

REGISTER OF THE
CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN
GRADUATE SCHOOLS, 1925-1986

Conference of Southern
Graduate Schools, 1971 -

Mss 89, 1.5 cu. ft.

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INTRODUCTION

This collection consists mainly of papers relating to the activities of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools. The Conference is the successor to the Conference of Deans of Southern Graduate Schools that had operated from 1925-1963. The purpose of the Conference is to consider the mutual problems among its member institutions relating to graduate study and research.

The collection was donated to Clemson University in 1987 by Dr. Arnold Schwartz, Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference since 1975. There are no restrictions on the use of this collection beyond those of Special Collections. This register was prepared by Dave Redekop in 1987.

HISTORY

The Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, founded in 1971, succeeded the Conference of Deans of Southern Graduate Schools. The Conference of Deans had been established in 1925 out of a committee meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools at Charleston, South Carolina. The members of this committee, Deans Bocock of the University of Georgia; Puryear of the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College; and Metcalf of the University of Virginia, met in Washington in 1926 with the United States Bureau of Education. After this meeting they decided to call a meeting of deans in Southern universities to discuss common problems and policies.

The original purpose of the Conference of Deans was to work with the United States Bureau of Education compiling information on graduates of Southern colleges for admission to graduate schools. This function was soon superceded by other agencies, so the organization served as a focal point for discussions about regional problems in higher education. In 1960, a national organization, called the Council of Graduate Schools, was formed. By 1963 the Conference of Deans decided that a regional group, such as itself, no longer served any purpose and therefore dissolved.

In 1969 an informal discussion between some graduate deans in the South led to several ad hoc meetings. These laid the groundwork for the re-establishment of a Conference of Southern Deans which was renamed

the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools. The ad hoc committees decided that the dissolution, in 1963, of the Conference of Deans had been a mistake; therefore, it was decided that in order for the South to have prosperous, and respected graduate school programs, a re-constituting of the Conference of Deans was needed. In May of 1972 the conference adopted a constitution and by-laws, thus re-establishing a single powerful voice, both internally and externally, for the South's graduate education. The leadership behind these efforts came from Deans Leonard Greenfield, University of Miami; William Toland, Baylor University; and John Harrison of the University of Miami.

The purpose of this organization is primarily the consideration of mutual problems among the member institutions relating to graduate study and research. The Conference continues to function with almost one hundred active members and an annual conference each February. Various committees actively gather information and strengthen the work of graduate schools in the South through this well-respected, and highly regarded organization.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Conference of Southern Graduate Schools Records contain material documenting the CSGS's re-establishment in 1971, along with many of the programs, reports, and committees relating to their purpose - that of considering problems in graduate study and research among the member institutions. These papers contain the minutes and reports of committees; special reports to the membership; correspondence of the Secretary-Treasurer; and many of the financial records.

The donor of the records, Dr. Arnold Schwartz of Clemson University, has been the Secretary-Treasurer of the CSGS since 1975 and much of the correspondence covers his activities within the organization.

The collection basically covers the period since the re-constituting of the Conference in 1971, but there are publications dating back to the 1930's and 1940's that were written while the group was called the Conference of Deans of Southern Graduate Schools. A few booklets on the history of the two organizations also are available, as are membership lists and applications; information about annual meetings; and reports relating to the important Committee on Issues and Planning. A few records concerning the national Council of Graduate Schools also exist.