

Jan. 12, 1894.

Prof. H. P. Hansen,

The University of Chicago,

Chicago, Illinois.

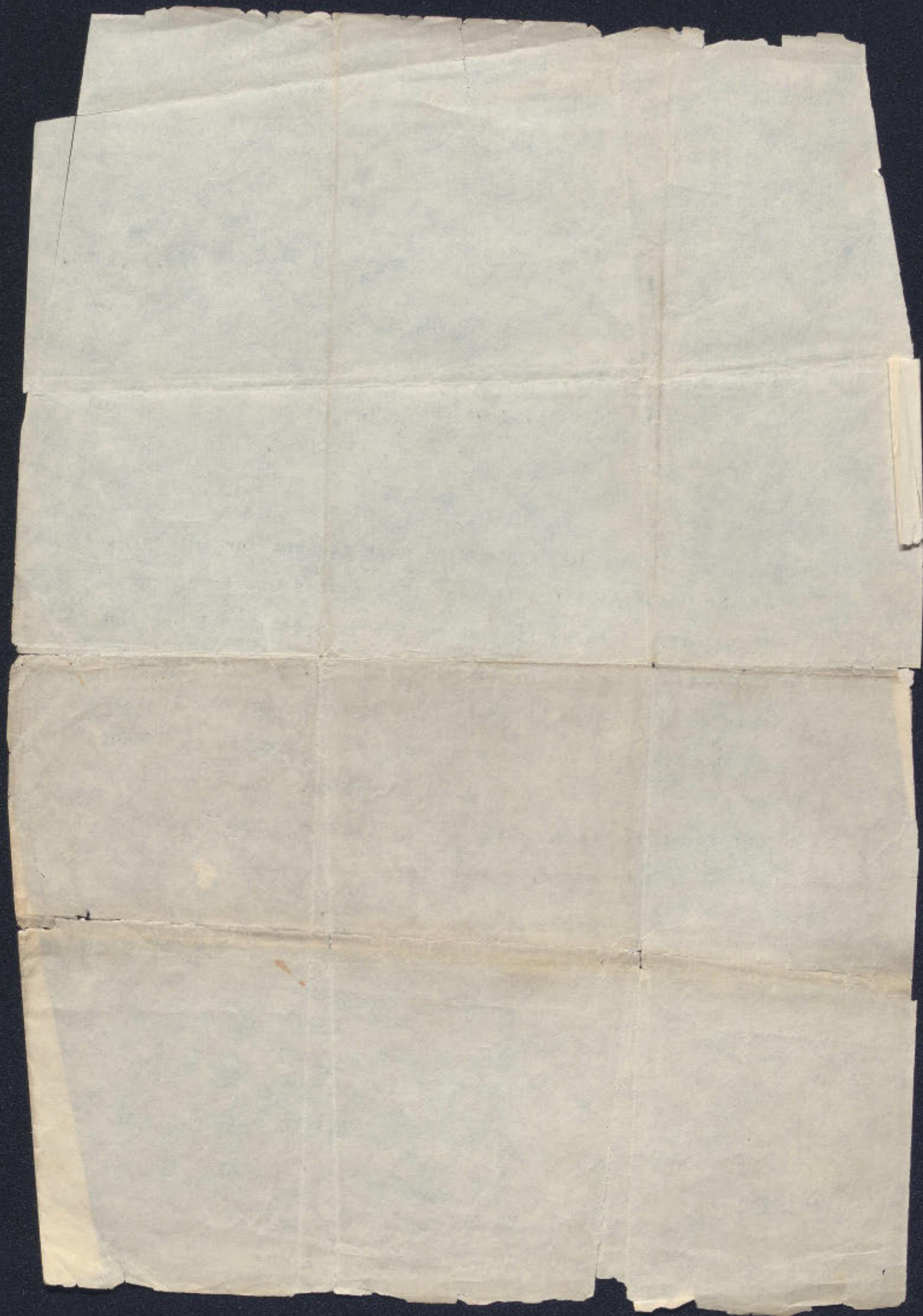
My dear Sir:

In response to your request for interpretation of the University requirement that membership in a secret fraternity shall be limited to the University College and the second year of the Academic College, I would say that this is understood to imply that students in the first year of the Academic College must not be admitted to membership or pledged or invited to become members. You may regard this if you please as the interpretation of the requirement.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

William R. Harper



Are sororities a desirable form
of organization for our women?
To be discussed in general terms.

