



## Oral History Interview of Donald Goodrich (SOH-016)

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### Oral History Interview of Donald Goodrich

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**Interviewed by:** David Robbins

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#### Interview Summary

Donald Goodrich recalls his twenty-two year career at Suffolk University, which began in 1947 when he was hired as the university registrar; he was appointed dean of the colleges in 1956, then university vice president in 1966, before his retirement in 1969. Goodrich discusses his professional background, working with Dean Lester Ott, and his role in the admissions and enrollment processes. He also describes how Suffolk changed from his first days there and remarks upon the administrative transitions after the retirement of university founder Gleason Archer.



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**Table of Contents**

<b>Introduction and background</b>	<b>p. 3</b> (00:23)
<b>Lester Ott</b>	<b>p. 4</b> (05:25)
<b>Admissions and enrollment</b>	<b>p. 6</b> (10:36)
<b>Gleason L. Archer</b>	<b>p. 10</b> (20:37)
<b>Suffolk administration</b>	<b>p. 13</b> (28:02)
<b>Becoming the dean</b>	<b>p. 17</b> (38:02)

**Interview transcript begins on next page**

**DAVID ROBBINS:** The following is an interview with Dean Donald Goodrich, conducted by David Robbins, on June 27, 1979, at Suffolk University.

Dean Goodrich, you've been at Suffolk or associated with Suffolk for quite a long time. What sort of background did you have before you came to Suffolk? And how did you come here?

**DONALD GOODRICH:** Well, my professional background was largely involving elementary and secondary schools. I had started teaching after I got my BA at Williams [College] and my masters in English at Harvard. I started teaching first at the Hillside (??) School in New York for a year. And then I went to Lawrenceville, where I was an English master and assistant house master. And then, at almost too early an age, I was asked to be headmaster of a new school on Long Island, which was then located at Great Neck, Long Island, which has now moved to Glen Head. It's called the Buckley Country Day School. This was started by a group of parents, who gathered fifty thousand dollars together and built a building and hired me and my wife as headmaster, and my wife teacher of French, to manage almost everything else at the school.

And we had no students; we started with twenty-three. Well, that's a story. And from there, after five years I was lured out to a school in California called the Telapia(??) School where I was the senior master in charge of the lower school of a partial boarding and partial day school for boys. When that collapsed in 1932 because of the Depression<sup>1</sup>—it was a relatively new organization, and the men who were backing it had understood that for the first ten years they'd have to pay for a deficit every year. But they all lost their money in the crash. And so the school closed, and I was lucky. I took a trip back east, made a few interviews in New York and Washington, Baltimore, was invited

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<sup>1</sup> The Great Depression was a period of economic downturn that began with the crash of the stock market in October 1929. Marked by high unemployment, bank failures, reduced demand and production, and political upheaval, the Depression lasted until 1939.

to become headmaster of the Calvert School in Baltimore. And I was there as headmaster for eight years during the Depression.

In 1940, I left there, after my three children had had the advantage of their whole elementary schooling there. And I moved up to Harvard, where I started work on doctorate education rather late. And our children went to various schools. The boys went to Exeter, and then on, went to Harvard and one to Princeton eventually. And my daughter went to Beaver and then to Wellesley, where she graduated. Well, the war came along, and in '42, March, I was commissioned out of civilian life as a captain in the Adjutant General Department. We worked mostly at the Adjutant General School. They nabbed me right away. They made me write textbooks and give lectures on Army correspondence, et cetera.

And I became an Army officer for the rest of the war and didn't get out until late in 1946. So I had less than five years, nearly five years. And the last year, almost a year, I was in Frankfurt, Germany at the theater headquarters. And I was in the Adjutant General's Office there, and I was head of what was known as the Editorial Section, which had to do with all materials that were published for the headquarters, which funneled through the editing of my staff there. And, of course, we were published by the Adjutant General of the theater, whose job it was to do just that, plus the mail and issuing all the orders and so on.

Well, I was getting ready to come home, and my daughter received a letter or a call or something from Lester Ott,<sup>2</sup> whom I had known while I was studying at Harvard, and he was getting his doctorate in history. And we'd become friends. And he asked my daughter to tell me, if I was coming home, not to take any jobs until he'd seen me. Well, I came back. We were living in Washington, that's where our base was at that time. And I came up from Washington. And Lester offered me the job of registrar and director of

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<sup>2</sup> Lester Ott joined the Suffolk University Liberal Arts faculty in 1939; he served as dean of the colleges from 1945 to 1949.

admissions with the understanding that, as soon as I got my feet under me, I would start teaching too.

