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James W. Silver to Chancellor Butts, 14 February 1945

James W. (James Wesley) Silver (1907-1988)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI

February 14, 1945

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Chancellor A. B. Butts
University, Mississippi

Dear Chancellor Butts:

I would like to have you present the following request to the Board of Trustees for the Institutions of Higher Learning for consideration at its next meeting:

Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees:

At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees I was granted a leave of absence. I expect to exercise that leave on February 15 when I shall leave for Washington, where I am to undergo one month's training before being assigned as Field Director to an overseas post by the Red Cross. This work calls for a considerably decreased salary. On February 15, I will have completed $5\frac{1}{2}$ ninths of my year's work, but under the present contract I shall receive only $5\frac{1}{2}$ twelfths of my annual salary. I respectfully request of the Board that it so interpret my contract that I shall receive $5\frac{1}{2}$ ninths of my annual salary instead of $5\frac{1}{2}$ twelfths. If this is not done I shall lose \$443.67. The money is available, as it has already been earned, and would be paid to me if I merely were to remain at the University the rest of the school year.

In consideration of my request, I would like to call the attention of the Board to the following items:

(1) On April 28, 1942 (repeated June 11, 1942), the Chancellor made the following recommendation to the Board:

"I recommend further that any teacher who is employed on annual salary paid in twelve installments for nine months of teaching and who shall be called into military service shall be paid that proportional part of his salary earned on the basis of the regular nine months, September to June, session."

The Board of Trustees at its meeting on June 16, 1942 (see minutes of that meeting), adopted the following resolution:

"Approval was granted the Chancellor's recommendation that any teacher who is employed on annual salary paid in twelve installments for nine months of teaching and who shall be called into military service shall be paid that proportional part of his salary earned on the basis of the regular nine months, September to June, session."

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I have not been called into military service, but before entering Red Cross work I made repeated efforts to get into military service. Within one month after I leave the University I shall be assigned to an overseas army unit. My work is to be with troops.

(2) The above procedure was applied in the cases of Robert L. Holley, Jr., Mr. Ernest J. Lovell, Jr., and Mr. Charles E. Lloyd when they entered military service.

(3) I hope the Board of Trustees will agree with me as to the equity of my request. If I were to remain at the University, my duties for the year would be completed in June. At that time I would be free to leave the University until September and yet receive full compensation for the year's work. It does not seem to me to be equitable that I should lose \$443.67 already earned solely because I have decided to enter work very closely allied with the military service.

(4) The Board, in revising the form of contract for teachers for next year, has in effect, granted the substance of my claim. That is to say, if this same situation should arise at this time next year, under the contract form which will be in use after September 1, 1945, I would be paid the amount I am now requesting.

I hope that the Board will grant my request.

Sincerely,

James W. Silver
Associate professor of history.