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Archives Management
October 30, 2014

Finding Aid for the Robert E. L. Sutherland Papers (1930-1932)

Repository: Mississippi University for Women Archives
Cromwell, Room 231
1100 College Street
Columbus, MS 39701

Restrictions: No restrictions exist within this collection.

Creator: R.E.L. Sutherland

Abstract: The correspondence papers and reports of 8th university president R. E. L. Sutherland.

Date Processed: October 30, 2014

Date: 1930-1932

Historical Background: Elected in June of 1930, R. E. L. Sutherland served as the president of M.S.C.W. during the earlier part of the Great Depression. On top of the economic issues, Mississippi governor Theodore Bilbo had just completed a "purge" among the state universities where, allegedly, those with a conflicting political stance were dismissed from their positions. Sutherland was not only left in charge of filling the many vacancies caused by the purge, but because of the controversy surrounding the lay offs, M.S.C.W. was blacklisted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (S.A.C.) as well as many other institutions for questionable practices. Despite the handicaps, Sutherland managed to undo most of the damage that was present upon his arrival. He also enacted several new policies that included an adjustment to the grading system, improved social regulations for the students, and the submittal of questions to alumni in an attempt to improve M.S.C.W. further.

Pieschel, Bridget Smith, and Stephen Robert Pieschel. *Loyal Daughters: One Hundred Years at MUW 1884-1984*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1984.

Neilson, Sarah D. *The History of MS State College for Women*. Mississippi University for Women: Virginia Hunter, 1978.

Preferred Citation: Robert E. L. Sutherland Papers, University Archives, Mississippi University for Women

Extent: 1 Box

Scope and Content: The majority of this collection consists of various correspondence between Sutherland and others, transcriptions of meetings, and other reports and documents. From the vague folder names that were present prior to processing, slightly more specific record groups were created to make searches more intuitive. Because of the scattered order of the documents and misplacement of papers, all items had to be placed in new

folders and reordered to comply with the new organizational method imposed on this collection. Within the collection are two series: correspondence and minutes and reports.

Being the majority of the R.E.L Sutherland collection, the correspondence series contains seven file units with a total of 19 folders. The first three are the more specific of the series simply because of their level of importance. The first of which is correspondence and documents created by acting president Nellie Keirn before Sutherland's arrival in June of 1930. The second consists of letters exchanged between Sutherland and Mississippi governor Theodore Bilbo. Finally, the third folder contains correspondence in regards to M.S.C.W.'s suspension from the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. These items range from concerned faculty and students to correspondence between Sutherland and the S.A.C.

The next four file units are more generalized. The fourth file unit is faculty correspondence that involves letters of recommendation, applications, leave of absence requests and approvals, and notices of resignation. This file unit has a total of eight volumes. Fifth, campus correspondence is a five-volume file unit that contains information on students, rule violations, and punishments as well as correspondence with both the student and parents. Next are the financial letters and reports. Here, one can find the yearly budgets, financial reports, and correspondence involving strictly financial matters. The final file unit in this series is simply miscellaneous correspondence. Within this file is various letters of thanks to Sutherland's supporters, correspondence from other universities, and questionnaires.

The final series consists of transcriptions of meetings and reports. There are no specific file units in place, but there exists three volumes of minutes and reports.

Order:

Series: Correspondence

Nellie Keirn Acting President Correspondence

Sutherland and Bilbo Correspondence

Faculty Correspondence

Faculty Correspondence Vol. 1

Faculty Correspondence Vol. 2

Faculty Correspondence Vol. 3

Faculty Correspondence Vol. 4

Faculty Correspondence Vol. 5

Faculty Correspondence Vol. 6

Faculty Correspondence Vol. 7

Faculty Correspondence Vol. 8

Campus Correspondence

Campus Correspondence Vol. 1

Campus Correspondence Vol. 2

Campus Correspondence Vol. 3

Campus Correspondence Vol. 4

Campus Correspondence Vol. 5

Financial Correspondence

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Miscellaneous Correspondence Vol. 1

Miscellaneous Correspondence Vol. 2

Series: Minutes and Reports

Minutes and Reports Vol. 1

Minutes and Reports Vol. 2

Minutes and Reports Vol. 3