**ROBBINS:** And he, at that time, was the dean of the colleges?

**GOODRICH:** He was dean of the colleges. And for a long time, you know, there was only one dean. Not only Ott was dean of Liberal Arts and Business, but there was a separate dean for the law school. But Ott was dean in both colleges and both faculties. Actually the faculty really was managed as a unit with the business [school] essentially like the department rather than an organized school.

**ROBBINS:** Was it still called a separate school?

**GOODRICH:** It was called College of Business Administration.

**ROBBINS:** But it had no separate administration—

**GOODRICH:** But it had no real separate identity. All of the academic work was done by the chairman of the business administration department, which included all of those directory things like management and marketing and accounting courses. But the program was administered under the dean. And, of course, the curriculum was essentially settled with the approval of faculty, under the initiation, at least, of the dean. But the curriculum was really while the chairman of the business administration department always had a big say in it, so did the liberal arts faculty, and, of course, the prime—I would suppose in the very beginning, I can't remember exactly, but something more than 50 percent of the courses in the business administration programs were given by liberal arts faculty.

And in those days, we had three definite survey courses: one in the field of physical and biological sciences, a semester of each. Did a survey in the humanities—which I learned to teach very soon after I got to Suffolk—and a survey course in the social sciences. And

those were required of absolutely every student who came into the college no matter what program he was in, whether he was in liberal arts or Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Science in the business administration.

**ROBBINS:** Were those courses of Dean Ott's instigation?

**GOODRICH:** I think he pretty well laid out the program. Somebody had to. But I don't know this as a fact. But I wouldn't be surprised if he and a man named Neilson Hannay who was the chairman of the English department. And probably Bob Friedman, who was very young then, but was chairman of the biology department or was the biology department. And before I came, he was also director of admissions. He was trying to do director of admissions work and teaching the science courses. It was really quite a job. In any case—so that was the way it was. And, of course, when I came in, also, the administration was pretty chaotic. The school had only been reorganized [for] about two semesters.

**ROBBINS:** Now you arrived in the fall of 1947?

**GOODRICH:** No, I arrived in January 1947. They had been in session—now you have to check this because I'm not sure. But they had been in session at least two terms. Or if it was a summer session and the fall of '46, '47, or whether there was also a spring semester of '46 possibly. And it was about that time, of course, the stories I heard, horrendous stories I heard about the registration in the fall of 1946 was pretty chaotic, I suppose. Because, of course, there wasn't anybody much who had had any experience in college administration or even school administration. And the result was nobody thought the registration process through.

And I had a lot of application blanks, and I don't know whether there was more than one. I guess there was more than person handling them. But the kids would come in, mostly

were at least 95 percent GIs, ex-GIs under the GI Bill,<sup>3</sup> and they'd fill out an application blank and either hand the transcript in or else the transcript would be procured later on. And they'd be signed up. And I secured the necessary VA [Veterans Affairs] forms to allow the tuition to come into the school treasury. And then that was that.

**ROBBINS:** It was open admissions quite simply?

**GOODRICH:** Oh, absolutely open. Anybody who came was taken in. Of course the dropout rate was tremendous. As I understand it, that particular registration, when the students were lined up down here in front and down Temple Street, around Cambridge Street and back up Hancock Street, for hours. I think others, like, Don Fiorillo would know and so would Joe Strain (inaudible) the more details of kind of that story. But anyway, I got here before the spring semester registration. And we did plan it. And it was not quite so chaotic.

**ROBBINS:** Who were you principally working with at that time? Or did you supersede someone?

**GOODRICH:** No, I had one girl in the office. I superseded Bob Friedman, who was very thankful, (Robbins laughs) the fact that he was teaching his 350 freshmen. You remember that story. I came about January eighteenth or nineteenth, something like that. And they were right in the middle of final exams. And I'd only just recently, a day or two before, met Bob Friedman. And we were sitting in the front office here—is that the right direction, I'm turned around—with two desks face-to-face. I sat in one, and he sat in the other. And he came in after this exam, he had given the written exam down in the auditorium on the adjustable arms in the auditorium's chairs in those days. They weren't very comfortable. But he had something like 325 or 350 blue books these kids had been writing in for two hours, or I think it was three in those days. I think we had three-hour

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<sup>3</sup> The GI Bill of Rights, officially called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, provided, among other benefits, government compensation for the educational costs of returning World War II veterans.

finals. And here you have a stack of blue books like this, and here he was going to read them, the way we all did. I guess it's still true, you still read your own finals, don't you?

