

appointed a committee of one to act upon a joint committee for collecting and preserving records of speech, song and similar material in various languages and dialects by means of speech-recording and transcribing apparatus. It was voted that Dr. Frank Russell be appointed to represent Section H upon this committee.

FRANK RUSSELL,  
*Secretary of Section H.*

LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY.

WE do not think that the time has yet come when a correct opinion can be expressed in regard to the unfortunate circumstances that have recently occurred at Leland Stanford Junior University. On the one hand, 'academic freedom' is absolutely essential as a condition of higher education and research; on the other hand, academic dignity and order must be maintained. At the present time we can only publish the letters exchanged between Professor Howard and President Jordan, and the subsequent letters by Professors Hudson and Little and the reply of acting-president Branner.

On January 10, 1901, President Jordan wrote as follows:

Professor George E. Howard, Stanford University—Dear Sir: After the dismissal of Professor Ross by the authorities of this university you took occasion to make certain remarks before your class criticizing the action and the motives of the management of the university. These remarks as reported in the newspapers and credited in university circles were, in the nature of the accusations, unjust, and, in the method of their presentation, discourteous to the university management. I have waited a reasonable time in the hope that reflection would enable you to see that some explanation and apology were desirable. Failing to hear from you I now deem it my duty to request you to make satisfactory apology for this breach of courtesy and to give such assurances of your attitude toward the management of the university as will guarantee a proper harmonious relation in the future. Failing in this it is my request that you at once tender your resignation, to take effect at the end of the current year, or sooner, should your feelings in

the matter prevent harmonious cooperation until that time.

Professor Howard replied on the 12th:

President David S. Jordan, Stanford University—Dear Sir: In self-defense I am forced to reply to several charges and statements contained in your letter asking my resignation. On the day following the publication of Dr. Ross' dismissal by the authorities of the university I spoke to my class in French revolution on the subject of 'Commercial absolutism and the place of the teacher in the discussion of social questions.' The address was as earnest a protest against interference with academic freedom as I was capable of making. There was absolutely no discourteous reference to the president nor to the founder, although in the discussion of the general theme there was involved a strong disapproval of their action. I do not believe that any fair-minded person who heard me will say that my remarks were discourteous in the method of presentation or unjust in their content. In the address I referred to the motives and influences which have caused the restriction of free speech in various institutions of the country. But so far as the motives and influences governing the recent action were mentioned, directly or by implication, they were those assigned in the published statement of Dr. Ross and sustained by the substance of your conversation with me on the evening of the day on which that statement appeared.

I am obliged to refer to another passage in your letter. You will scarcely fail to recall the fact that since my address before the class in French revolution you have asked me to remain in the university and repeatedly said that you did not wish me to resign. On November 20th, when our last conversation regarding the Ross incident occurred, you said positively that you should not ask my resignation unless Mrs. Stanford demanded it. How then could you have been hoping for an apology?

I have no apology to offer. My conscience is clear in this matter. What I have said I have said, as I believe, in the cause of individual justice and academic liberty. Therefore, in response to your demand, I tender you my resignation to take effect at your pleasure. An immediate answer will oblige.

On the following day President Jordan wrote:

Professor George E. Howard, Stanford University—Dear Sir: Your letter of the 12th inst., tendering your resignation as professor of history in the Leland Stanford Junior University, is duly received. I accept your resignation, to take effect at a date to be determined by you, in accordance with the concluding words of my letter of the 9th inst. These words

are: "Failing this, I request you to tender your resignation, to take effect at the end of the current year, or sooner, should your feelings in the matter prevent harmonious cooperation until that time." I shall be glad to know your further wish in the matter, and it may be communicated to Vice-President Branner, who is acting president, with full powers, in my absence.

The correspondence closed with this letter from Professor Howard, dated January 14th:

President David S. Jordan, Stanford University, Cal.—Dear Sir: Your letter accepting my resignation is received. Of course I am well aware that the rights of the large number of students now registered in my classes are involved in fixing the time of my resignation. Therefore, since I am being dismissed from a life position on the alleged ground of discourtesy to the authorities of the university, it seemed to me but fair that you should take the responsibility of saying whether I should remain to the end of the year. You decline to take that responsibility, and so leave me but one safe and dignified course.

I should have been willing to remain to the close of the year for the sake of my students, could I have felt sure that by 'harmonious cooperation' you mean a faithful and free performance of academic duty according to the spirit of the original implied contract under which I have thus far labored. I have not changed my attitude toward the university or toward my professorial duties. I am only protesting against revolutionary proceedings. The vital point of the whole present incident is a question of free speech. Therefore I am not willing to pledge myself in advance to abide by the uncertain interpretation of the ambiguous phrase 'should your feelings in the matter prevent harmonious cooperation until that time.' Hence I wish my resignation to take effect at once.

On the following day Professors W. H. Hudson and C. L. Little presented their resignations. Professor Hudson's letter reads:

President Jordan—Dear Sir: For more than a year I have for personal reasons contemplated presently severing my connection with Stanford University. Recent events now precipitate my decision to do so.

As you are well aware I was from the first in strongest opposition to the new policy of the university inaugurated in the dismissal of Dr. Ross—a policy destructive of those first principles of academic

freedom upon which, as you have repeatedly said, the university was originally founded. Ever since the occurrence of that incident I have seriously doubted whether it would be possible for me, consistently with my opinions, to retain my position in this faculty. But now that in further pursuance of such policy, you have seen fit to demand the resignation of a man whom you yourself, in common with all who have known him, have long regarded as one of our ablest scholars and noblest teachers, for no other reason than that furnished by his just condemnation of the action of the university authorities—now that, in this way, you have clearly shown that it is the intention of the university to inhibit fair criticism of its methods no less than frank discussion of public affairs, no doubt is left in my mind as to my course. Whatever plans I might otherwise have made I cannot under existing circumstances continue to hold my chair. I therefore tender you my resignation, to take effect at your pleasure.

Professor Little wrote:

President Jordan—Dear Sir: Ever since the dismissal of Dr. Ross, against your protest, for expressing in the discussion of public questions opinions displeasing to Mrs. Stanford, I have considered whether I, who hold similar opinions, could be willing to remain in the faculty of Stanford University. Your recent call for the resignation of a man whose ability and independence of character I have admired for twenty years, because he uttered, in a form courteous to you and to Mrs. Stanford, condemnation of a policy destructive of the academic freedom in which you profess to believe, put an instant end to my indecision.

I hereby resign my chair as professor of mathematics in Leland Stanford Jr. University, to take effect at your convenience.

To these letters Professor J. C. Branner, acting president, replied on the same day, in identical terms, as follows:

Professor William H. Hudson, Stanford University—Dear sir: Your resignation as Professor of English literature, in the Leland Stanford Junior University, addressed to President Jordan, has been handed to me as acting president.

Waiving the question of the validity of the reasons you put forward for your action, I hereby accept your resignation, to take immediate effect.

David E. Spencer, associate professor of history, has subsequently resigned.