4. L. The fact that men have
them has no bearing on the case.

3. S. Any decision which we
may reach should be regarded
as independent of our opinion
as to other institutions.

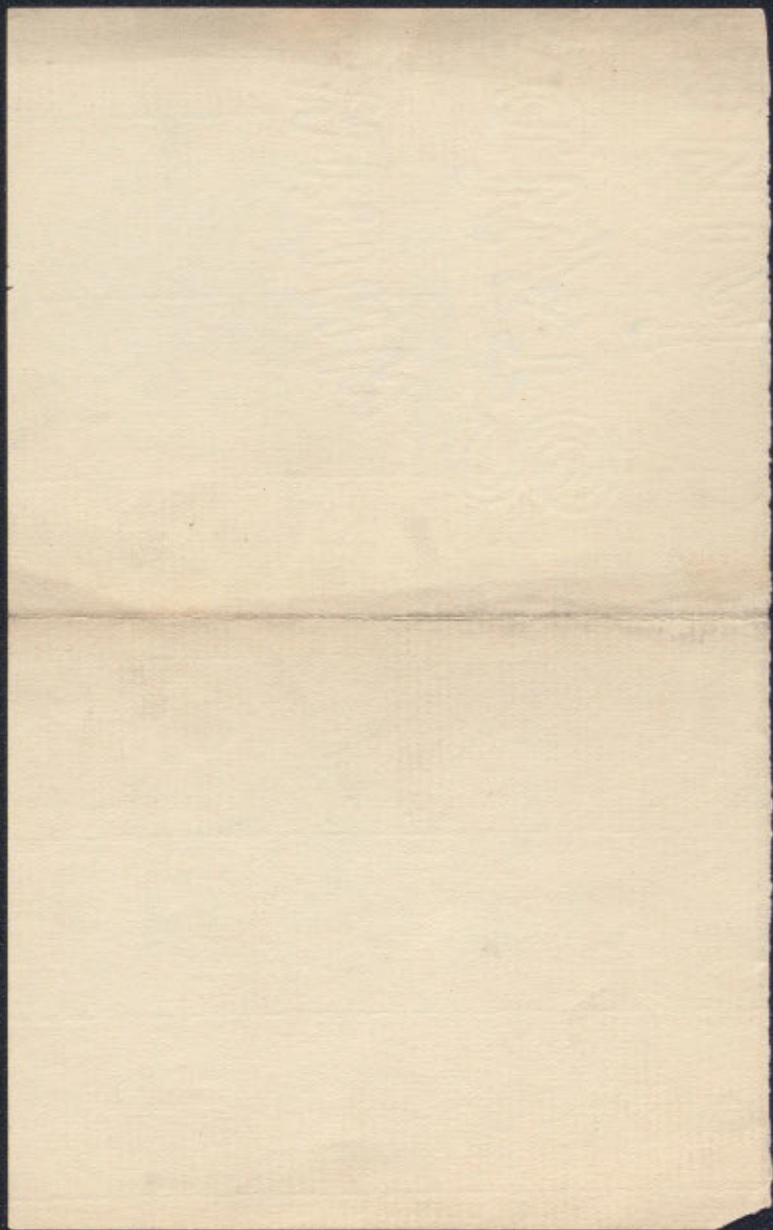
Independence of judgment.

If we are bound, then
weakness is shown.