**ROBBINS:** Three hundred and fifty is a lot of finals.

**GOODRICH:** Yes, it is. Well, of course, that particular fall of '46-'47 and also the spring term, '47-'48, the student body was not only almost all veterans. It could have been 99 percent veterans. There were practically no young civilians at all. And not only was that the case, but most of them were freshmen. And some, a fairly substantial number, were sophomores. And then there were probably fifteen juniors and half a dozen seniors who were holdovers from the way the school was running before the men got out of the Army. It was very, very tiny, because, of course, the school was a non-accredited school in those days and wasn't eligible for any of the Army or Navy or Air Force training programs. So the place was, I gather, quite empty. I mean, it got down to about forty or fifty students in total, including law students.

**ROBBINS:** It was so empty that Gleason Archer,<sup>4</sup> during the war apparently, wanted to put several battalions of wax(?) up on the top floors as a kind of a barracks operation.

**GOODRICH:** Yeah. Well, as I understood it, they wouldn't do anything like that for Suffolk because of the accreditation situation. Like most of the Army programs, you have to be accredited. Doesn't make a difference by whom, it can be state, but as long as you're accredited. So it was really quite a new situation and gradually I did have Bob Friedman's great help when we were beginning the first registration. And, of course,

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<sup>4</sup> Gleason L. Archer (1880-1966) was founder and president of Suffolk University. After graduating from Boston University Law School and passing the bar examination in 1906, Archer founded Suffolk University Law School. The school expanded its mission during the 1930s to include undergraduate education with the formation of the College of Liberal Studies (1934) and the School of Business Administration (1937). In 1937 Archer became the president of the newly incorporated Suffolk University. Archer remained at Suffolk University until his retirement in 1948. In addition, Archer published fourteen law textbooks and also became a popular radio broadcaster for NBC in the late 1920s and early 1930s. An amateur historian, Archer wrote many articles for various journals and was especially interested in colonial New England history and specifically his ancestry as a Mayflower descendant. Gleason Archer's personal papers, MS108, are housed in the Suffolk University Archives.



Dottie Mac<sup>5</sup> was also a tremendous help, although she tended to want to stay with the old methods. And, of course, in the fall semester, also as I understand it, and check this with Joe Strain too, when they handed out tickets to students—of course originally the ticket plan, tickets for lectures. The ticket plan, I'm sure, had been started by Gleason Archer years before that as a way of collecting tuition in small amounts. And Dottie Mac, of course, was the bursar. And I gather that when students had fifteen or twenty dollars to buy tickets to lectures, they came to her office and gave them money and got tickets.

**ROBBINS:** This was in the undergraduate school as well as in the law school?

**GOODRICH:** Yes. Yes, in the beginning, in the beginning. But this was changed quite quickly because it turned out, you know, it wasn't feasible.

**ROBBINS:** But that was the system that was in effect during the war?

**GOODRICH:** I never saw that system. But it was in effect during the war, and I'm sure it was in effect when the school restarted, started up with the large number of GIs. Because the other thing about the enrollment in the fall—you'll probably run across some strange figures like fourteen hundred students.

**ROBBINS:** Yes, I have.

**GOODRICH:** Well, of course I know fourteen hundred barely every attended. They were registered, they filled out blanks. And we had files. But, by the time the term was over, a very large portion of them just sort of disappeared.

**ROBBINS:** How large of a proportion would that be?

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<sup>5</sup> Dorothy M. McNamara (1910-2003) was employed by Suffolk University from 1927 to 1974, serving as bursar for twenty-five of those years before becoming alumni secretary.

**GOODRICH:** Oh, 40 percent probably. I don't really remember the figures. Of course we got in new students in the second semester. Because I began functioning as admissions officer as well as registrar.

