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Minutes of the Board of Trustees 12401757

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	3
Summary	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	7
Series I. Minutes of the Board of Trustees	7
Series II. Indices to the Minutes of the Board of Trustees	20

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University. Trustees
Title:	Minutes of the Board of Trustees
ID:	12401757
ID:	UA#0019
Date [inclusive]:	1755-2019
Physical Description:	46.1 linear feet 168 bound volumes and 15 index card boxes
Physical Description:	36.87 Megabytes 141 PDF files
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date; Minutes of the Board of Trustees; Volume number, page number; University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

Overall governance of the University is in the hand of its 24-member Board of Trustees. The Trustees select the President, oversee all faculty and senior administrative appointments, monitor the budget, supervise the endowment, and protect University property.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

The first meeting of the "Governors of the College of the Province of New York in the City of New York in America" was held on May 7, 1755. The Governors managed the monies raised in the public lottery for the foundation of King's College. They were also charged with hiring instructors, appointing a President, and eventually, building a home for the College and creating a medical school.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

In 1783, after the end of the War of Independence, the surviving members of the Board of Governors petitioned the Legislature for a new charter. The "Regents of the University of the State of New York" took charge of what was once King's College. This body included the Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor, the President of the Senate, the Mayor of Albany, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State and 24 other members. This arrangement proved impractical and in 1787 Columbia College was granted its own Board of Trustees. To this day, Columbia University has remained under this form of governance.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

The Trustees would meet once a month and set up committees to address individual issues. For example, the Visitation Committee, established in 1785, used to send Trustees to inspect the college: visit the rooms, see that they were well ventilated and warm, and inspect the records of the College. Other committees were appointed to establish new professorships or a Library Committee to oversee the library. Standing committees include Buildings & Grounds, Education, Finance and Honors. Since 1908 six seats are reserved for alumni representatives, voted on by the alumni of the different schools to serve for six-year terms. Currently twelve Trustees are elected by the Trustees acting alone, six by the Trustees working in consultation with the Executive Committee of the University Senate, and six elected after nomination by the University's alumni.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

This collection contains the minutes created by the Governors of the College of the Province of New York in the City of New York in America, the Corporation of King's College in the City of New York, the Regents of the University of the State of New York, and Trustees of Columbia College (and since 1896, University) in the City of New York. It also includes two subject indices.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. Removed expired restrictions. (JR) Removed expired restrictions. (JR) Removed expired restrictions. (JR) 2019-03-20 2019-05-20 2020-01-06 2021-01-11 2022-01-07

Restrictions on Access

Minutes of the Board of Trustees are restricted for 50 years from the date of creation.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is located onsite.

Accrual

Additons are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Minutes transferred to the University Archives from the Office of the Secretary on a yearly basis.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Joanna Rios and Vianca Victor. Finding aid written by Joanna Rios in March 2019.

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Accruals

Materials have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact uarchives@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Minute books
- Columbia College (New York, N.Y.)
- Columbia University -- Administration
- Columbia University. Trustees
- King's College (New York, N.Y.)

- University of the State of New York

Collection Inventory

Series I. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1755-2019

Scope and Contents

This collection begins with the minutes Governors of the College of the Province of New York in the City of New York in America in 1755. There is evidence that the Board met during the War of Independence, but the minutes for the period after July 1781 and before May 1784 are missing. The volumes listed below contain transcriptions of the original manuscript volumes. (To access manuscript copies, please contact uarchives@columbia.edu.) Starting in 1890-1891, the minutes are organized by academic or fiscal year, and were recorded in typewritten form. Minutes created since 2005-2006 are available in electronic format only.

Title/Description	Instances
Early Minutes of the Trustees, 1755-1770	item 1
Volume I, 1770 April-1781 July	item 2
Volume II Part 1, 1784 May-1809 February	item 3
Volume II Part 2, 1809 June-1819 December	item 4
Volume III Part 1, 1820 January-1828 April	item 5
Volume III Part 2, 1828 May-1837 December	item 6
Volume IV Part 1, 1838 January-1850 January	item 7
Volume IV Part 2, 1850 January-1855 December	item 8
Volume V Part 1, 1856 January-1858 December	item 9
Volume V Part 2, 1859 January-1863 December	item 10
Volume VI Part 1, 1864 January-1867 May	item 11
Volume VI Part 2, 1867 June-1872 December	item 12
Volume VII, 1873 January-1880 May	item 13
Volume VIII, 1880 June-1884 December	item 14
Volume IX, 1885 January-1888 June	item 15
Volume X, 1890 October-1890 December	item 16
Volume XI, 1890-1891	item 17
Volume XII, 1891-1892	item 18
Volume XIII, 1892-1893	item 19
Volume XIV, 1893-1894	item 20

