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Presidential Search Records 6187809

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University
Title:	Presidential Search Records
ID:	6187809
ID:	UA#0174
Date [inclusive]:	1945-2002
Physical Description:	16.84 linear feet 6 record cartons and 23 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This collection contains the records of the Trustee and other committees in charge of finding a new University President. The records include the search for the replacements for Presidents Nicholas Murray Butler (1945), Grayson Kirk (1968), William J. McGill (1979), Michael I. Sovern (1992) and George Rupp (2001).

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Presidential Search Records; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

In April 1945, Nicholas Murray Butler announced his intention to retire after a 43-year term as University President. The Trustees created a special committee to find a replacement. In addition to the Trustee committee, there was as a Special Faculty Committee on the Presidency, with an executive committee made up of representatives from each faculty along with the Dean of the Graduate Faculties (George B. Pegram) as Chair and the Provost of the University (Frank D. Fackenthal) as Secretary. The Faculty Committee collected names of possible candidates from faculty at all levels, from administrators, and from the Columbia

community and beyond. To ensure that the list was as complete as possible, subcommittees were appointed to investigate and present names from specific categories (college presidents, business men, men in public life and government, etc.). In total, the executive committee collected 174 names, evaluated and ranked the candidates, both narrowing and expanding the list at times, defined the determining qualifications and created reports with biographical information and supporting statements. In September 1945, the executive committee presented to the Trustees their final 8 candidates. The Trustees' Special Committee on the Presidency continued to search for the next two years until the appointment of Dwight D. Eisenhower in December 1947.

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Biographical / Historical

On August 23, 1968, four months after Hamilton Hall was occupied by student protestors, President Grayson Kirk announced his retirement. Andrew W. Cordier, then the dean of the School of International Affairs, replaced Kirk as Acting President. Trustee, faculty and student search committees were created to find a permanent president. All three committees worked closely in identifying criteria and vetting candidates. By the end of the academic year 1968-1969, the committees were unable to find an agreed-upon candidate, so Cordier was appointed President and the search was continued during the following academic year. On February 4, 1970, William J. McGill was appointed the sixteenth president of Columbia University.

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Biographical / Historical

President McGill announced his retirement in June 1979 after 10 years as University President. Arthur Krim, then Chair of the Board of Trustees, formed a Presidential Search Committee. Letters soliciting nominations were sent to about 180,000 members of the Columbia community and an advertisement was published in the student newspaper, the Spectator, in September 1979. The Committee arranged consultation meetings with groups from the University Senate, the Student Caucus, tenured and non-tenured professors and considered more than 700 nominees both inside and outside of the University. After a six month search, Michael Sovern, then University Provost, was named the seventeenth president of the University in January 1980.

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Biographical / Historical

After the June 6, 1992 announcement of President Sovern's pending resignation, a Presidential Search Committee was again formed. Letters soliciting nominations and comments were again sent to approximately 180,000 people, including members of the Columbia community (students, faculty, alumni, major donors to the University, employees, administrators and trustees), college and university administrators throughout the country, and to city, state and national leaders. More than 1,000 letters nominating 560 candidates were received in response to the community mailing and acknowledged by the Committee. In September 1992 a Faculty Consulting Committee was formed at the request of several Columbia faculty members. The Faculty Consulting Committee was to assist the Search Committee with information on and analysis of candidates on the short list, to participate in interviews with short-list candidates, and to "avoid constituency politics." The Search Committee itself was to make the ultimate decision selecting the next President. In time, the two committees came to work very closely together, holding most meetings jointly, and found common ground in the selection George Rupp on February 1, 1993 as Columbia's eighteenth President.

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Biographical / Historical

President Rupp's announced his intention to resign in March 2001 and soon thereafter another Presidential Search Committee was formed. Letters soliciting nominations and comments on the requisite qualities of a Columbian president were sent to approximately 200,000 people, including members of the Columbia community. More than 800 letters nominating 427 candidates and giving advice to the Committee were received in response to the community mailings and acknowledged by the Search Office. In September 2001 a Faculty Advisory Group was also formed to assist in the search and by October 2001, the Trustees announced that Lee Bollinger was to be the University's nineteenth president.

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Summary

The collection consists of the records and the correspondence of the search committees created to find a new university president in 1945, 1968, 1979, 1992 and 2001. There are candidate nominations submitted by members of the Columbia community; reports compiled about the different candidates with information about their qualifications and statements of support;

and internal correspondence and administrative records of the committees in charge of the searches.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged into five series.