**ROBBINS:** This was in the same year?

**GOODRICH:** Yes, as soon as I got there. So after we got over that first registration, then the faculties came in and wanted to talk about college. They came to me. My office, at that time, was in the middle, the middle of this suite of offices in the front of the building on this floor.

**ROBBINS:** On the second floor.

**GOODRICH:** And Gleason Archer had his working office in the corner office of Temple and Derne Street.

**ROBBINS:** Down on the first floor?

**GOODRICH:** Second floor, yeah. Well, he was there. And, of course, he had always been in the office down below, but that office was given over to the dean of the law school. Of course he had been the dean of the law school in the beginning. You see that's what he always called himself, was the Dean. And then when—what was his name?

**ROBBINS:** Dean Simpson.<sup>6</sup>

**GOODRICH:** Simpson, yeah. And Dean Simpson was appointed, came over from BU [Boston University] Law School, to be dean. I guess that must have been about 1946, about the same time the thing was being reorganized. But Mr. Archer moved upstairs to that corner. And he was there because he liked to keep an eye on things; he had his office up there where Ziemann Library, in that little study of his in the library. There was a whole

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<sup>6</sup> Frank L. Simpson was the dean of Suffolk Law School from 1942 to 1952.

big area there of almost the whole front of the house of the building on the third floor was his office. And there was a great beautiful long table at the end that could seat, it could easily sit fifty people around it.

**ROBBINS:** I've seen pictures; it was a huge table.

**GOODRICH:** So I guess when he wanted to be private, he went up there. But when he wanted to keep an eye on things, he came down here. That's the way it was until he retired in 1948. He retired, of course, under pressure. The trustees really bought him out. They somehow financed some kind of payment to him. I'd always heard without knowing that it was about twenty-five thousand dollars that they paid him. I suppose in lieu of a retirement or something.

**ROBBINS:** A substantial amount.

**GOODRICH:** A substantial amount, whatever it was. And that was twenty-five thousand dollars was substantial then.

**ROBBINS:** During the time that he was here, did you have much contact with Gleason Archer?

**GOODRICH:** Very, very little.

**ROBBINS:** Despite his prowling around, you didn't—

**GOODRICH:** Well, he was there. And, of course, the partitions were all glass all the way through. So he'd be at one end, and you could see everything that's going on. See, so he wanted to be sure everybody was working hard. But, of course, I don't know just what the reason was that he and the trustees got to be at loggerheads. Almost immediately after the school was reorganized, things were tough. In his relationship with the trustees, even before I came—you asked me if I didn't have much contact with him, I was introduced to

him. I shook hands with him. And I remember on one occasion, after I'd been here for three or four weeks, he invited me in his office where Carolla Bryant was, who was his secretary. And she had always been the registrar.

And I'm sure it was well-meaning, but they had me up there and sat me down. And she started to tell me how she ran the Registrar's Office, you see, sort of fill me in. Well, I don't remember that I paid much attention to her, but that's about the extent of the contact. He may have passed [by] to see me once or twice after that. But Lester Ott had the full support of the trustees at that point. I was his friend; he had brought me in. And I'm sure Ott was a danger for him, he was a danger to Archer. That is, I think he thought that. And, of course, the big arguments didn't begin until the next year, '47-'48, that's when we had all the hassles, that was really a bad year.

**ROBBINS:** How was Dean Ott a danger to Gleason Archer?

**GOODRICH:** I think basically because Lester Ott wanted to make this a really fine school with standard admissions policies and standard academic policies.

**ROBBINS:** And not working class?

**GOODRICH:** And as soon as possible, get the college accredited. And Archer was anti-accreditation. He always had wanted to do things his own way. And he did them. He did not want to be put under any of the disadvantages as he saw them, that an accreditation association would require. In other words, substantial library, substantially equipped laboratories.

**ROBBINS:** Higher admissions standards?

**GOODRICH:** Higher admissions standards, higher faculty standards. Of course I'm sure that prior to this reorganization, as far as the college was concerned, it was basically an evening program. Well, most of the teachers I'm sure were quite good. They were all

part-time. Like Lester [Ott], he had taught history for two or three years here in the evening division. He taught the history of western civilization. And he was an excellent teacher; the students appreciated him very much. He was fine. And he held him to high standards in their work with him.