1. X. Need of realizing that
we are in a formative period.
All must act together for
good of all now & hereafter.

2. X. Ideals of organization
thus far. Utmost liberty.

5. Demand to come from
within not without



Miss Marion Talbot,

Dean,

Dear Miss Talbot,

In view of the mis-statements which have appeared in some of the Chicago papers and in the University Weekly, it has seemed best that we, the members of the Mortar Board, should submit to you a direct statement of the end and aim of our Club, and our attitude toward certain questions. We place this statement in your hands, to be done with as you think fit.

In consideration of the special conditions of life which exist here in the University, we wish to say that we are organized on the basis of a private club; that we are absolutely an independent organization, with no connection whatever with any sorority, and with no intention of becoming a sorority.

Furthermore, as you know, the Mortar Board was organized with the full approval of those members of the faculty with whom we consulted.

The aims of the Mortar Board are twofold, development along certain lines of literary study, and the promotion of intimate friendship among its members. Further than this, one of its unspoken aims is that it shall be a stimulus to its members for better class-room work. The Society is very young yet; it is perhaps too early to look for marked results in this field.

We wish it understood that in forming this club, we do not in the slightest degree separate our general interests from those of the body of undergraduate women in the University. These interests are and must always be the same.

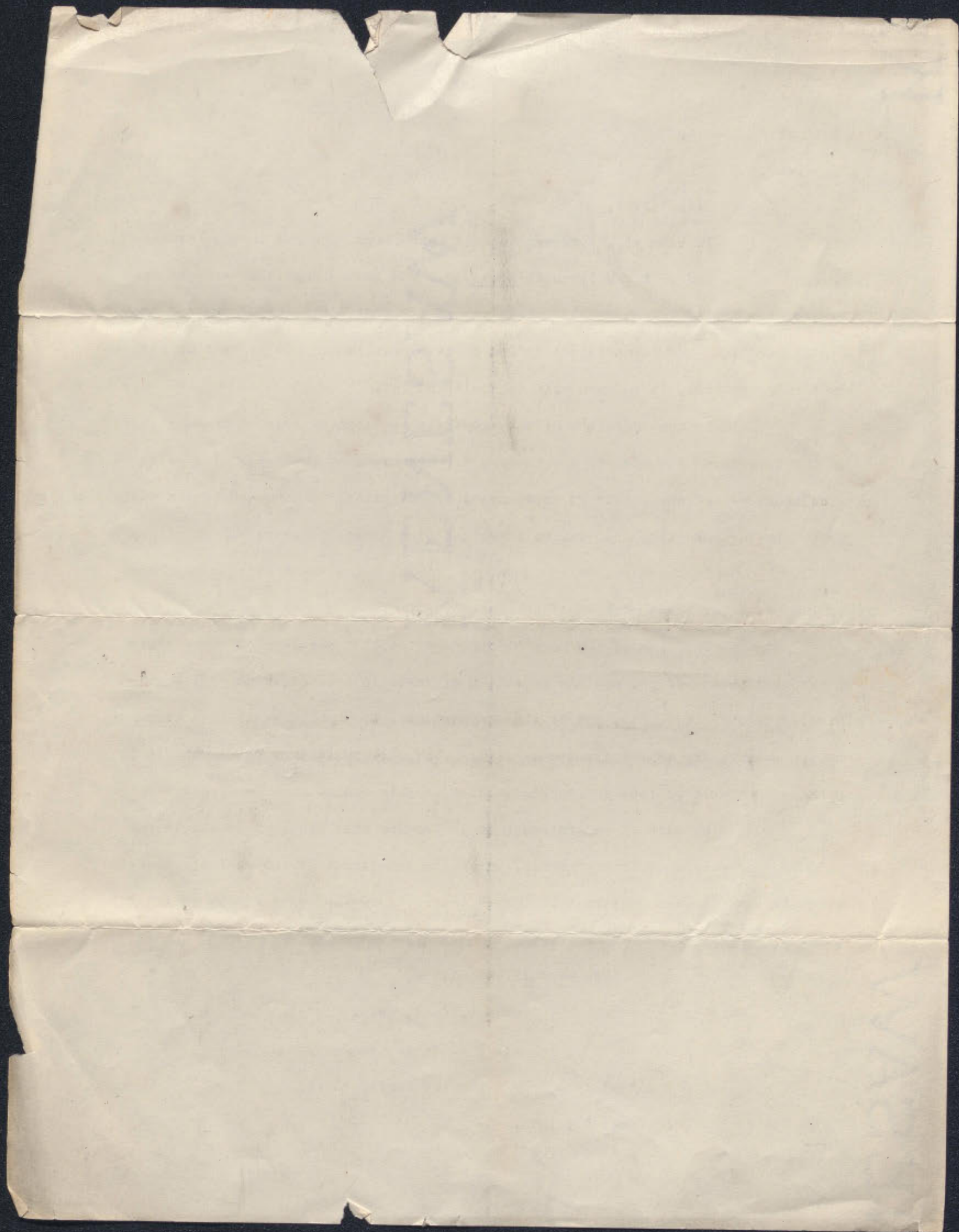
Respectfully submitted,

Agnes S. Cook, Pres.

Nellie L. Jones, Sec'y.

For the Mortar Board.

Nancy Foster Hall, February 13, 1895.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