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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. Restrictions expiring in 2026 have been lifted. 2018-01-23 2019-05-20 2020-01-06 2026-01-05

Restrictions on Access

Due to the nature of these records, Presidential Search records are closed for 50 years from their date of creation.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Ownership and Custodial History

The 1945 Presidential Search records were officially transferred to the Columbiana Collection in 1967 by the Office of the President. The 1979 Presidential records were transferred to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library in 1993 by the Secretary of the University. The 1992 and 2001 Presidential search records were transferred to the University Archives in 2002 by the Presidential Search Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Deborah D. Milite and Diana Rodriguez in 1993 and by Marylyn Pettit in 2001. Finding aid written by Joanna Rios in December 2017.

Accrual

Additions are expected

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Related Materials

Selected Related Material at Columbia

Central Files (UA#0001)

Selected Related Material at Columbia

Frederick Coykendall papers, 1923-1956

Selected Related Material at Columbia

William J. McGill papers, 1929-1979

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Controlled Access Headings

- College administrators
- College presidents
- College presidents -- Recruiting
- College presidents -- Selection and appointment
- Universities and colleges -- Administration
- Columbia University
- Columbia University -- Administration
- Columbia University. Office of the President
- Columbia University -- Officials and employees
- Columbia University -- Presidents
- Columbia University. Trustees

Collection Inventory

Series I. 1945 Presidential Search, 1945-1947

Scope and Contents

This series, for the most part, contains the records of the Special Faculty Committee on the Presidency. It includes the correspondence received by the committee from members both inside and outside of Columbia nominating candidates for the presidency. There are three versions of the reports collecting the names of the nominees, their qualifications and statements of support, including the final version presented to the Board of Trustees in September 1945. The rest of the series contains the Trustees correspondence in conducting the search over the next two years. There are also newspaper clippings and articles related to search and the appointment of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1947.

Title/Description	Instances
Special Faculty Committee on the Presidency correspondence, 1945-1946	box 1
Names Suggested for Consideration for the Presidency, 1st edition, A-L,, 1945	box 1
Names Suggested for Consideration for the Presidency, 1st edition, M-Z,, 1945	box 1

Names Suggested for Consideration for the Presidency, A-I, 1945 August, 1945 **Scope and Contents** Two copies	box 1
Names Suggested for Consideration for the Presidency, J-W, 1945 August, 1945 **Scope and Contents** Two copies	box 1
Candidates submitted by the Executive Committee to the Trustees, 1945 September, 1945 **Scope and Contents** Two copies	box 1
Candidate report materials, 1945	box 1
Candidate report annotated drafts, 1945	box 1
Trustees' Special Committee on the Presidency correspondence, 1945	box 1
Trustees' Special Committee on the Presidency correspondence, 1946	box 1
Trustees' Special Committee on the Presidency correspondence, 1947	box 1
Newspaper clippings related to the search and Eisenhower's appointment, 1945-1948	box 1
President Grayson Kirk's transfer of the 1945 presidential search files to the Columbiana Collection, 1967	box 1

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Series II. 1968 Presidential Search, 1968-1974

Scope and Contents

This series contains the records of the Faculty Search Committee for a Permanent President of the University convened in 1968. There are meeting minutes, notes, candidate files and general subject files, including the records of the Student Search Committee. The records end in May 1969, as the committees considered candidates but the search remains unsolved. The records include correspondence about the search process in 1969 that was shared with President McGill in 1974.

Title/Description	Instances
Faculty Search Committee for a Permanent President of the University Minutes, 1968-1969	
1968 November 5, 1968	

	box 2
1968 November 25, 1968	box 2
1968 November 27, 1968	box 2
1968 December 4, 1968	box 2
1968 December 18, 1968	box 2
1969 January 8, 1969	box 2
1969 January 15, 1969	box 2
1969 January 29, 1969	box 2
1969 February 5, 1969	box 2
1969 February 12, 1969	box 2
1969 February 14, 1969	box 2
1969 February 18, 1969	box 2
1969 February 26, 1969	box 2
1969 March 14, 1969	box 2
1969 March 26, 1969	box 2
1969 April 11, 1969	box 2
1969 April 16, 1969	box 2
1969 April 23, 1969	box 2
1969 April 30, 1969	box 2
1969 May 1, 1969	box 2
1969 May 7, 1969	box 2
General Files, 1968-1969	
Acknowledgements	box 2
Consultative Committee	box 2
Expense record	box 2
Members, Search Committee	box 2
Miscellaneous	box 2
Procedures, Search Committee	box 2
Press	box 2
Selection criteria	box 2
Student Search Committee	box 2
Courtney Brown to President William J. McGill, 1969-1974	box 2

