

Reference Number: **1962.0019**
Collection/Series Title: **UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
COUNCIL**

Creator	University Of Melbourne Council
Creator's Activity/Occupation	University Council - University administration

Creator's Historical Note

In April 1853 Governor Hotham selected a University Council of twenty members, comprising government officials, clergy and professionals, about one third of whom were graduates of British universities. They were charged with the governance of the University under the leadership of a Chancellor, who was until 1934 also the chief executive officer of the University. The Council first met on 3 May 1853. At its second meeting, on 17 May 1853, the University Council resolved that an application be made to the Lieutenant Governor "to sanction the advance of L100, to be lodged to the credit of the Chancellor of the Melbourne University, in the Bank of Victoria, to meet the current expenses of the Council". The account was opened on 17 June. On 26 September 1853 the Council resolved that its Statute and Correspondence Committee be empowered to correspond with Sir John Herschel, Professor Malden, Professor Airy, Robert Lowe, M.P. and Chief Justice Sir W. a'Beckett on the choice of the first four Professors. On 10 April the following year the Correspondence Committee reported the text of letters sent, setting out requirements for the guidance of the English selection committee and on 27 December 1854 the Chancellor read Sir John Herschel's letter of 28 August announcing the appointment of H.E. Rowe (Classics), W.P. Wilson (Mathematics), F. McCoy (Natural Science) and W.E. Hearn (Modern History and Literature, Political Economy and Logic). All were in Melbourne by the commencement of lectures in April 1855 except Rowe, who died shortly after arrival, and was in due course replaced by M.H. Irving. New Professors were appointed as teaching diversified and former professors died or retired.

Faculties were established, each with a Dean at its head, in 1873 (Law), 1876 (Medicine), 1889 (Engineering), 1903 (Arts and Science) and later Veterinary Science, Agriculture, Education, Music, and Applied Science. In October 1903 University Statute IV ("The Faculties") was amended to provide, inter alia, that the Dean's duties include the obligation to "report to the Council at its October meeting in each year as to the character of the work being done in his Faculty."

Over time, the range of groups represented on Council has widened, and its numbers increased, but its role in overseeing all aspects of University life, developing policy, appointing staff, planning new academic developments (in consultation with the Professorial (later Academic) Board), pursuing a building program, managing the budget and promoting the interests of the University generally has remained essentially the same.

Date Range of Collection/Series	1854-1893
Size/Extent	24 cm. (2 archive boxes)
Access Conditions	Access: Restricted

Scope and Content of Collection/Series

Appointment of Professors: 3 vol. Correspondence, etc. 1. Rowe, Wilson, McCoy, Hearn, Irving, Halford, Strong, Nanson, Elkington, Allen, Andrew, Kernot, Kirkland, Morris, Tucker; also extracts from Council minutes, reports, some testimonials etc. Covering the period 1854-1893, the groups of correspondence are bound in no perceivable order, but a handwritten contents list is included. Page numbers are handwritten. Included are letters from Professors concerning salaries and other matters. 2. Laurie, Masson, Spencer, Lyle. pp. 373. 1885-1889. For Laurie (Mental and Moral Philosophy) there is only his letter acknowledging his appointment, 1 June 1886. On the appointments of Masson (Chemistry) Spencer (Biology) and Lyle (Natural Philosophy) there is correspondence with the Agent General and Premier, and in Lyle's case a set of testimonials. Correspondence from Moorhouse to Brownless and a'Beckett, letter re Tucker. 3. Jenks, Moore. 1888-1892. 521 pp. Apart from correspondence relating to the appointments of these two Professors of Law, are copies of letters to the Agent General for Victoria, copies of minutes, etc., concerning Jenks' dispute with T.P. McInerney, 1890-1892. Loose items concerning Moore: Copy of application, list of applicants, duties etc.

Collection Category	University, official
This document dated	22/04/2015

To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
1962.0019 Unit 1	1962.0019.0000 .0001			Appointment of Professors; Jenks & Moore 1 volume & 1 envelope; Laurie; Masson; Spencer; Lyle; 1 volume
1962.0019 Unit 2	1962.0019.0000 .0002			Appointment of Professors; Rowe; Wilson; McCoy; Hearn; Irving; Halford; Strong; Nanson; Elkington; Allen; Andrew; Kernot; Kirkland; Morris; Tucker; 1 volume

End of List