

*19 October 1852*

DR. J. W. SMITH said he would withdraw his amendment, but he thought it rather discourteous on the part of Mr. Barlow, considering that the amendment had been seconded, to say that it had received no support.

The amendment was then withdrawn, and the motion on being put was carried.

This terminated the proceedings.

Previous to the above meeting being held a meeting of the University, under the chairmanship of the vice-chancellor (Chief Justice Way) was held for the purpose of electing two new members of the board of governors to the South Australian Institute, when His Honor the Chief Justice and Dr. E. C. Stirling were unanimously elected.

*From the Register  
October 19<sup>th</sup> 1852*

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

The foundation of a Faculty of Law on the basis recommended by the Council and now approved by the Senate should prove a means of greatly augmenting the usefulness of the Adelaide University. Every one must admit, whether he agrees with or differs from the programme submitted by the Council, that the attachment of a professional course to the curriculum of the University is the one chief thing necessary to impart to the institution increased vitality. The very fact that the change will in all probability double the number of matriculated students in attendance on lectures should have excited a good deal of interest in the matter, especially among members of the University. Unfortunately, it does not seem that such is the case, for only about one-third of the members of the Senate attended the meeting in which the matter was discussed on Wednesday, and there was barely a quorum at the end of an hour's discussion. It is much to be regretted that so little interest comparatively should be shown in the consideration of one of the most important practical questions that has yet been brought before the Senate. Whatever opinion may be entertained regarding the amendments submitted by Dr. Smith, it is certain that the points they raised deserved more thorough ventilation than they received at the meeting.

There are some matters in connection with the University which certainly want stirring up, having lain neglected for such a time that the delay is by no means creditable to the institution or to the colony. Foremost among these may be placed the selection of a Chancellor. It is nearly ten months since the resignation of the late Chancellor (the Right Rev. Dr. Short) took effect, yet absolutely nothing has been done towards choosing his

successor. Is it to be understood from this that there is not one man in the colony capable of directing the affairs of a small University? Or, is it true, as has already been rumoured, that a number of members of the University, despairing of finding such a man, have made up their minds to wait until some one of sufficient eminence has taken up his abode in the colony? If such be the case, it certainly betokens either a great lack of ability or a great superabundance of modesty in the educational leaders of South Australia. The difficulty doubtless lies in the fact that few of the men who hold Government positions in the colony had the opportunity in their youth of receiving a University education or entering the lists against the students of the old country in the friendly rivalry of learning. But it may safely be said that to a young institution such as the Adelaide University the ability, combined with a practical knowledge of the wants of the colony which some of our leading men possess, would render them far more useful in the position of Chancellor than a man possessing high mental attainments and unimpeachable credentials, but yet destitute of experience. It was to Sir William Wentworth that the Sydney University owed its successful establishment, and he, though certainly a graduate, he was by no means distinguished for brilliant scholarship. The same may be said of Sir Redmond Barry, who brought such indomitable energy to the work of building up the Melbourne University. Of such men it may be said that if they did not make their mark in the walks of learning they had the abilities to do so, but preferred to devote them to another, and—to Australians—a more useful end. If the Council and Senate of the University delay much longer the necessary steps towards the election of a new Chancellor a grave slur will be cast upon the colony, and the early annals of the institution will suggest the conclusion that not one capable man of good education could be found in the colony during the years 1882 and 1883.

While the University is thus diffident about finding a suitable Chancellor, it appears to be confident that colonial talent will furnish a Professor of English Literature and Moral Philosophy. It might perhaps have been well to have taken steps in this matter early enough to give English candidates an opportunity of applying; but, at all events, this error, if it be one, is in the right direction. It is a matter for serious consideration for a successful student to break-up his family connections in Eng-