissions, meetings, expenses, the legislature, appropriations, students, and the war's effect on USC.

General Correspondence 1916: Ibid.

General Correspondence 1917: Ibid.

General Correspondence 1918: Ibid.

General Correspondence 1919: Ibid.

Hand, W.H.: State High School Inspector. Includes reports on his work and correspondence on salary.

Hazing: Correspondence and signed agreement between SC colleges banning hazing.

High Schools: Correspondence between Currell and high school principals.

Honorary Degrees: Correspondence re: nominations for and acceptances of honorary degrees awarded by USC.

Hunter-Holsey Incident (1817): Correspondence with Gaylord L. Clark re: an incident with his grandfather at SCC that caused his expulsion.

Kohn, August: Correspondence between Kohn and Currell on various topics, including expenses, committee meetings, and proposed extension of Pickens St.

Legislative Committee: Correspondence with Senator D. Reese Williams re: an inspection tour of USC.

Librarian: Topics include salaries and condition of library & collections.

Manning, Governor Richard: Correspondence between Manning and Currell on various topics, including proposed bills in legislature, faculty hirings and resignations, appointments to committees/organizations and personal subjects.

Migratory Bird Treaty: Support of proposed treaty.

Ministers Conducting Chapel Exercises: Currell's invitations to ministers to conduct chapel exercises (not commencement).

National City Bank of New York: Information on a training program for college students.

Newlands Bill: Opposition to the bill.

Night watchman: Applications for and appointments as night watchmen.

Passailaigue, Edward "Dutch": Correspondence between Currell and Passailaigue re: recommendations for coaching job at Wofford and wartime correspondence.

Peabody Fund: Information on distribution of Peabody Funds at USC.

Physical Plant: Various correspondence re: needed repairs and planned construction.

Gas

General

Heating Plant

Infirmery

Luginbill Building

Marshal's Office (Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds)

Perry-Mann Electric Company

Planned Office Building

Steward's Hall

Wilson and Sompayrac

Women's Building

Playground: Efforts by Robert Moorman to obtain empty USC lot for playground.

Post Office Substation: Efforts to establish a postal sub-station near USC.

Roll # 0679

Reports, Miscellaneous: Includes reports from: Organization Committee, academic departments, and Law School.

Scholarships and Free Tuition: Topics include establishment and discontinuation of scholarships, scholarship examinations and requirements, and efforts by some private colleges to abolish free tuition.

Scholarships, Bills to Establish: Copies of bills to establish scholarships.

Shakespearean Pageant, 1916. Documentation regarding.

Simplified Spelling: Information on a drive to simplify spelling, in which Currell participated.

Sinking Fund: Correspondence re: insurance.

Speaking Engagements:

Invitations by Currell: Invitations to speak at USC.

Invitations to Currell 1915: Invitations for Currell to speak at various events.

Invitations to Currell 1916-19: Ibid.

Spencer, C.E.: Correspondence re: committees, reports, School of Commerce and Finance, and other topics.

Students: Correspondence with students and parents re: expenses, tuition, grades, discipline, and illnesses.

Discipline/Absences

Fees Due

General

Infirmity Board Due/Student Illnesses

Law Students

McDow-Burnett Controversy

Room Reservations

Swearingen, J.E.: Correspondence with Swearingen, State Supt. of Education, on various topics, including construction, committee meetings and reports, academics, expenses and personnel matters.

Roll # 0680

Swearingen, J.E. (continued)

Sylvan Trophy Cup: Efforts to track down a missing trophy cup.

Treasurer's Statements: Includes monthly reports from 1916.

University Press: Correspondence re: the purchase of printing press and training of students in typesetting and journalism.

Women's Education: Efforts to construct a Women's Building and inquiries into educational opportunities for women at USC.

World War I:

Military Training: Correspondence re: the surge of interest in military training at colleges and universities due to WWI.