**ROBBINS:** But as dean, he wanted to impose a uniformly—

(simultaneous conversation)

**GOODRICH:** Yeah, he wanted to be the ruler, there's no question about that. He wanted to run the place.

**ROBBINS:** So there was some kind of tension between him and Dean Archer?

**GOODRICH:** Yes, but I think it was largely because the trustees were giving Ott support and were withdrawing it from Archer. Of course the trustees, most of them had been appointed. Actually they were alumni of the law school who had been invited. Not all of them, but most of them who had been invited to be members of the board of trustees. And he had set the board up. But then, of course, they really wanted to take advantage of the events near to following World War II and put this school in really good shape.

**ROBBINS:** Natural inclination.

**GOODRICH:** And so they had, oh, I don't know, there were legal mix-ups. You could go back in the newspaper files of *Boston Herald*, *Boston Globe* and probably find these lurid headlines.

**ROBBINS:** Oh yes, I've seen a lot of them.

**GOODRICH:** And, of course, these things were fought out usually in legislative committees and whatever, education committees, charters, details. I don't know, I never followed those things too much except that I was uncomfortable at the time.

**ROBBINS:** Well, you served as registrar until when?

**GOODRICH:** Well, until Lester Ott was dropped because he was getting himself in hot water with the board of trustees and because of—what's his name who came in?

**ROBBINS:** Raymond Murphy.

**GOODRICH:** Ray Murphy, yeah. And so I've forgotten the exact time, but it was something in the middle of the year, like February or March, wasn't it? In '49? And he left after a real big bang-up with the trustees. I suppose you've heard stories about that?

**ROBBINS:** Some, yes.

**GOODRICH:** I think I know what Lester and Murphy were trying to do. Burse<sup>7</sup> was president.

**ROBBINS:** Having newly replaced Gleason Archer?

**GOODRICH:** He had been a board member, he had been treasurer. And he was put in because he was a friend of two or three of the trustees. He was a lawyer. But I don't know how effective a lawyer he was. I liked him personally, when he wasn't drunk. He was drunk a lot of times after lunch. I think he always had not two martinis, but maybe three at lunch when he went out. And obviously he just sat up there in office and didn't do a thing, Dean Ott and Murphy were really running the place.

**ROBBINS:** And they were dissatisfied with Burse as president?

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<sup>7</sup> Walter M. Burse (1898-1970) served as president of Suffolk University from 1948 to 1954.

**GOODRICH:** And they thought they'd never get anywhere as long as he stayed there because that meant the trustees ran the place and not a president in the normal academic sense. And so they started things going, and there were also other matters. The trustees were very worried about royalty and things like royalty holds. And also, some of the trustees were very worried about pornography. Some of the books that—Lieberman could tell you all about this—about psychological books, the trustees would say, Take them out of the library. They're obscene. And then, of course, there was always the question—then there were faculty who were accused of being communistic, have communistic leanings. This was the McCarthy era<sup>8</sup> of '51, '52, '53.

**ROBBINS:** Even from '49, there was—

**GOODRICH:** Even in '49. And so we were suffering from that too. Of course that was all around us, I mean, it was evident in all the colleges. Of course Pusey<sup>9</sup> handled it beautifully at Harvard, but it was there too. But, of course, there wasn't anybody to handle it beautifully here. And the trustees just said what they wanted, and that was it. And even some of them, I'm sure, just inspected the books just as a school committee might, I suppose, in a public school system. Although they don't always do that, but some do. Well, anyway, there was a big blowup. And the trustees had sort of an open meeting in a big classroom. The faculty were there, of course, it was a small faculty. The faculty was there, I was there, Lester Ott, Ray Murphy. There was a great big argument. I've forgotten all the details of it. And finally, the chairman of the board was—

**ROBBINS:** George Raoul(?). Huge man—

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<sup>8</sup> Joseph R. McCarthy (1908-1957), a Republican, represented Wisconsin in the U.S. Senate from 1947 to 1957. In 1950, McCarthy rose to national prominence when he alleged that hundreds of Communists were employed at the State Department and other federal agencies; the charges resonated with an American public fearful of the spread of communism, and the senator gained a strong following. McCarthy continued his zealous search for Communists as the chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, where he presided over numerous hearings from 1953 to 1954. His behavior during these hearings, and particularly during the Army-McCarthy hearings which were broadcast on live television, led to a dramatic decrease in popularity and his eventual censure by the Senate on December 2, 1954.