Candidates, General List, 1968-1969	box 3
General dossiers, 1968-1969	box 3
Candidate files, A-Z, 1968-1969	box 3

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Series III. 1979 Presidential Search, 1979-1980

Scope and Contents

This series is made up of the "chron" files and correspondence of the Presidential Search Committee in 1979. There are also articles, books, pamphlets and copies of the position advertisement.

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Title/Description	Instances
Presidential Search Committee chronological file 1, 1979 January 30 to 1979 August 30, 1979, 1979 Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]	box 4
Presidential Search Committee chronological file 2, 1979 September 6 to 1979 September 18, 1979, 1979 Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]	box 4
Presidential Search Committee chronological file 3, 1979 September 19 to 1979 October 17, 1979, 1979 Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]	box 4
Presidential Search Committee chronological file 4, 1979 October 18 to 1980 February26, 1979, 1980 Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]	box 4
Presidential Search Committee general correspondence file, 1979 March4 to 1980 January 14, 1979, 1980 Conditions Governing Access:	box 4

Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Presidential Search Committee minutes, 1979 July to 1980 January, 1979, 1980 — box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Financial Times of Canada, 1979 — box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Institutional mailing and responses, 1979 — box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Log of nominations, 1979 — box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

All Columbia Community mailing and responses, 1979 — box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Newspaper articles, 1979-1980 — box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Paul Stratford Associates, Ltd., 1979 — box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Preliminary Statement, 1979 — box 4

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Schedules/Senate Caucuses, 1979 box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Columbia Community mailing logistics, 1979 box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Position advertisements, 1979 box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

Books and pamphlets, 1979 box 4

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2031]

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Series IV. 1992 Presidential Search, 1992-1993

Scope and Contents

This series contains three subseries of records that were maintained in the Presidential Search Committee office. Most of the documents of the Presidential Search Committee records fall within the period June 6, 1992 through February 1, 1993, the dates of the announcement of President Sovern's resignation and the announcement of the selection of George Rupp as Columbia's next President, respectively.

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Subseries IV.1: Nominee Files, 1992-1993

Scope and Contents

The nominee files contain nomination letters, curriculum vitae or resume, Who's Who entry and/ or a biographical sketch created by the Committee, relevant press clippings and articles, and some evaluation of the candidate's qualifications. At the beginning of the search process, these nominee files were used extensively by Committee members for comparisons and to determine what other

information was still needed. After the selection of the Faculty Consulting Committee, selected portions of the files deemed non-confidential for their purposes were made available to them. The files of those candidates being most seriously considered by the Committee were most heavily used and tended to contain the most information. To ensure confidentiality, materials provided at the Search Committee meetings were retrieved by the Secretary at the end of each meeting for return to the Committee office. As the search process narrowed and intensified, most Committee members relied on the information provided at meetings (abstracted for them from the nominee files) rather than on a review of the actual nominee files themselves.

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Title/Description	Instances
Nominee Chart, Cumulative Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 5
A-Bri Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 5
Bro-Coh Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 6
Col-Dud Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 7
Duk-Fol Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 8
Foo-Gor Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 9
Gra-Hol	box 10

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Hoo-Ken box 11

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Keo-Lew box 12

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Li-Mc box 13

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Me-Pos box 14

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Pou-Roc box 15

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Rod-Schu box 16

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Schw-So box 17

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Sp-Thi box 18

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Tho-Tu Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 19
U-Z Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 20

Subseries IV.2: Administrative Files, 1992-1993

Scope and Contents

These files contain copies of the acknowledgment letters sent by Committee members to individuals who nominated candidates or provided advice concerning the qualities the President should have, usually in response to the community mailing. The chronological files contain all other outgoing and inter-office correspondence and related materials from the Search Committee. There are also materials related to the planning for the mailing of 180,000 letters announcing President Sovern's resignation and soliciting nominations for his successor. There is information about the formation of the Faculty Consulting Committee to assist the Search Committee and biographical information of its nine members. There are also notes, articles and memoranda concerning searches conducted by other universities, status reports, mailing lists, and materials related to other universities' presidential searches.

