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SJSU Office of the President: Hobert W. Burns Records

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Guide to the SJSU Office of the President: Hobert W. Burns Records

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Guide to the San José State University Office of the President, Hobert W. Burns Records

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Finding aid funded by the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Processed by:
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Date Completed:
2009
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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Office of the President, Hobert W. Burns Records

Dates: 1961-1984

Bulk Dates: 1969-1970

Collection number: MSS-2009-06-02

Creator: San José State University. Office of the President

Collection Size: 8 boxes, 10 linear feet

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Office of the President is the highest administrative office for the campus, reporting to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor and Board of Trustees, respectively. As such, the Office of the President records document the overall policies, practices and procedures of the daily operation of the campus, as well as the interaction with other CSU campuses and with the CSU administration. The Office of the President, Hobert W. Burns Records, 1961-1984 (bulk 1969-1970), document his tenure as interim university president. The records consist of correspondence, manuscripts, meeting minutes and newspaper clippings. This collection is arranged into two series: Series I: California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees Materials, 1969-1970; and Series II: Administrative Files, 1961-1984.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research, however, grievance folders 1-12 and Special Cases folders 1-6 are restricted in Box 4.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

San José State University Office of the President, Hobert W. Burns Records, MSS-2009-06-02, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Processing History

Collection processed and finding aid EAD encoded by Jane Gilvin. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

Organizational History

In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns' Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized $200,000 to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns' Normal school is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelors and master's degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.

The Office of the President is the highest administrative office for the campus, reporting to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor and Board of Trustees, respectively. As such, the Office of the President records document the overall policies, practices, and procedures of the daily operation of the campus, as well as the interaction with other CSU campuses and with the CSU administration.

Hobert W. Burns was educated at Stanford University, and served as an administrator at Syracuse and Hofstra Universities before his appointment at San José State University as Dean of the College of Education in 1963. Hobert W. Burns (1969-1970) became acting president of SJSU after the unexpected departure of President Robert D. Clark (1964-1969) in May of 1969. Burns served as the interim president for one year before resigning in protest over the faculty's decision to ease academic standards in order to allow students more time to protest the Vietnam War. Previously, Burns was appointed by President Clark to the position of Academic Vice President in 1966. He returned to that post after his resignation as acting university president, and he retired from SJSU in 1983. Burns continued to support the University after retirement. He died October 14th, 2008.

Bibliography

Gilbert, Benjamin F., and Burdick, Charles. *Washington Square, 1857-1979: The History of San José State University.* San José, California: San José State University, 1980.

San José State University. About SJSU. http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/

Walsh, James P. *San José State University: An Interpretive History, 1950-2000.* San José, California: San José State University, 2003.

Related Material

San José State University Faculty Papers of H. Brett Melendy, MSS-2009-05-01, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

San José State University Office of the President, Robert D. Clark Records, MSS-2009-08-03, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Scope and Content

The Office of the President is the highest administrative office for the campus, reporting to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor and Board of Trustees, respectively. As such, the Office of the President records document the overall policies, practices and procedures of the daily operation of the campus, as well as the interaction with other CSU campuses and with the CSU administration. The San José State University Office of the President, Hobert W. Burns Records, 1961-1984 (bulk 1969-1970), document his tenure as interim university president. The records consist of correspondence, manuscripts, meeting minutes, and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series: Series I: California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees Materials, 1969-1970; and Series II: Administrative Files, 1961-1984.

Subject Headings

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Burns, Hobert W.

San José State University President's Office -- History.

San José State University President's Office -- Records and correspondence.

San José State College -- History.

San José State University -- History.

California State University, San José -- History.

Education, Higher -- California -- San José.

College presidents -- California -- San José.

College administrators -- California -- San José.

SERIES I: **California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees Materials 1969-1970**

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

The materials in this series consist of correspondence, meeting minutes and polices of the California State University's (CSU) Board of Trustees. The correspondence documents topics such as the CSU's decision not to allow the use of its resources by the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), as well as acting President Burns' (1969-1970) decision not to recognize the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) as a legitimate student organization.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 1 **CSU Memorandums & Trustees Logs 1966-1984**

Box 2 **CSU Trustees Letters & Directives 1969-1970**

Box 3 **CSU Meeting Minutes & News Releases 1969-1970**

SERIES II: **Administrative Files 1961-1984**

Physical Description: 5 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

The materials in this series consist of correspondence to and from acting President Burns (1969-1970), memoranda, newspaper clippings, and speeches. This series documents the exploration of a joint doctorate program with UC Berkeley in Mexican American Studies, the attempts of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) to be recognized as a student group by the university, and the position of the Ombudsman.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by format.

Access Note

Access Note: Grievance folders 1-12 and Special Cases folders 1-6 are restricted in Box 4.

Box 4 **Administrative Files 1968-1970**

Box 5 **Correspondence & Clippings 1967-1970**

Box 6 **Correspondence & Meeting Minutes 1961-1970**

Boxes 7-8 **General Files 1964-1970**