



Mississippi University
for Women
A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

University Archives Inventory

Record Group Number: UR001.02

Title: Robert E. Lee Sutherland Presidential Records

Date: 1930-1967

Extent: 1 box

Creator: Robert E. Lee Sutherland

Administrative/Biographical Notes: 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 layoffs, M.S.C.W. was blacklisted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (S.A.C.S.) 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.

Scope and Content Notes: 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 S.A.C.S.

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



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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.

Processed October 30, 2014

System of Arrangement: by series and chronological

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: All unpublished materials are protected by copyright held by Mississippi University for Women. Permission to publish or reproduce must be requested in writing to the University Archivist. Published materials may also be protected by copyright, and the user must locate and request permission from copyright holder to publish or reproduce.

Language: English

Finding aids: Available on office workstation at C:\Users\user\Documents\Archives\finding aids\Finding Aid REL Sutherland Records.pdf

Appraisal/Destruction: This record is slated for permanent retention.

Description Control: 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.

Description based on DACS 2nd Edition. Access points based on Library of Congress Subject Headings and Name Authority File. Finding aid created by Candice Walls, 2014.

Folder List

Year	Box	Folder
1930-1932	C8	BOX of Correspondance
undated	C8	Nellie Keirn Acting President
undated	C8	Sutherland & Gov. Bilbo Correspondence
undated	C8	Correspondence in Regards to suspension of M.S.C.W. from SAC
undated	C8	Faculty & Sutherland Correspondence Vol. 1
undated	C8	Faculty & Sutherland Correspondence Vol. 2
undated	C8	Faculty & Sutherland Correspondence Vol. 3



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undated	C8	Faculty & Sutherland Correspondence Vol. 4
undated	C8	Faculty & Sutherland Correspondence Vol. 5
undated	C8	Faculty & Sutherland Correspondence Vol. 6
undated	C8	Faculty & Sutherland Correspondence Vol. 7
undated	C8	Faculty & Sutherland Correspondence Vol. 8
undated	C8	Campus Correspondence Vol. 1
undated	C8	Campus Correspondence Vol. 2
undated	C8	Campus Correspondence Vol. 3
undated	C8	Campus Correspondence Vol. 4
undated	C8	Campus Correspondence Vol. 5
undated	C8	Financial Correspondence
undated	C8	Misc. Correspondence Vol. 1
undated	C8	Misc. Correspondence Vol. 2
undated	C8	Minutes & Records Vol. 1
undated	C8	Minutes & Records Vol. 2
undated	C8	Minutes & Records Vol. 3
1967		Death announcement for Robert E. Lee Sutherland from the Alumnae News