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Title/Description	Instances
Acknowledgement Letters Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	
1992 October 12-1993 March12, 1992	box 21
1992 September 23-October 8, 1992	box 21
1992 September 14-22, 1992	box 21
1992 September 8-11, 1992	box 21
1992 August 20-September 4, 1992	box 21
1992 August 19, 1992	box 21
1992 August 14-18, 1992	

box 21

1992 June 16-August 13, 1992 box 21

Chron Files

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

1992 December 1-1993 March12, 1992 box 22

1992 October 2-November 24, 1992 box 22

1992 July 7-September 30, 1992 box 22

1992 June 6-July 16, 1992 box 22

Community Mailing-General box 22

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Correspondence, Incoming

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

1992 August 13-1993 March 5, 1992 box 22

1992 June 8-August 11, 1992 box 22

Correspondence re: Community Mailing, 1992 July 29-November 22, 1992 box 22

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Faculty Consulting Committee box 23

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Harvard Presidential Search box 23

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Mailing Lists

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

College Administrators	box 23
College Presidents	box 23
College Provosts and Deans	box 23
Columbia Emeriti Faculty	box 23
Columbia Trustees (Current, Former, Emeriti)	box 23
Government Relations	box 23
Major Donors	box 23

Nominee Chart, Cumulative box 23

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Nominee Charts, Prepared for Committee Meetings box 23

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Notes from Meetings box 24

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Planning Materials for Search box 24

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Search Committee Meeting with Columbia Community box 24

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Search Firm Correspondence box 24

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Stanford Presidential Search Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 24
University Statutes and By-Laws Relevant to Presidential Search Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 24
Written Advice Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	
1992 September 1-1993 January 19, 1992	box 24
1992 August 1-31, 1992	box 24
1992 April 24-July 31, 1992	box 24

Subseries IV.3: Sample of Materials Sent To Interviewees, 1992

Scope and Contents

Materials sent to candidates who were to be interviewed by search committees. These were meant to provide the candidates with in-depth information about Columbia's history, facilities and programs, financial data and relevant current issues.

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]

Title/Description	Instances
Informational materials about Columbia sent to nominees prior to interview with Search Committee Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2044]	box 25

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Series V. 2001 Presidential Search, 2001-2002

Scope and Contents

This series contains three subseries of records that were maintained in the Presidential Search Committee office.

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]

Subseries V.1: Nominee Files, 2001-2002

Scope and Contents

427 nominees were suggested for consideration. The nominee file folders contain a nomination letter, a Who's Who entry and Press clippings, newspaper or magazine articles. These nominee files were used by Committee members for evaluation of a candidate's qualifications, for comparison with other candidates, and to determine what other information was still needed. Files of nine nominees were made available to the Faculty Advisory Group.

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]

Title/Description	Instances
Nominee files, A-Far Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 26
Nominee files, Fau-Pow Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 27
Nominee files, Pra-Z Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 28

Subseries V.2: Administrative Files, 2001-2002

Scope and Contents

These files contain the correspondence and related materials from the Search Committee. Among records included in these files are press releases, memoranda and enclosures, internal memoranda, press clippings, and items relating to the selection of the next president. There are also materials pertaining to the planning for the mailing of 200,000 letters announcing President Rupp's resignation

and soliciting nominations and advice for his successor. There are lists of candidates, handwritten notes, Search Committee member biographies and contact information, and excerpts of important University documents relevant to the presidential search process.

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]

Title/Description	Instances
Communication Files Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
Correspondence Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
Committee Communications Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
Faculty Advisory Group Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
Harvard Presidential Search Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
Other Presidential Searches Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
Nominee Charts Conditions Governing Access:	box 29

Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]

Presidential Committee Notes Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
Notes from Constituencies Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
Search Committee Contact Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
Search Committee Meetings with Columbia Community Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29
University Statutes and By-Laws Relevant to Presidential Search Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]	box 29

Subseries V.3: Sample of Materials Sent to Interviewees, 2001

Scope and Contents

These materials were sent to candidates who were to be interviewed by the Search Committee and other potential candidates determined by the Search Committee. The materials provided the candidates and nominees in-depth information about Columbia's history, facilities and programs, financial data and relevant current issues.

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]

Title/Description	Instances
Informational materials about Columbia Conditions Governing Access:	box 29

Conditions Governing Access

[RESTRICTED UNTIL 2053]

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