

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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The terrible catastrophe that has befallen our College has shocked and grieved us. But in the midst of our deep concern and bewilderment there is a feeling of gratitude that no one was in the building at the time of the fire.

Let us therefore cease to lament, and rather use this occasion as a spur for the building of a finer Hunter.

I have placed my services at the disposal of President Colligan, and have assured him of the full coöperation of every member of the Association. I know that I have not spoken vainly, and that when the call comes you will respond with all the love and loyalty we have always pledged to our Alma Mater.

IRENE BRANDON GRAFF.

COLLEGE NOTES

In the dark hour of adversity following the fire which destroyed the central portion of the old building on Friday, February 14, it must have been heartening to President Colligan to be met by the eager and loyal support of staff and students.

Offers of help came from many sources. Mayor La Guardia and other city officials came to the College to support the President.

With the resumption of classes, students found themselves incommoded by the lack of library, bookroom, laboratory, study hall, and locker facilities. The suspension of classes regularly held in the west building also inconvenienced hundreds of College and Model School students.

Work in the Lexington Avenue building has been conducted without a break for day and evening session students. Julia Richman High School is being used for evening and extension students whose classes were held in the old buildings. Hygiene and home economics classes, which lost all their laboratories, met for field trips.

The Executive Board of the Student Self-Government Association of Hunter College, at a special meeting on Monday, February 17, passed a resolution to arrange for a hearing with the Mayor and the Board of Estimate, to discuss the erection of a new building at 68th Street and Park Avenue, in preference to rebuilding the 63-year-old building.

Mrs. Leslie Graff, president of the Associate Alumnae, sent a telegram to the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Higher Education, Mr. Charles Tuttle, urging the erection of a new building on the present site as a protection for the lives of the students.

It is the hope of all of us that great good will come from the united action of students, parents, teachers, and alumnae.

K. M. LAVELL.

THE FIRE AND ITS AFTERMATH

The campaign for the erection of an adequate and safe building for our Hunter College students was inaugurated, on February 17, by the editor of the *Bulletin* with an editorial in the form of an open letter addressed to the members of the Board of Estimate. Copies of this editorial were sent to each member of the Board of Estimate and to the metropolitan newspapers. Excerpts from the open letter appeared in a number of papers.

The Executive Committee of the Student Self-Government Association, headed by Eleanor Tomlinson, has circulated a petition for a new building among students of the College and High School, their parents and teachers. The students have also written letters to the newspapers on the subject.

I trust that the ALUMNÆ NEWS will take cognizance of the splendid spirit manifested by the students when sessions were resumed after the fire. The arrangements made over the week-end by President Colligan, Dean Egan, and Mrs. Lehn, the Registrar, were carried out without the slightest confusion or grumbling, despite the serious inconveniences to which the students and many of the staff were subjected.

A temporary emergency program, providing one hour weekly in the Lexington Avenue building for the classes which met from one to nine hours weekly in the "old building", went into effect on Monday, February 24. The permanent program for these classes will be announced as soon as the necessary arrangements for new quarters are completed.

President Colligan has received many messages of sympathy and offers of help from various sources. Telegrams of sympathy were sent by some of the merchants of the city, including Bloomingdale, Hearn, Saks-Fifth Avenue, and S. Klein. Generous offers of the use of building facilities were made by Congregation Emanu-El, Congregation Beth-El, the Y.M.H.A., the School of St. Ignatius Loyola, the Board of Education, and other groups.

As a result of the offer brought to Dr. Colligan by Dr. Ruth Lewinson, the Model School is now in session at the Community House of Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street. Twenty-five class-rooms in a fire-proof building with a large auditorium were made available to the Model School through the courtesy of Judge Irving Lehman, president of the Congregation, and Mr. Sydney H. Herman, vice-president.

At a meeting of the Sinking Fund Commission on February 27, the request of our Administrative Committee for approval of a

Whereas, The emergency created by the fire in the Park Avenue Building of Hunter College necessitates the reorganization of the College in order that about 2554 College students and 705 Model School students may be cared for; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Aldermen of the City of New York is hereby requested to authorize and empower the Board of Higher Education to purchase supplies, equipment, and other material, to arrange for services required for installations and for all other services in connection with the reorganization of the College in the emergency, in the open market without public letting, in a sum not to exceed the following: for reorganization, equipment, and supplies, \$50,000.

In view of the emergency and the need of the College for assistance, your immediate action on this matter is respectfully requested.

Very truly yours,

MARK EISNER,
Chairman of the
Board of Higher Education.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

February 19, 1936.

The Board of Higher Education respectfully calls attention to the following salient facts with reference to the fire at Hunter College on February 14, 1936:

Whereas:

1. The old building of Hunter College on Park Avenue has become unsafe and totally unusable as a result of the fire on February 14, 1936.
2. Thousands of students must be relocated in temporary quarters suitable for college purposes. 2554 students of senior and junior classes are already on part time and with a curtailed curriculum.
3. The old building cannot be made safe or to conform to the requirements of the various city departments, even if substantial sums were to be expended for that purpose.
4. The students are at present scattered as follows:
 - 3485 College students are in the uncompleted plant in the Bronx, representing an overload for the present buildings of almost 1300 students.
 - 2554 College students of senior and junior years are on part time and with makeshift programs in the East Building on Lexington Avenue. This building can safely house not more than 1500.
 - 1000 College students are in a loft building at 145 East 32nd Street, upon which violations have been placed from time to time, all of which have not yet been removed.
 - 4605 Evening and Extension College students are now distributed in the East

Building of Hunter College and in 63 rooms in Julia Richman High School. 4500 students, it is anticipated, will attend the 1936 Summer Session of the College.

750 first year High School students are in the loft building at 145 East 32nd Street.

1500 High School students are in the building at 320 E. 96th St., which belongs to the Board of Education and was used for many years as an elementary school, and which presents various educational, sanitary, and building problems despite large annual expenditures. 705 Model School pupils, who were in 17 rooms in the West or Old College Building on Park Avenue, are now in Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street.

5. The Board of Higher Education has at various times adopted resolutions and has taken other appropriate action to indicate its desire and determination to remedy these conditions, only to find that the failure of various Boards of Estimate and Apportionment, upon whom the Board of Higher Education is dependent for its finances, to provide funds has prevented the accomplishment of this desire and determination.

6. The Board of Higher Education has a mandate to continue to conduct and develop, as part of the common school system, the benefits of collegiate education gratuitously to citizens who are actual residents of the city and who are qualified for admission to any undergraduate course of study leading to a baccalaureate degree and to any course of study in any preparatory, training, or model school connected with any institution under their control; and to furnish gratuitously or otherwise for male students or female students, additional technical, professional, and special courses of study and other educational advantages; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Higher Education of the City of New York requests the honorable members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment with all possible speed to provide the necessary funds to accomplish the demolition of the present Old College Building of Hunter College on Park Avenue between 68th and 69th Streets, Manhattan, and the erection in its place of modern and safe facilities to enable the Board properly to discharge its legally mandated duty; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Higher Education empowers and directs its Chairman and Secretary and the Chairman of the Administrative Committee of Hunter College to take all steps necessary to accomplish presentation of its request to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and to sign and execute any and all further instruments or resolutions necessary to effectuate the purposes of the foregoing resolution.