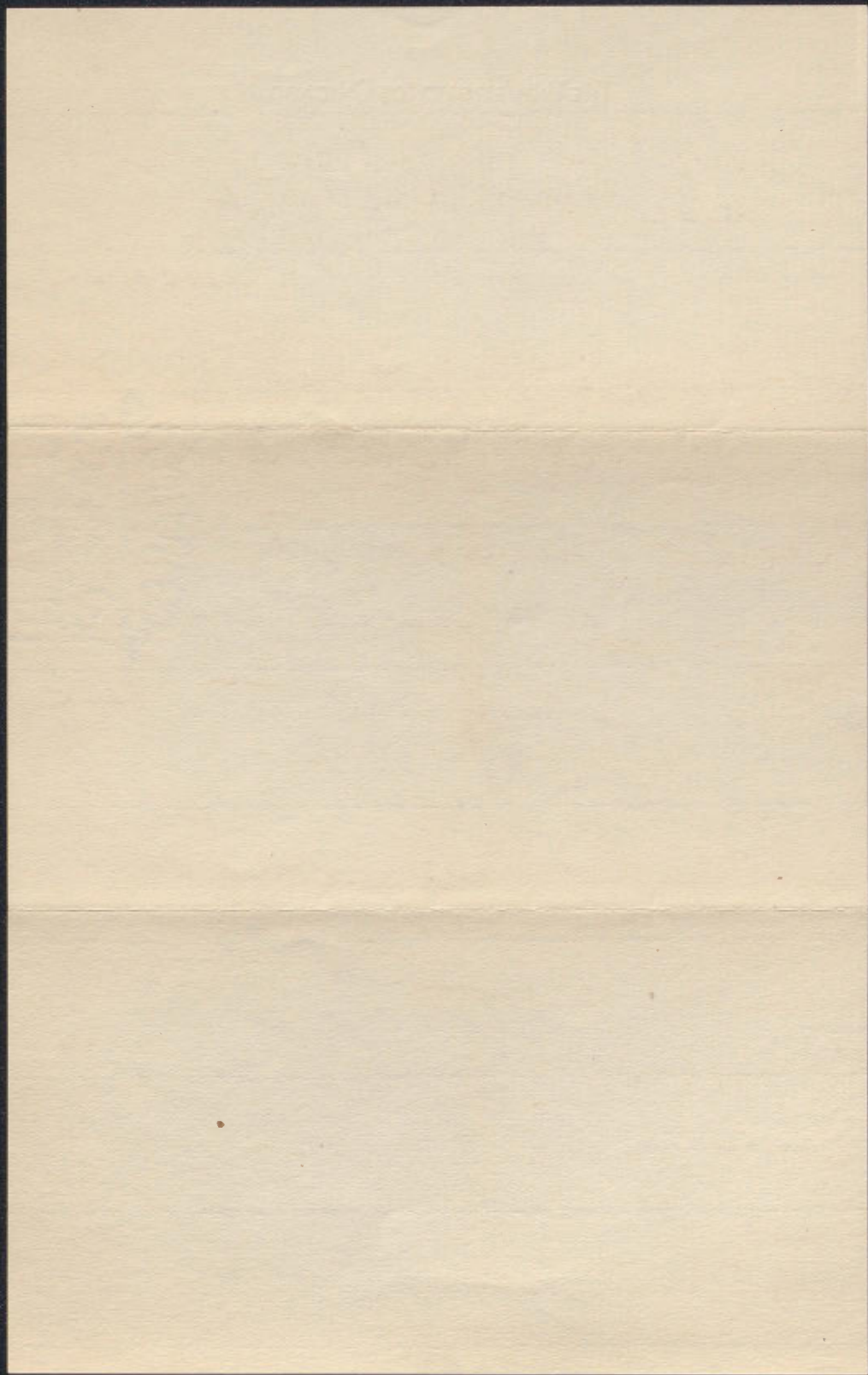
Dear Miss Talbot:-

Enclose

the required information re-
-farding The Estoric. Miss
Apter, you know, is not
here at present, and
has asked me to open
all her mail.

Sincerely yours
Edith B. Foster

Tuesday.



THE FACULTY OF
ARTS, LITERATURE, AND SCIENCE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF WOMEN
GRADUATE SCHOOL

The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

CHICAGO

February 11, 1896.