<sup>9</sup> Nathan Marsh Pusey (1907-2001) served as the president of Harvard University from 1953 until 1971.

**GOODRICH:** George Raoul, big man and a big voice and I guess a very aggressive trial lawyer. I think that's what he was—really laid it out on them, and actually asked them both to quit. Well, they fired Murphy right there and then they asked Ott to go, if not immediately, within a few days.

**ROBBINS:** This could be basically be interpreted as a vote of confidence in Walter Burse as president?

**GOODRICH:** Yes, that's right. That's right. They were backing Burse. And, of course, there were rumors about a homosexual relationship between Ray Murphy and Lester Ott. Could be, I don't know about it. And, of course, that didn't add to (inaudible) at all, certainly not in those days. Well, to answer your question, Bob Munce<sup>10</sup> became dean.

**ROBBINS:** He had been dean of the evening school before that?

**GOODRICH:** He'd been dean of evening school. And he became dean. And he made me registrar—I had been registrar and director of admissions—and encouraged me to have somebody to help me with admissions. But I still did a good deal of it until Sullivan<sup>11</sup> came, Brad, which was about the time when the presidency changed and Haley<sup>12</sup> came in.

**ROBBINS:** So that was about 1960?

**GOODRICH:** That was about 1960. And Brad came in as a, well, he was supposed to be sort of a student dean, director of activities or something like that. But he wasn't

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<sup>10</sup> Robert J. Munce (1895-1975) served as president of Suffolk University from 1954 to 1960. Munce began his career at Suffolk as director of the evening session and lecturer in social studies in 1948. He was appointed dean of the college of liberal arts in 1950, chancellor of Suffolk University in 1960, and chancellor emeritus in 1970.

<sup>11</sup> D. Bradley Sullivan served as Suffolk University's dean of admissions from 1960 to 1966, then as its first dean of students from 1966 to 1986.

<sup>12</sup> Dennis C. Haley (1893-1966) served as president of Suffolk University from 1960 to 1965. He had previously served as superintendent of the Boston Public Schools for twelve years.



supposed to have anything to do with admissions. But he sat in my office, in that corner office. And Bob Munce, said, “Well, sure, have him interview the students if you want to.” And so essentially, from then on, he did most of it, I did some of it. And I was doing other things. I was teaching after all. And about that time, I was teaching at least three sections of a humanities survey course.

**ROBBINS:** This is in addition to your duties as registrar and admissions director?

**GOODRICH:** Yeah, oh yeah.

**ROBBINS:** At this point Munce, he was still dean? Had he become—

**GOODRICH:** He didn’t become president until—

**ROBBINS:** Fifty-five, I think.

**GOODRICH:** Fifty-five. And then, of course, that’s when I became—when he became president, I became dean and registrar. The trustees wanted me still to be registrar.

**ROBBINS:** Oh, my goodness.

**GOODRICH:** And so they gave me the double-time.

**ROBBINS:** And the double work?

**GOODRICH:** And the double work. And it wasn’t until seven years later when I was able to get the title of registrar given to my chief woman assistant. Maybe that was about three years later maybe.

**ROBBINS:** Now, let me get this clear: Brad Sullivan came in while President Munce was still in office?

**GOODRICH:** No, no he didn't. Before that there was a young man named Arthur Medistasio(??) who taught French and Italian. I think Italian, I know French. And he also helped with admissions interviewing. And, mostly, I had, for girls, I had either one or two depending, as time went on you got a little more help, what were essentially typist-type clerks. They were very nice women. But they couldn't take on the responsibility of the Registrar's Office. And it really wasn't until I got Carol Haynes who had then recently graduated from the University of Colorado. This must have been about early 1950s, '51, '52, something like that. I think her class was 1950 at Colorado. It might have been '51. I think she had some other job for a while. But she was a very, very competent person and ran the Registrar's Office. And I was able to get her some help. And when she came, essentially I went to the dean and not registrar anymore.

**ROBBINS:** Okay.

**GOODRICH:** And eventually she worked into it. She had the responsibility (inaudible). Of course, when she decided to get married and left, that's when we got Mary, who's registrar now. She was appointed as registrar.

**ROBBINS:** How did you possibly do the work of dean of the college and of registrar simultaneously?

**GOODRICH:** Well, of course, you know the school was not so big. Let's go over some figures. About when the Ford Foundation<sup>13</sup> money came to us, I think it was '51.

