

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF STUDENT  
OFFICERS OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Kansas City, Missouri  
October 10-11, 1953

October 10

The meeting of the Board of Student Officers of the FFA was called to order in Room 941 of the Hotel President, in Kansas City, Missouri, by Jimmy Dillon, National FFA President. Those present included: Malcolm Ellis, North Atlantic Vice President; Fred Reed, Jr., Southern Vice President; Bill Soren, Central Vice President; Donald R. Travis, Pacific Vice President; Jimmy Willis, Student Secretary; Dr. W. T. Spanton, National Advisor; and Dr. A. W. Tenney, National Executive Secretary of the Future Farmers of America.

The meeting was called to order by President Dillon. The first matter to come before the Board was the review of the case of Harold Paul Heyman, of Route 1, Burns, Kansas, whose application for the American Farmer Degree was rejected at the July meeting of the Boards of Student Officers and Directors. Dr. Spanton reported that he had been advised by Mr. Lester Pollom, the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in Kansas, that Harold desired to appear before the Boards at their October meeting and appeal his case. Dr. Spanton read the correspondence that had taken place between him; Mr. Pollom; Mr. C. M. Miller, the State Director in Kansas; and the candidate, Harold Heyman. The members of the Board again reviewed the application in question, and the reason for its rejection, namely: "It was found that on Page 3 of the candidate's application, errors exceeded 5 per cent of the labor income in the summarization of the labor income and amount actually received by the candidate. An error in calculation was also found on Page 8 of the application".

The candidate and Mr. Loren Whipps, Assistant Teacher Trainer, of Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas, then were admitted to the conference room. Mr. Whipps reported that he feared the State Office was probably to blame for the rejection of Harold's application, due to errors in typing the application. In the discussion which followed, Mr. Whipps was questioned by members of the Board concerning the procedure used in his State in the preparation of American Farmer applications. He was asked, in particular, if Harold had transferred the information from his record books on to the application form. Mr. Whipps stated that the candidate computes the data for his record book; then sends the figures in to the State Office where the application form is typed. In answer to an inquiry as to whether or not the State Office keeps the original figures, as submitted by the candidate, from which the typing was done, Mr. Whipps gave a negative reply.

Harold was given an opportunity to make a statement to the Board. He stated that he could add little to what Mr. Whipps had said, but he had his record books with him and would be glad to answer any questions concerning them. He stated that he could not, of course, prove to the

Board's satisfaction that he had not made corrections in his records since the time his application was rejected. After some discussion, it was suggested that Harold leave his record books with the Board for further review.

After due consideration and discussion, it was moved by Bill Sorem, seconded by Malcolm Ellis, and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the previous action of the Board be upheld, since no further evidence had been submitted to the Board, indicating that an error was not made in Harold's original application.

The next matter presented for the consideration of the Board was a complaint from Elmer Felton, of Phoenix, Arizona, because of the fact that W. E. Smith was to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree, instead of himself, by virtue of Mr. Smith signing as Advisor of the Phoenix Technical School — a Gold Emblem Chapter winner. In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that while Mr. Felton had started the department in 1947 and has done a very good job there, it appears that Mr. Smith, a comparatively new teacher, has been working with the chapter and signed the Chapter Contest report as Advisor. In view of the fact that this chapter won a Gold Emblem Award, Mr. Smith automatically becomes eligible for the Honorary American Farmer Degree. However, Mr. Felton feels that this honor should rightfully go to him. Similar cases which had previously occurred in the States of Texas, California and Wyoming, were cited. In these cases, the reports were accepted as submitted. Some members of the Board thought that perhaps the older teacher should receive this honor. Bill Sorem, however, felt that if the older teacher did not have enough interest in the chapter to sign the application, he should not receive the degree. Dr. Spanton pointed out the fact that in accordance with policies previously adopted, and now in effect, the person signing the report as "Advisor" is entitled to the Honorary American Farmer Degree, and that each chapter is supposed to have one advisor only; and that we, therefore, have no alternative other than to accept the name appearing on the application.

After further discussion, it was moved by Don Travis, seconded by Fred Reed, and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that W. E. Smith be recommended to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree, in Arizona.

Dr. Spanton then read a letter from the Bradford Chapter, in Starke, Florida, requesting permission for Lester Poucher, a Past National FFA President, to present a basket of citrus fruit to President Eisenhower at the conclusion of his address before the Future Farmers of America in the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. Dr. Spanton also read a Resolution from their County Board of Commissioners, recommending this action. In the discussion which followed, it was the consensus of opinion that this request could not be granted because of security regulations in connection with the President's visit. The Board of Student Officers, therefore, went on record as opposing this request.

The remainder of the day was spent in going over the Silver Anniversary Convention Program; working out, in detail, plans for conducting the convention; and assigning specific duties to the individual members of the Board for the entire week.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

#### October 11

The meeting was called to order by President Dillon in Room 941, Hotel President, Kansas City, Missouri, all members of the Board being present.

Dr. Spanton read a telegram from Mrs. Elmer Felton which stated her husband, Elmer Felton, was more deserving of the Honorary American Farmer Degree than W. E. Smith, who was listed as advisor of the Phoenix Technical Chapter, Phoenix, Arizona.

It was moved by Don Travis, seconded by Jimmy Willis, and carried, that the Board of Student Officers reconsider their action taken on October 10.

It was moved by Don Travis, seconded by Fred Reed, and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending that whoever was the official advisor at the time the report of accomplishments was submitted should receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree for 1952-53.

Dr. Tenney displayed an electric FFA emblem. He stated that 250 could be ordered at one time, and for the first year would have to be sold for \$15. each. It was moved by Bill Sorem, seconded by Jimmy Willis, and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending the electric FFA emblems be placed in the Supply Service stock.

Dr. Tenney then showed two samples of art work for a plaque for the Sentinel Station (Seal of Friendship). He stated these would sell for approximately two dollars. It was moved by Don Travis, seconded by Jimmy Willis, and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as accepting the second pattern of art work on the Sentinel plaque,

Dr. Tenney, as previously requested by the Board, showed art work on a plaque that could be used as an individual plaque for chapter, state or national officers. The plaque could be awarded at the end of their term of office. It was moved by Bill Sorem, seconded by Malcolm Ellis, and carried that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending that the Supply Service be authorized to handle the plaques but they be used by all Future Farmers who want them.

After considerable discussion concerning the National Chapter Contest, it was moved by Bill Sorem, seconded by Fred Reed and carried that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending a revised form for the National Chapter Contest be completed by the July meetings.

The meeting was adjourned.