Minutes of the Board of Trustees 12401757

Volume XV, 1894-1895	item 21
Volume XVI, 1895-1896	item 22
Volume XVII, 1896-1897	item 23
Volume XVIII, 1897-1898	item 24
Volume XIX, 1898-1899	item 25
Volume XX, 1899-1900	item 26
Volume XXI, 1900-1901	item 27
Volume XXII, 1901-1902	item 28
Volume XXIII, 1902-1903	item 29
Volume XXIV, 1903-1904	item 30
Volume XXV, 1904-1905	item 31
Volume XXVI, 1905-1906	item 32
Volume XXVII, 1906-1907	item 33
Volume XXVIII, 1907-1908	item 34
Volume XXIX, 1908-1909	item 35
Volume XXX, 1909-1910	item 36
Volume XXXI, 1910-1911	item 37
Volume XXXII, 1911-1912	item 38
Volume XXXIII, 1912-1913	item 39
Volume XXXIV, 1913-1914	item 40
Volume XXXV, 1914-1915	item 41
Volume XXXVI, 1915-1916	item 42
Volume XXXVII, 1916-1917	item 43
Volume XXXVIII, 1917-1918	item 44
Volume XXXIX, 1918-1919	item 45
Volume XL, 1919-1920	item 46
Volume XLI, 1920-1921	item 47
Volume XLII, 1921-1922	item 48
Volume XLIII, 1922-1923	item 49
Volume XLIV, 1923-1924	item 50
Volume XLV, 1924-1925	item 51
Volume XLVI, 1925-1926	item 52

Volume XLVII, 1926-1927	item 53
Volume XLVIII, 1927-1928	item 54
Volume XLIX, 1928-1929	item 55
Volume L Part 1, 1929-1930 Scope and Contents (October to February)	item 56
Volume L Part 2, 1929-1930 Scope and Contents (March to June)	item 57
Volume LI Part 1, 1930-1931 Scope and Contents (October to March)	item 58
Volume LI Part 2, 1930-1931 Scope and Contents (April to June)	item 59
Volume LII Part 1, 1931-1932 Scope and Contents (October to February)	item 60
Volume LII Part 2, 1931-1932 Scope and Contents (April to June)	item 61
Volume LIII Part 1, 1932-1933 Scope and Contents (October to March)	item 62
Volume LIII Part 2, 1932-1933 Scope and Contents (April to June)	item 63
Volume LIV Part 1, 1933-1934	item 64

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LIV Part 2, 1933-1934

item 65

Scope and Contents

(April to June)

Volume LV Part 1, 1934-1935

item 66

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LV Part 2, 1934-1935

item 67

Scope and Contents

(April to June)

Volume LVI Part 1, 1935-1936

item 68

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LVI Part 2, 1935-1936

item 69

Scope and Contents

(April to June)

Volume LVII Part 1, 1936-1937

item 70

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LVII Part 2, 1936-1937

item 71

Scope and Contents

(April to June)

Volume LVIII Part 1, 1937-1938

item 72

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LVIII Part 2, 1937-1938

item 73

Scope and Contents

(April to June)

Volume LIX Part 1, 1938-1939

item 74

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LIX Part 2, 1938-1939

item 75

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LX Part 1, 1939-1940

item 76

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LX Part 2, 1939-1940

item 77

Scope and Contents

(March to May)

Volume LXI Part 1, 1940-1941

item 78

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LXI Part 2, 1940-1941

item 79

Scope and Contents

(March to May)

Volume LXII Part 1, 1941-1942

item 80

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LXII Part 2, 1941-1942

item 81

Scope and Contents

(March to May)

Volume LXIII Part 1, 1942-1943

item 82

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LXIII Part 2, 1942-1943

item 83

Scope and Contents

(March to May)

Volume LXIV Part 1, 1943-1944

item 84

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LXIV Part 2, 1943-1944

item 85

Scope and Contents

(March to May)

Volume LXV Part 1, 1944-1945

item 86

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LXV Part 2, 1944-1945

item 87

Scope and Contents

(March to May)

Volume LXVI Part 1, 1945-1946

item 88

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LXVI Part 2, 1945-1946

item 89

Scope and Contents

(March to May)

Volume LXVII Part 1, 1946-1947

item 90

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LXVII Part 2, 1946-1947

item 91

Scope and Contents

(March to June)

Volume LXVIII Part 1, 1947-1948

item 92

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LXVIII Part 2, 1947-1948

item 93

Scope and Contents

(March to May)

Volume LXIX Part 1, 1948-1949

item 94

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume LXIX Part 2, 1948-1949

item 95

Scope and Contents

(March to June)

Volume LXX Part 1, 1949-1950

item 96

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXX Part 2, 1949-1950

item 97

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LXXI Part 1, 1950-1951

item 98

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXXI Part 2, 1950-1951

item 99

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LXXII Part 1, 1951-1952

item 100

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXXII Part 2, 1951-1952

item 101

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LXXIII Part 1, 1952-1953

item 102

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXXIII Part 2, 1952-1953

item 103

Scope and Contents

(April to June)

Volume LXXIV Part 1, 1953-1954

item 104

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXXIV Part 2, 1953-1954

item 105

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LXXV Part 1, 1954-1955

item 106

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXXV Part 2, 1954-1955

item 107

Scope and Contents

(April to June)

Volume LXXVI Part 1, 1955-1956

item 108

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXXVI Part 2, 1955-1956

item 109

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LXXVII Part 1, 1956-1957

item 110

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXXVII Part 2, 1956-1957

item 111

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LXXVIII Part 1, 1957-1958

item 112

Scope and Contents

(October to April)