**ROBBINS:** It might have been slightly later than that.

**GOODRICH:** Maybe '52. We had total enrollment in the whole university, including the law school, and check this, but it was around nine hundred students, maybe 950, less than a thousand. Of those, two-thirds roughly were college students, and one-third hardly,

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<sup>13</sup> In 1956, Suffolk University received a grant from the Ford Foundation to help pay the faculty's salaries.

a little more than three hundred students were law students. And about 650 students were college students. And of those 650, about two hundred were evening. So we had about 450 day students.

**ROBBINS:** What percentage of those would be veterans?

**GOODRICH:** At that time? Well, very, very heavy percentage.

**ROBBINS:** Still very heavy in that?

**GOODRICH:** Oh, still. Maybe 85 percent, very heavy. We had a very difficult time getting high school counselors. I didn't visit any high schools, I went to career days and so on. But we had great difficulty in persuading high school counselors, first, that there was anything but a law school here—and, of course, their kids wanted to go to college not law school—and second, that the college was any good at all. That if there was one, it was probably pretty poor and was essentially a feeder for the law school—which is the way, of course, that they started in the 1930s—and that it didn't have much of a faculty and wouldn't be a good learning experience. And so you had to go around and try to convert these counselors.

Of course one thing we did have on our favor was it was a very inexpensive place to go for people who could commute. And we gradually began to get a few high school students recommended to us. And then there was the first scholarship program established, somewhere around about the fifties, which was a series of half-tuition scholarships for students. And a great many of those went to boys or girls who had (inaudible) high schools. And they, of course, of those that we saw anyway, were far-better prepared academically than most of the boys and girls who came to us out of the public high schools in Boston.

**ROBBINS:** So that would be the reason that the scholarships went to the—

(simultaneous conversation)

**GOODRICH:** Oh, yes.

**ROBBINS:** Now, of course, the accreditation of the college in 1952<sup>14</sup> would have also helped to draw a few—

**GOODRICH:** That's right. Before that all we could say was, Well, we're working on the accreditation. We do have state accreditation. But, of course, essentially that doesn't have much meaning to an academic person. That's just a sort of a formal recognition that your charter is okay and that you are a non-profit organization, and that you are working in education and that you have the power to give degrees.

**ROBBINS:** When had the state accreditation taken place?

**GOODRICH:** Oh, right away, 1935, I suppose. I don't know that, but I just suppose.

**ROBBINS:** Okay, so the issuing of the charter constitutes accreditation.

**GOODRICH:** Well, essentially. I think the State Department of Education had some responsibility about checking on your course of study, the size of your faculty. We used to give a report every year. We always sent them our catalog. And I'm sure that if there had been anything radically wrong or crooked or something like that here, it would have been called up by the State Department of Education. But that's about all they would do in the way of supervision, a pretty formal thing.

**ROBBINS:** Now just registrar alone from '49 to '55, is that the right figure? Because that's when Dean Munce became president. You were registrar and—

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<sup>14</sup> The Colleges of Suffolk University were accredited by the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in December 1952. Suffolk Law School was accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) in August 1953. The law school was also later accredited by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in 1977.

**GOODRICH:** Dean and registrar when he became president. And then I was converted to dean. I would have said that was probably '58. But I don't know.

**ROBBINS:** So it was relatively soon after you became dean of the colleges.

**GOODRICH:** Then I just dropped the registrar. And Carol Haynes was on-hand by that time, and she was doing a good job. So it was incredible, of course, the stories about salaries, I suppose, you've heard all kinds of stories about salaries. But those are the ones that are incredible things.

**ROBBINS:** They were very low salaries?

**GOODRICH:** Well, most college salaries were. And ours were just among the lowest, that's all. You know that in 1950s, the AAUP [American Association of University Professors] began its annual survey of faculty salaries and classifying institutions A, B, C, D and so on. Well, I got to find out about—this is how I managed to, as soon as I got into that job to start working on improving the faculty salary; I thought that was really the biggest problem of all, so we could really persuade good men to stay and other good men and women to come. I got a hold of a copy of either the first or the second of the surveys that were made on the program. That program of AAUP was just starting. And, of course, I found that our average was down in the—

END OF INTERVIEW