

Gustaf E. Karsten.

To the Honorable Board of Trustees,

Gentlemen:-

I beg leave again to call your attention to the inadequate condition of our library. Every one who has been engaged in literary work of any kind, ^{or} in studying any subject, will know that his work is at the outset crippled and must fall short of what it otherwise might have been, if he cannot obtain the necessary books at the right time. This is impossible at present at our University. It is true that we cannot expect to have ~~it~~ all at once an ideal library for the limited means at our disposal, but it is also sure that the money now spent could be used to better advantage ~~if~~ if the present system of purchasing books could be abandoned or modified. Nobody knows so well as our authorities how much money may be used for library purposes, and nobody in this country knows so well as our professors what books are needed. This is incontrovertible and upon this basis alone can a right ~~division~~ division of duties be found. Each professor should be told at the beginning of the financial year exactly how much money can be spent for his department during the year. Then there will be no rush for books at the beginning of the year; there will be a fair division secured at the outset, and each professor will be able to arrange his purchases systematically, to adapt his plans to the means allowed. Whether or not the Board may then think it advisable to exercise some further control, by making it the duty of the professor to consult with the President or with one of the Trustees,

is merely a personal question. The essential thing is that each department should know exactly how much money there is in the treasury to be spent in its interest. This of course does not exclude the advisability of keeping a certain sum back for general or for quite ~~special~~ ^{extra} purposes, or of making ~~other~~ ^{extra} appropriations for some departments.

I would therefore respectfully ask the Honorable Board to make a liberal allowance for the German department, in view of the fact that it is one of the largest in our University and that very little has been done for it during the last year. It would be useless for me to mention any definite sum, thousands of dollars could of course be spent to good advantage, and it remains for the wisdom of the Board to decide how much can be done at present.

Respectfully submitted

Gustaf E. Karsten.

Dep. of German.

Bloomington, Ind., Oct. 29, 1892.

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