Volume LXXVIII Part 2, 1957-1958

item 113

Scope and Contents

(May)

Volume LXXIX Part 1, 1958-1959

item 114

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXXIX Part 2, 1958-1959

item 115

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LXXX Part 1, 1959-1960

item 116

Scope and Contents

(August to March)

Volume LXXX Part 2, 1959-1960

item 117

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LXXXI Part 1, 1960-1961

item 118

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume LXXXI Part 2, 1960-1961

item 119

Scope and Contents

(April to May)

Volume LXXXII, 1961-1962

item 120

Volume LXXXIII, 1962-1963

item 121

Volume LXXXIV, 1963-1964

item 122

Volume LXXXV, 1964-1965

item 123

Volume LXXXVI, 1965-1966

item 124

Volume LXXXVII, 1966-1967

item 125

Volume LXXXVIII Part 1, 1967-1968

item 126

Scope and Contents

(October to April)

Volume LXXXVIII Part 2, 1967-1968

item 127

Scope and Contents

(April to October)

Volume LXXXIX Part 1, 1968-1969

item 128

Scope and Contents

(October to April)

Volume LXXXIX Part 2, 1968-1969

item 129

Scope and Contents

(April to September)

Volume XC Part 1, 1969-1970

item 130

Scope and Contents

(October to March)

Volume XC Part 2, 1969-1970

item 131

Scope and Contents

(April to September)

Volume XCI, 1970-1971

item 132

Volume XCII, 1971-1972

item 133

Volume XCIII Part 1, 1972-1973

item 134

Scope and Contents

(October to February)

Volume XCIII Part 2, 1972-1973

item 135

Scope and Contents

(March to June)

Volume XCIV, 1973-1974

item 136

Volume XCV, 1974-1975

item 137

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2026)

Volume XCVI Part 1, 1975-1976

item 138

Scope and Contents

(October to November)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2027)

Volume XCVI Part 2, 1975-1976

item 139

Scope and Contents

(December to June)

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2027)

Volume XCVII, 1976-1977 item 140

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2028)

Volume XCVIII, 1977-1978 item 141

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2029)

Volume XCIX, 1978-1979 item 142

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2030)

Volume C, 1979-1980 item 143

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2031)

Volume CI, 1980-1981 item 144

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2032)

Volume CII, 1981-1982 item 145

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2033)

Volume CIII, 1982-1983 item 146

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2034)

Volume CIV, 1983-1984 item 147

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access
(Restricted until 2035)

Volume CV, 1984-1985 item 148

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access
(Restricted until 2036)

Volume CVI, 1985-1986 item 149

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access
(Restricted until 2037)

Volume CVII, 1986-1987 item 150

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access
(Restricted until 2038)

Volume CVIII, 1987-1988 item 151

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access
(Restricted until 2039)

Volume CIX, 1988-1989 item 152

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access
(Restricted until 2040)

Volume CX, 1989-1990 item 153

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access
(Restricted until 2041)

Volume CXI, 1990-1991 item 154

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access
(Restricted until 2042)

Volume CXII, 1991-1992 item 155

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2043)

Volume CXIII, 1992-1993 item 156

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2044)

Volume CXIV, 1993-1994 item 157

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2045)

Volume CXV, 1994-1995 item 158

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2046)

Volume CXVI, 1995-1996 item 159

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2047)

Volume CXVII, 1996-1997 item 160

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2048)

Volume CXVIII, 1997-1998 item 161

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2049)

Volume CXIX, 1998-1999 item 162

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2050)

Volume CXX, 1999-2000 item 163

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2051)

Volume CXXI, 2000-2001 item 164

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2052)

Volume CXXII, 2001-2002 item 165

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2053)

Volume CXXIII, 2002-2003 item 166

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2054)

Volume CXXIV, 2003-2004 item 167

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2055)

Volume CXXV, 2004-2005 item 168

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

(Restricted until 2056)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II. Indices to the Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1755-1997

Scope and Contents

There are two sets of subject indices available to search the minutes of the Trustees. The first set covers the minutes from 1755 to 1879 and the second from 1890 to 1997. The first set is made up of printed index cards: they include the volume number and page number based on the original manuscript volumes. These page numbers have been added to the typescript text: look for the red pencil handwritten numbers inserted in the text to find the beginning of the page numbers on the index card. The second index is a collection of handwritten, typed and/or printed cards that cover the more recent era. In this case, the volume number and page numbers on the cards match the physical volumes. In addition, starting in 1890-1891, at the back of each volume (or the back of the second volume for those years split over two volumes), there is an index for the given year.

Title/Description

Instances

Index to the Minutes from 1755 to 1890

A to B	box UA1
C to Dh	box UA2
Di to He	box UA3
Hi to Ll	box UA4
Lo to N	box UA5
O to R	box UA6
S	box UA7
T to Z	box UA8

Index to the Minutes from 1890 to 1997

A to Buildings	box 1
Bull to D	box 2
E to H	box 3
I to Nevis	box 4
New to R	box 5
S to T	box 6
U to Z	box 7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)