

Appointment of Law Professors in the Presidency College

Edn., File 66, Proceedings 1-5, April 1877

Accessed: 13/03/2023-16/03/2023

APPOINTMENT OF LAW PROFESSORS, PRESIDENCY COLLEGE

No. 706, dated Calcutta, the 18th April 1877.

From — A.W. Croft, Esq., Officiating Registrar, Calcutta University,

To — The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department

I have the honor, by direction of the Vice-Chancellor and Syndicate, to forward, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, copies of the papers noted in the margin, and to request that the Syndicate may be informed whether His Honor is willing to act upon the proposals contained in the Sub-Committee's report.

MINUTES TO THE FACULTY OF LAW FOR THE YEAR 1876-77.

THE 16TH MARCH.

PRESENT:

THE PRESIDENT *in the Chair*.

MR. H. BELL.

BABOO SHAMA CHURN SIRCAR

THE HON;BLE JUSTIC ROMESH CHUNDER
MITRA

BABOO ANNODA PRASAD BANERJEA.

The Faculty met to consider the reports of the Sub-Committee appointed, on the 6th March 1875, in accordance with the resolution passed at its meeting of the 2nd February (*vide* Minutes paragraph 98).

The report of the Sub-Committee having been read and adopted, it was

ORDERED —

that the following report be submitted to the Syndicate: —

- (1) The Syndicate, on the 27th February 1875, referred a letter from Mr. Markby, on the establishment of a law school in the University of Calcutta, to the Faculty of Law for consideration and report.
- (2) On the 6th March 1875 the Faculty of Law met to consider this letter. In the meantime the Faculty had received a communication from the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, dated 5th March 1875, in which Sir Richard Temple declared himself to be opposed to the appointment of Law Lecturer by the University but at the same time to be quite willing to further the wishes of the University by making up from Government funds the difference between the yearly fee receipts, estimated at Rs. 20,000, and the cost of the six professors, amounting to Rs. 30,000, on the understanding that the professors were still to be attached to the Presidency College.

- (3) The communication made by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was considered by the Faculty of Law, together with Mr. Marksby's letter. At the meeting the Faculty resolved — firstly, that it was not then desirable to proceed with any scheme for legal education having for its basis the dissociation of Government from legal education; and secondly, that a Sub-Committee should be appointed to consider what plan of legal education at the Presidency College would be satisfactory to the University.
- (4) The Sub-Committee had not made their report when a further reference was made to the Faculty by the Syndicate, on the 25th of November 1876, directing the Faculty to consider and report upon certain proposals made by Lord Northbrook for the institution of Law Professorships in connection with the University.
- (5) Upon receipt of this second reference, the Faculty, at its meeting of the 2nd February 1877, resolved to complete and submit their report. This they have now done, and the report has been accepted by Faculty, as embodying all the recommendations which, under the somewhat altered conditions of the case, they are now prepared to make. The Sub-Committee's report, as accepted by the Faculty of Law, is subjoined.
- (6) The Faculty have reasons to believe that the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal will act upon the proposals contained in this report, and will guarantee the salaries of the professors recommended therein.

A.W. Croft,
Officiating Registrar.

(2)

Report of the Sub-Committee of the Faculty of Law.

The Sub-Committee, to whom it was referred by the resolution of the Faculty, dated the 6th March 1875, to consider what plan of legal education at the Presidency College will be satisfactory to the University, having special reference to the resources mentioned in a minute by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, have the honor to report as follows: —

