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Letter to H.A. Morgan from Professor M.A. Jacobson

M.A. Jacobson
University of Tennessee - Knoxville

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M. A. Jacobson.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY



RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

~~9355~~
Dr. H. A. Morgan,

President - University of Tennessee,

Knoxville, Tennessee.

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REGISTERED

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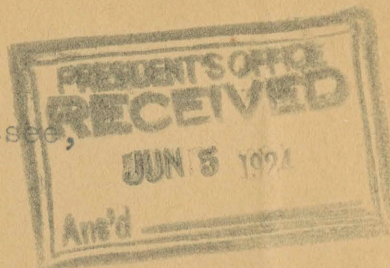


UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY

June 3rd, 1924.

Dr. H. A. Morgan,
President of the University of Tennessee,
Knoxville, Tennessee.



Dear Doctor Morgan:-

The Knoxville Sentinel, Sunday Morning, June 1st, quotes you as making the following statement concerning me:-

"Prof. Jacobson is a fine man and has done good work. His salary was increased \$600.00 last year. But this year there are limits to our funds which we did not have last year, and this limits the fund that goes to the department in which Prof. Jacobson teaches. The reduced fund to that department would not permit of a re-arrangement of that department's budget so that the \$600.00 increase for Prof. Jacobson could be continued. That is the simple explanation of the matter. It is in no sense an invitation to him to resign. We hope he will not."

I am indeed appreciative of the first two sentences. But, the remainder of your statement does not coincide with the facts of the case, especially, since Dr. P. W. Allen, Head of Department of Bacteriology, has been instructed by Dean Hoskins's letter, April 25th or 26th, to proceed to employ two men for the coming session at the same salary - \$2,250.00 - paid me this year. Therefore, the Department of Bacteriology will not decrease its budget \$600.00 for the coming session.

Even if your statement was correct concerning the \$600.00, would it not have been more equitable to distribute the decreased sum in the budget over the entire department and not cause one person to suffer the entire loss?

Since you do not seem to be acquainted intimately with the facts of my case, I will take the liberty of enlightening you with regard to certain facts.

It is true that my salary was increased from \$1,650.00 to \$2,250.00 for this year. Therefore, it is natural to conclude that my work was of such nature as to warrant the increase.

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DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY

No. 2 - Dr. Morgan.

It must also be borne in mind that Dr. P. W. Allen, the present Head of the Department, did not arrive until after the opening of this session. I had the responsibility of organizing the Department for the first semester and also made all purchases for the Department. You admit my success in the first sentence of your statement.

Dr. Allen made certain recommendations to Dean Hoskins concerning the organization of the Department of Bacteriology for the coming year. These recommendations included the following personnel: - (1) Professor - Head of Department, (2) Second Man, Assistant Professor - Charge of all Laboratory Work, (3) Teaching Fellow - and (4) an Assistant to do outside work - the expense to be borne by individuals having such work done.

Dean Hoskins (Letter of April 25th or 26th to Dr. P. W. Allen) approved the above organization, but informed Dr. Allen that the combined salaries of the Assistant Professor and Teaching Fellow should not exceed the salary - \$2,250.00 paid me as Assistant Professor for this year. The letter also instructed Dr. Allen to proceed with the reorganization according to the above schedule.

The position of Assistant Professor in Bacteriology for 1924-25 at a salary of \$1,600.00 was offered to me by both Dr. Allen and Dean Hoskins.

I held many conferences with Dr. Allen and Dean Hoskins. Both admitted that a married man with two children could not live (as a Professor should) in Knoxville at a salary of \$1,600.00.

Again - the number of students in Bacteriology for the coming year will be decreased at least one-half - due to re-arrangement of schedules, courses, etc. You admit that the Department has done good work this year. Then, why can't the same Department do as good work next year, especially since there will be half the number of students? Why is it necessary to decrease my salary \$600.00 in order to employ a Teaching Fellow?

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DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY

No. 3 - Dr. Morgan.

You state that the reduction in salary "is in no sense an invitation to him to resign! We hope he will not". Evidently, you are unaware that I resigned on May 27th and that said resignation was accepted by Dean Hoskins on May 30th.

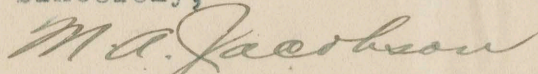
It was necessary for me to resign, as I cannot support a wife and two children at a salary of \$1,600.00 a year.

I bear no malice towards you or the University. All that I ask is FAIR PLAY AND JUSTICE.

I would appreciate it very much if you would make a searching investigation of the entire affair; so that you can answer the questions asked by me.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



M. A. JACOBSON.

Assistant Professor.