

8 Mar 1889

To

The Honorable Board of Trustees
of Indiana University,

Gentlemen:—

I beg leave to submit the
following to your consideration.

My work in this Institution is as hard as that of any other Professor,
and probably somewhat harder than that of many others, because it requires
the practical knowledge of at least three different foreign languages—
French, Italian, Spanish, and a thorough theoretical acquaintance with
the history of at least two of them—French, Provençal—and of their
literatures.

I am and probably shall be obliged to go to Europe nearly every year,
because it is entirely impossible for any man, to remain well versed in
several foreign languages, unless he has from time to time an opportunity
to speak and practice them in their respective countries.

Nearly all the books which I must buy, are printed in Europe and, the
ports and duty being added, they are very expensive. Every professor,
however, must necessarily be able to procure at least the most important
publications in his line; otherwise he must at once remain behind
the times and become unable to publish any thing himself.

These three reasons, the technical character of my department,
the necessity of frequent travelling and the expensiveness of studying
materials, together with the fact, that my predecessor Professor Garner,
received indeed a higher salary than I, will, I hope, show the legitimacy
of my request, if I respectfully ask the Honorable Board, to raise my
salary at least so as to place it on a level with that of the
Senior professors.

Very respectfully

Indiana University

Bloomington. Ind.

March 8th 1889.

Gustaf Karsten.

Professor of Romance Philology.