

May 27, 1933  
304 University Hall

TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS:

To assist me in making a report on the College I should like to have a report from you on your Department - especially on "the teaching and research work" - for the biennium 1931-33.

May I hear from you within a week or so?

Very truly yours,



Arthur H. Daniels  
Acting Dean

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The courses offered by the Chemistry Department during the past biennium have remained essentially the same as in the previous biennium. No changes have been made in the curricula of chemistry and chemical engineering. The system adopted several years ago of visiting the classes held by part-time assistants has been continued and it has been found advantageous in that any minor faults in our assistants can be corrected by the more experienced senior staff member. I am sure that this system has helped to improve the freshman and sophomore teaching.

On account of the financial situation if was necessary for the Chemistry Department for the year 1932-33 to drop from its staff Dr. W. H. Madson and Dr. Roland Ward, two capable men whom we much regretted to lose.

The staff of the Chemistry Department has become much more strict in regard to the graduate students than in the previous biennium. Each semester the Executive Committee of the department goes over carefully the records of each of the first and second year graduate students, and discusses the individuals from the standpoint of grades as well as personality and other characteristics. Owing to the expense of carrying on graduate instruction, we have felt that it would be better to advise that some of our students, even though their records were satisfactory from the standpoint of the Graduate School, should go elsewhere for one reason or another. As a consequence the number of graduate students in chemistry dropped from between 180 and 190

in the first semester of 1932 to 150-160 in the present semester. We feel that this policy has helped to improve the quality of our graduate students and next year, which will be the first one in which these more or less selected men will have completed the requirements for the doctorate, we shall have the unusual group whom we should be able to place even in these difficult times.

The investigations of the graduate students and staff have been continued without interruption. In spite of the fact that it has been impossible for the department to purchase various pieces of equipment which they have needed badly, the staff members have made the best of conditions and many important researches have been completed during this biennium.

The publications from the department during the calendar years 1931 and 1932 have amounted to between 230 and 240, practically all of which were in the various scientific journals published by various societies in the United States. This is a record of which any chemistry department might well be proud and I am hoping that conditions will be such that our investigational work will not be seriously handicapped. It is going to be necessary next year to purchase certain pieces of equipment and a considerable supply of chemicals which has been gradually exhausted during the past year and a half.

Chemistry Department  
May 31, 1933