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12-18-1959

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News Item from:
University of Minnesota
Institute of Agriculture
West Central School & Experiment Station
Morris, Minnesota
December 18, 1959

For Immediate Release

FIRST MEETING OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS, HELD

Dr. Rodney Briggs, newly appointed Acting Dean, welcomed a dinner gathering of approximately 250 persons to the University of Minnesota, Morris, on Monday, December 14.

The meeting, sponsored by the West Central Educational Development Association, was attended by people from throughout the West Central area and demonstrated anew the wide interest that the new college at Morris has aroused.

The principal speaker of the evening, Dr. Malcolm Willey, academic vice-president of the University and chairman of the Morris Campus Advisory Committee, declared that the University of Minnesota, Morris, will be a full-fledged integrated part of the University and the high standard of academic excellence that is the hallmark of instruction offered by the University in all its collegiate departments will be offered at Morris on the same high plane.

In reviewing the preliminary thinking of the committee in regard to the Morris College, Dr. Willey said Morris will not be a fifth wheel and policies which apply to the University as a whole will apply to Morris also, admitting only such adaptations as physical separation may dictate. As an example, he said that the basic fee structure would be the same at Morris as at other University units - \$71.00 per quarter basic tuition for resident students.

The committee thinking also indicates that there must be some selectivity in student admission in order to maintain a high level of academic integrity. In line with that, there must be an adequate program of student counseling.

Initially, because of fiscal considerations, the curriculum will be concentrated in the number of courses offered and in credit hours per course. While the committee has not made final recommendations, Dr. Willey indicated that thinking thus far points toward these offerings: English, Social Science Courses,

a Mathematics core, Inorganic Chemistry and Biology. The committee has not, however, overlooked Music, the Humanities and other courses, Dr. Willey added.

The address was heard with intense interest by the large audience, and at its conclusion, Vice-President Willey was accorded a standing round of applause.

A. I. Johnson of Benson, member of the Board of Regents, spoke briefly to review the milestones which led to the Regents' decision to establish college courses at Morris. He said he was proud of the support that has been given the Regents' step, and expressed his appreciation to all the people who by their great interest had helped to bring higher education to Western Minnesota.

Earlier in the day, area legislators, TV and newsmen toured the Morris University campus under the guidance of Dean Briggs. The tour included a visit to Edson Hall, the new administration building which has a modern 530-seat auditorium, library and business offices; dormitories which will accommodate 330 students at two beds per room after the agricultural high school program has been phased out; and the recently built home economics building that will be remodeled into a classroom building for Science.

University officials are planning for an enrollment of 250 college freshmen at Morris next fall. A four year college should have 1500 students, they say, and point out that with a new Science building, library, and classroom facilities the Morris campus buildings would handle 2000 students in the future.