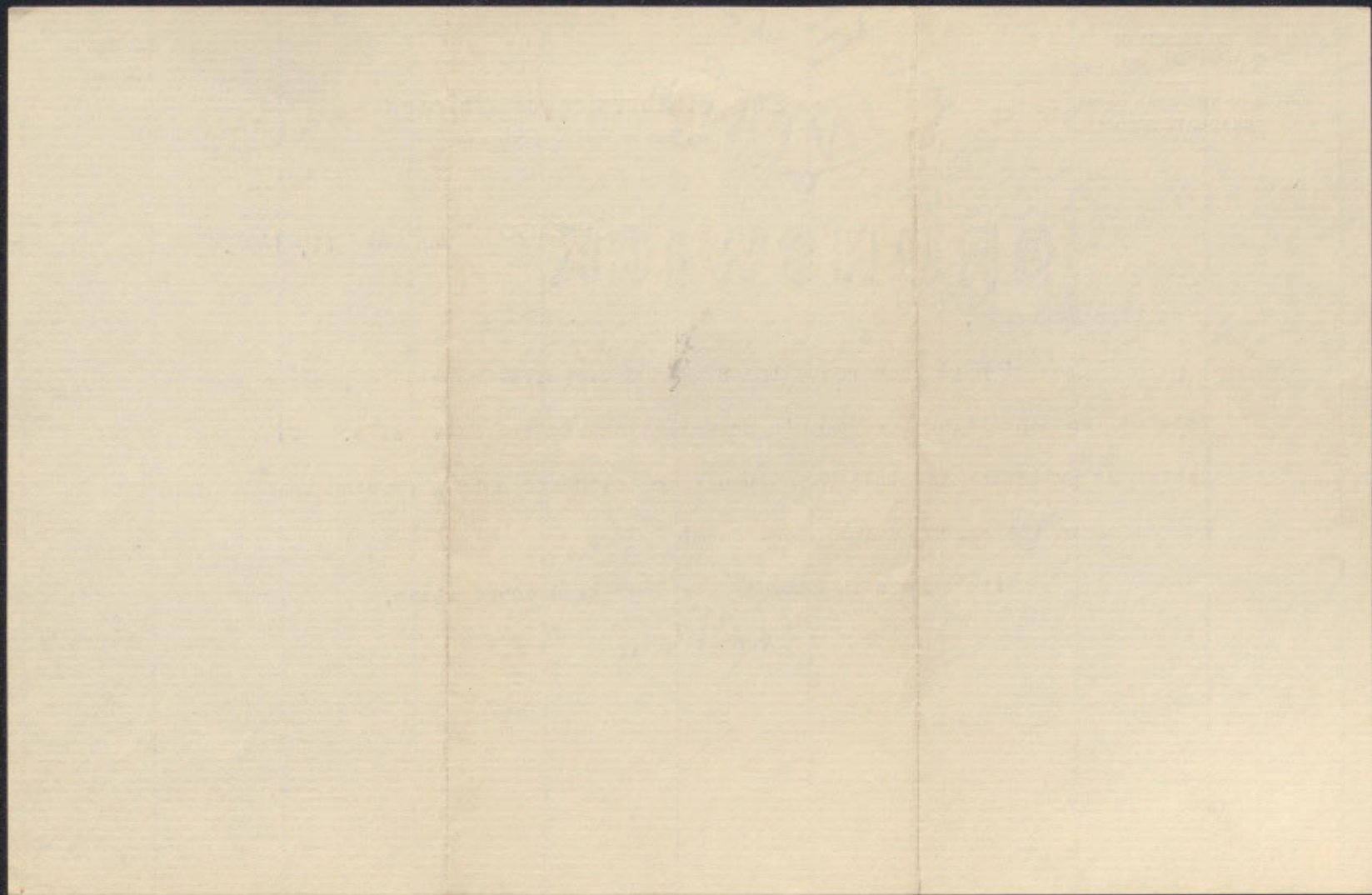
Wilmouth
Dear Miss Johnston,

I have been requested by the University Council to present some
information concerning the women's organizations in the University. Will you
assist me by asking the *Becher Society* whose editors you wear many of
~~editors~~ to furnish me with the data suggested in the data
as they feel at liberty to give
~~suggested~~ in the accompanying blank form?
^

With thanks in advance for your kind cooperation,

Very truly,

Harmon Talbot



The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

CHICAGO March 5, 1896.

Dear President Harper,

next Tuesday!
I am besieged with inquiries concerning the administration of Beecher Hall during the spring quarter. When the date is fixed for the announcement will you let me know?

Shall I plan to do the Dean's work *Yes* for the undergraduate women during Miss Bulkley's absence next quarter?

Yes with you!
There is some discussion going on concerning the formation of women's secret societies, but I think charters will not be granted to local chapters if we are frank in the statement of our belief that this form of social organization is not the best for the women under the special conditions which prevail at the University of Chicago.