- Musical Instruments for Soldiers: Letter from wife of John Philip Sousa asking for donations of military instruments.
- National War Savings Committee: Information on war-savings campaign and speaking engagements.
- Naval Unit at USC: Efforts to establish a naval training unit at USC.
- Plattsburg Training Camp, May-June 1918: Information on the location and requirements of the sixty day training camp for students and professors. The professors were expected to assist in the military training of the students at the University when they returned. Includes recommendations and appointments conferred for students and faculty to attend the camp.
- Plattsburg Training Camp, July 1918: Ibid.
- Plattsburg Training Camp, August 1918: Ibid.
- Recommendations for Accoutink, VA: Information and recommendations for a military training camp for graduate engineering students.
- ROTC: Establishment of Reserve Officer Training Corps at USC.
- SATC (Student Army Training Corps), Nov-Dec 1917; June-Aug 1918: All boys over the age of eighteen enrolled in collegiate level schools were given the opportunity to enlist in the SATC; those enlisted were subject to be called to active duty at any time, but it was the policy to keep the members of the SATC in college until their draft age is reached or longer. Illustrated importance placed on "college men" in the war effort. Includes background information, requirements, policies, recommendations for students to join.
- SATC, Sept 1918: Ibid.
- SATC, Oct-Nov 1918: Ibid.
- SATC, Dec 1918-Jan 1919: Ibid.
- Service Flag: Plans to unfurl the USC service flag, which displayed a star for each USC alumnus serving in WWI.
- State Council of Defense: Information on campaign to improve public health.
- Student Enlistment Campaign: Drive to increase enrollment in SATC.
- Uniforms: Information on company supplying SATC uniforms.
- War Camp Community Service: Organization to involve communities in welcoming soldiers in training camps and providing entertainment.
- War Committee (Board of Trustees): July 29, 1918 meeting regarding military service at USC.
- War Department: Correspondence from War Dept. regarding regulations and plans for military instruction at educational institutions.
- War Prohibition: Campaign to reduce liquor production during WWI so the grain could be used to feed the soldiers. Forerunner of 18th Amendment.
- Women's War Work: Organization provided information on work abroad for college women.

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Roll # 0681

Academics: Correspondence of the academic departments re: vacancies, salaries, coursework and students

Engineering, Dept. of

Extension, Dept. of

General

Law School

Modern Languages, Dept. of

Rural Social Science Dept.: USC proposal to conduct county surveys in
conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce

Salaries of Faculty

Summer School 1920

Summer School 1921

Athletics: Correspondence re: Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association rules, player eligibility, stricter regulations and letter protesting gambling and drinking at a game

Budget: 1922 budget plan and related correspondence

Colleges and Universities, In-State:

Clemson: Correspondence re: scholarships, lectures, State College
President Association

General: Includes the Citadel and Furman re: various topics, such as
academics and discipline

Winthrop: Correspondence re: faculty salaries and appropriations

Wofford: Primarily correspondence re: admissions and meeting of the
Association of SC Colleges

Colleges and Universities, Out-of-State:

General: Includes Nebraska, Kentucky and Iowa re: various topics

Washington and Lee: Correspondence includes salaries and athletic eligibility

Commencement 1921: Primarily invitations to and arrangements for commencement speakers

Committees/Organizations:

Economy and Consolidation, Committee on: 1921 report on status of USC and improvements to be made

General Education Board: Primarily correspondence on faculty salaries and annual reports

League to Enforce Peace: Correspondence re: League of Nations and peace treaty

Library Commission: Legislation to establish commission

National Association of State Universities: Primarily correspondence re: conference and its topics for speakers

National Conference on Education: Plans for the conference

National Education Association: Correspondence re: membership information, legislation and convention

National Research Council: Correspondence arranging lectures

Near-East Relief Society: Efforts to help war victims in the Near East (Armenia and Syria)

Organization Committee of the Board of Trustees: Report by the committee on USC academics, physical plant and commencement

Road Institute: Copy of Currell's speech and related correspondence

Rural Education Conference: Correspondence re: plans for the conference, speakers and subjects

Rural Life Conference: Correspondence re: holding a conference with Clemson and Winthrop

Separated State Universities: Correspondence re: efforts to increase federal funding

South Atlantic States Association: Correspondence re: conference for development of foreign trade and curricula for preparing US students for foreign trade

South Carolina Intercollegiate Oratorical Association: Meeting minutes from 1/28/22 regarding arrangements for contests

Southern Educational Society: Correspondence re: meetings and plans to promote science education

State Certification of Teachers Committee: Correspondence discussing plans for developing state certification process

State Teachers' Association: Arrangements for conference on SC's educational needs

Teachers Insurance Annuity Association: Information on retirement funds for USC faculty and possible changes

Tuberculosis Association: Information on tuberculosis and the association

War Camp Community Service: Minutes in 1919 on the planned dissolution of the WCCS to become Community Service Inc. Also projects and budgets
World Cotton Conference: Constitution and plans for the conference, information on topics
YMCA: Primarily correspondence re: search for secretary, hiring of R.G. Bell, and 1919 report on status of YMCA at USC

