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Ball State University
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Anderson, Jerry M., Papers, 1979-81

2 Boxes (0.6 cu. ft.)

Biography

Born in Amery, Wisconsin, Dr. Anderson began his teaching career as a member of the faculty at the University of Maine from 1959-1961, after earning the master of Science degree in speech from Northern Illinois University in 1959 and the Bachelor of science degree in social sciences from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls in 1958. From 1961 to 1968 he was a member of the faculty at Michigan State University, where he earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree in speech in 1964.

From 1972 to 1973 he served as Acting Vice Provost at Central Michigan University, where he had chaired the Department of Speech and Dramatic Arts since 1968. From 1973 to 1975 he was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Western Washington State University. He was Vice Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh from 1975-79.

Dr. Anderson became Ball State' seventh full-time president in 1979, inheriting a period of campus instability and eroded levels of trust between faculty and administration. To his credit, Dr. Anderson worked with faculty governance to develop processes for a flexible salary plan and help bring about the highest average percentage salary increase (11.8%) for faculty and staff. Dr. Anderson also introduced a long-range comprehensive planning process with broad participation, implemented administrative reorganization, and focused roles to improve services. Other notable accomplishments include renovations to campus facilities, including a \$7 million expansion to the College of Architecture and Planning Building and the dedication of the College of Business building.

Anderson's early effectiveness as an administrator and communicator, however, was short lived. In 1981 Anderson became the target of anxiety over university planning and the change in leadership style he introduced, which increasing directness in communication, information access and overall accountability. In addition, the student newspaper launched a vicious and attack on the president for the way the university dealt with a reported sexual harassment case. The economic state of Indiana and little or no budget increases added to the anxiety.

After meeting with four university trustees on January 30th, Dr. Anderson submitted a letter of resignation for reasons of philosophical differences about the future directions of the university. The Board accepted his resignation effective February 2nd, naming former Vice President for Business Affairs Robert P. Bell to a two and one-half year term as President, with Dr. Anderson named a consultant to the Board for special projects. Anderson's unanticipated and abrupt resignation caused wide speculation and questions of motivation, with Dr. Anderson later claiming he was forced to resign at the January 30th meeting with the trustees. Later speculation arose that Dr. Anderson's inquires into university investments led to his ouster. In 1982 scandal hit the university as a Delaware County grand jury investigation and state audit was convened to examine a conflict of interest surrounding the university's investment procedures involving trustee members who also served on the boards of local banks.

Dr. Anderson's elected leadership positions in professional associations included serving as President of the American Forensic Association, Central States Speech Association, Midwest Forensic Association, and Michigan Speech Association. He was also treasurer of the North Central Association of Academic Deans and a member of the Legislative Council of the Speech Communication Association.

Visiting Scholar, lecturer and consultant at several universities, he was the recipient of numerous awards. Dr. Anderson was also the recipient of several research grants and presented hundreds of addresses and papers at professional meetings and before various audiences. He was the co-author of several books and author of more than twenty-five articles and monographs in communication, higher education administration, and planning.

Dr. Anderson married the former Betty Lou Schultz of Menomonie, Wisconsin. The two have two sons: Gregory and Timothy.

Scope and Content

Inauguration materials, news clippings, presentations, speeches, and other records from the presidency of Jerry M. Anderson, 1979-81. Material is arranged alphabetically by document type.

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