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J.H. Beale Letter to W.R. Harper

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Law School of Harvard University,

Cambridge, Mass. March 27, 1902

Source
My dear Dr. Harper,

Since I saw you we have consulted the faculty of law, and find no opposition to my going to you as proposed. The President approves. Nothing remains but for the Corporation to act upon my request for a leave of absence, which they will do on Monday.

I think it important to issue as early as may be a Circular of Information, and send it to the graduating class in every college in the West, at least, if not in the whole country, and to all graduates of the University in other Law Schools. In order to do that, we must I take it have the faculty appointed and agree upon the courses of study and other matters. We have a recess of a week here, beginning April 14. If I should come to Chicago during that week, would it be possible to get the new faculty

together for consultation, to prepare a Circular for the approval of yourself or the governing bodies? Or if the faculty could not come together if appointments had been made I could consult each member individually and lay the results before you. I am afraid this is allowing very little time; but if the Circular is to be in the hands of every Senior in the country before his college term closes, it should be issued if possible by the first of May.

As to faculty, those you suggested will probably be enough to carry on the work of the first two years. I notice your regular work for students is fifteen hours a week, and for teachers ten. Here the hours both for teachers and students in the Law School are only $\frac{2}{3}$ of those required in the college; 6 and 10 respectively, instead of 9 and 15. This is necessary, because both the teaching and the studying of law are (or ought to be) very strenuous affairs. I notice that Wigmore's

Cambridge, Mass.

work has been six hours a week, and Mechem's only four. I suggest as the regular work for a teacher five hours for two quarters and ten hours for the third, an average of $6\frac{2}{3}$ hours. For the students ten hours a week will probably be enough. They will then accomplish six regular courses a year instead of five, as here; the extra work being accounted for by the fact that much less time is devoted to examination periods. It is possible that we ought to have six exercises a week in a course; but it is found here that the students as a body need all their time for preparation, lecture, and review.

If then instruction is provided for two years, we have to provide 12 courses. I shall do 3, Wigmore and Mechem each 4, and if Mack and Lee each takes a course we shall be well supplied. On the other hand if we are

to present courses for three classes we shall need 18. Supposing Mack and Lee to give two each, and Freund 1, we shall still lack two courses. There are two or three former Harvard men in Chicago who would make admirable teachers, and might each take a course:

W.C. Boyden and Burling come to my mind. Or a young man could be had as instructor. There is a very able man in the present 3^d year class here, the graduate of one of the Maine colleges, who has had experience in teaching, who might be had. Or if you saw fit we could (still in case 3 years are to be provided for) use a professor, who might be Hall, Scott or Westengard. [Perhaps with International Law & Roman Law we could make out as it is]

You said something to me about what Wigmore might be had for. I hope it will be found possible to establish a regular scale of salaries, with annual or quinquennial increase. That system here prevents jealousy