Roll # 0682

Cooper Portrait: Correspondence re: portrait of Thomas Cooper for sale

Faculty: Topics include leaves of absence, lectures, coursework, hirings
Keith, Oscar L.
Mills, J.E.
Moore, A.C.
Morse, Josiah
Riviere, Rev. W.T.
Saunders, E.W.
Smith, P.K.
Smith, Reed
Snowden, Yates
Stoddard, J.A.
Taber, Stephen
Wardlaw, Patterson

Founders' Day 1921: Report on Founders' Day events, invitations to guests and speakers, copies of speeches

Fraternities: Inquiries from fraternities as to status at USC, correspondence with Attorney General's office and other institutions on bans and sub rosa frats, Board of Trustees resolutions, Currell speech to students re: sub rosa frats

Garnet and Black 1921: Correspondence regarding debt owed by the Garnet and Black staff.

General Correspondence 1919

General Correspondence 1920

Haile-Homes Incident: Correspondence re: Haile-Homes murder-suicide, including suicide note and Currell's statement

Hardin, A.T.: Correspondence re: bequest to USC

Honorary Degrees 1921: Correspondence with recipients of honorary degrees

Honorary Degrees 1922: Ibid.

Kennedy, R.M.: Primarily correspondence with Kennedy re: book orders

Kohn, August: Correspondence re: physical plant repairs and expenses, faculty, appropriations, fraternities

Maxcy-Gregg Lot: Correspondence re: burial location of Rev. Jonathan Maxcy

McGowan, F.P.: Correspondence re: his recruiting trip throughout the state

Military:

Camp Jackson: Correspondence re: lectures and loan of equipment

Military Training: Correspondence re: legislation on establishing universal military training at educational institutions

Navy, Dept. of: Correspondence with Franklin D. Roosevelt (Asst. Secretary of Navy) re: establishing college naval education program

ROTC June-July 1919: Topics include assignment of officer, admissions, equipment, finances, and administration of program

ROTC Aug-Dec 1919: Ibid.

ROTC 1920: Ibid.

ROTC 1921: Includes correspondence re: the Board of Trustees' decision to abolish ROTC at USC

War Dept.: Topics include employment of veterans and scholarships

Roll #0683

National City Bank of New York: Correspondence re: training courses offered in domestic and foreign banking

Per Capita Cost of Education 1921-22: Correspondence regarding calculations of per capita costs at USC and other institutions.

Peterson, Verd: State Supervisor of Agricultural Instruction; arrangements for lectures

Petigru Portrait: Correspondence re: the loan of James L. Petigru portrait to USC; includes loan receipt

Physical Plant:

Coal: Placement of orders

General: Various repairs around the campus
Griffenhagen Report: 1920 or 1921 report on the status of the campus
Haile, Ben: Correspondence re: repairs and maintenance of campus
Homes, M. Goode: Correspondence with Prof. Homes regarding repairs
and inspections of campus buildings; investigation into charges of
fraud and corruption; memorial plaque after his murder
Houses for Faculty: Applications for and assignments of faculty housing;
renovations and plans for construction
Infirmary: Correspondence re: increasing fees
Jackson Construction Company: Correspondence re: contracts for repairs
and construction, including Rutledge College and Chapel
Jones School Supply: Correspondence regarding orders
Lafaye and Lafaye Architects: Correspondence with architects regarding
renovation of dormitories and Rutledge College and Chapel
Steward's Hall: Correspondence with Mrs. Latimer (Hall Matron)
Women's Building: Efforts to build women's dormitory

Printing of Catalog: Correspondence re: catalog and university press

Roddey Debate and Medal: Correspondence re: preparations for 1920 and 1921
debates and inscribing of medal

Scholarships: Includes establishment of, contributions to and awarding of
scholarships
General
Keitt Scholarship and Medal
Normal Scholarship
United Daughters of the Confederacy Scholarship and Medal
YMCA Scholarship

Speaking Engagements:

Invitations by Currell 1919: Invitations to speak at USC
Invitations by Currell 1920: Invitations to speak at USC
Invitations to Currell: Invitations for Currell to speak at various events

Swearingen, J.E.: State Superintendent of Education; correspondence re:
conferences, meetings, personnel matters, copies of reports

Telescope: Correspondence regarding the purchase of a telescope for an
observatory at USC.

Treasurer's Statements: Statements for 1921 and 1922