1. Owing to changing circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor is not able to present to guarantee the amount mentioned in the minute above referred to, and our recommendations have been framed to meet the actual state of the case.
2. We beg to make the following recommendation: —
 - a. — That for the present there should be four Professors of Law.
 - b. — That the professors should be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor upon the recommendation of the Syndicate.
 - c. — That it is desirable to guarantee to the professors the minimum annual stipend of Rs. 5,000, we understanding from the Lieutenant-Governor that he will be able to supplement the fees to that extent.
 - d. — That the subjects of the examination should be divided amongst the professors by the Lieutenant-Governor upon the recommendation of the Syndicate.
 - e. — That it is desirable to provide some means of testing the efficiency of the teaching of the professors, and remedying defects therein. Under the present system, by which the professors are appointed for an indefinite time, and attendance at the lectures is compulsory, no such means exist. We therefore propose that the professors should be appointed for a term of three years, and be eligible for re-appointment when though

expedient. We also propose that, whilst payment of fees shall remain compulsory, attendance at the lectures shall be optional. If hereafter the attendance upon any set of lectures falls very low, it will then be clear that, for some reason necessary to inquire into, these lectures are not appreciated. There will thus be a constant index to the working of the system, calling attention to what requires revision. On the other hand, we see no advantage in bringing idle or unwilling students into the lecture-room. They do not derive any benefit themselves from the lectures, and are in the way of those who are really anxious to learn.

- f. That an annual report should be made to the Lieutenant-Governor, showing the number of students attending each course of lectures in the past year, the hours of delivery, and the subjects of the lectures for the ensuing year, and the amount received for fees, the expenses incurred, and the salaries paid to the professors during the past year; that the Lieutenant-Governor should transmit such report to the Syndicate; that the Lieutenant-Governor should procure for the Syndicate such information as they desire from time to time; and that the Syndicate should from time to time recommend to the Lieutenant-Governor such changes as they consider desirable.
3. We do not see at present any way in which the scheme for the Tagore Law Professorship can be amended so as to combine usefully with any scheme of legal education to be carried out at the Presidency College.

Arthur Hobhouse.
William Markby.
H. Millett.
A. Phillips.
A.P. Banerjea.

Extract from the Minutes of the Syndicate, dated 7th April 1877.

“Read the proceedings of the Faculty of Law at its meeting of the 16th March, at which the report of the Sub-Committee, upon the subject of legal education at the Presidency College, was adopted.

“The Syndicate approved of the proceedings of the Faculty of Law, and directed that a copy be forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, with a request that the University may be informed whether His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is willing to act upon the proposals contained in the Sub-Committee’s report.”

A.W. Croft,
Offg. Registrar, Calcutta University.

No. 1210, dated Calcutta, the 28th April 1877.

[File 66. —5]

From — H.J. Reynolds, Esq., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,

To — The Registrar, Calcutta University.

IN reply to your letter No. 706, dated the 18th April 1877, I am directed to request that the Syndicate may be informed that the Lieutenant-Governor is quite willing to act upon the recommendations of the Sub-Committee regarding the Professorships of Law. But there seems to be some room for doubt how far the Government of Bengal is free to give immediate effect to these proposals. The Senior Professor of Law, Mr. Ingram, has just vacated his appointment on proceeding to England. There are at present three lecturers — one in English Law, one in Hindu Law, and one in Mahomedan Law. These lecturers are not paid by monthly salaries, but receive a specified sum for the delivery of a course of lectures, the Senior Lecturer receiving Rs. 4,800 for a course of 70 lectures, and the other two Rs. 1,800 for courses of 25 lectures. The Principal of the Presidency College recommended in January 1876 that these lectures should be appointed for a term of three years, and Sir Richard Temple assented to the proposal.

2. Mr. Eden will be happy to consider any suggestions which the Syndicate may desire to make on the subject of filling up the vacancy caused by Mr. Ingram's departure, and of redistributing the work and pay of the lecturers, due regard being had to such arrangements as have already been sanctioned by Government.

3. I am further to represent, for the consideration of the Syndicate, that the cost of the scheme which has hitherto been in force has been Rs. 14,400 per annum, whereas it is now proposed to guarantee to the Professors salaries aggregating Rs. 20,000, a sum which the fees will not cover, unless there is some augmentation of receipts. I am therefore to suggest that possibly it might be found practicable to carry out the arrangements with a somewhat smaller guarantee, at least for the present, and until the financial result of the proposed alteration is seen.