Faithfully yours,

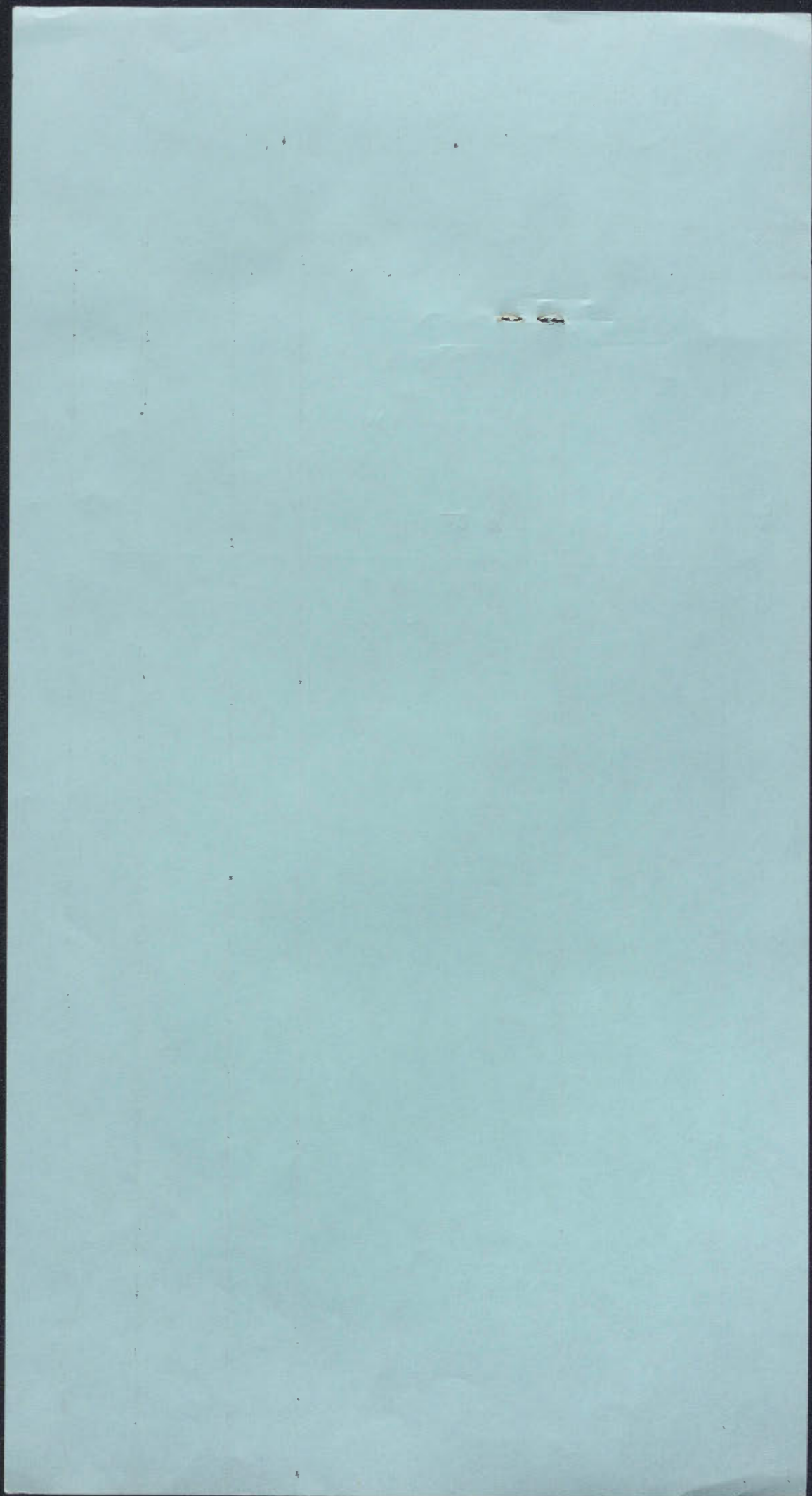
Marian Talbot

Questions to President

March 6, 1896

MANUSCRIPT IDENTIFICATION SLIP
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Box No.	Folder No. or Name	Item Identification	Date	No. of Pages	Date Out	Init.
*JD to WRH, TLS, 2 p, March 8, 1899						4.5.73 MK
3	7	May 10, 1904			1/7 74	cls
4	1	Abbott			1/10/74	cls
4	3	M.T. to WRH 11-19-94		1 both sides	8/15	PR.



My dear Miss Talbot:-

I am requested
by the members of
The Esoteric Club to
submit to you the
following statement:-

"The Esoteric Club is
a local society, with no
affiliations in any other

college, formed by girls
in the University, prin-
cipally for private
social purposes.

Sincerely yours,

Adelaide M. Ide,

for the Esoteric Club.

Becher Hall,

February fifteenth.

Miss Marion Talbot,

Dean,

Dear Miss Talbot;

I am requested by the members of the Esoteric Club to submit to you the following statement:- "The Esoteric Club is a local society, with no affiliations in any other college, formed by girls in this University, principally for private social purposes."

Sincerely yours,

Adelaide M. Ide,

For the Esoteric Club.

Beecher Hall, February fifteenth.

Miss Marion Talbot,

Dean,

Dear Miss Talbot,

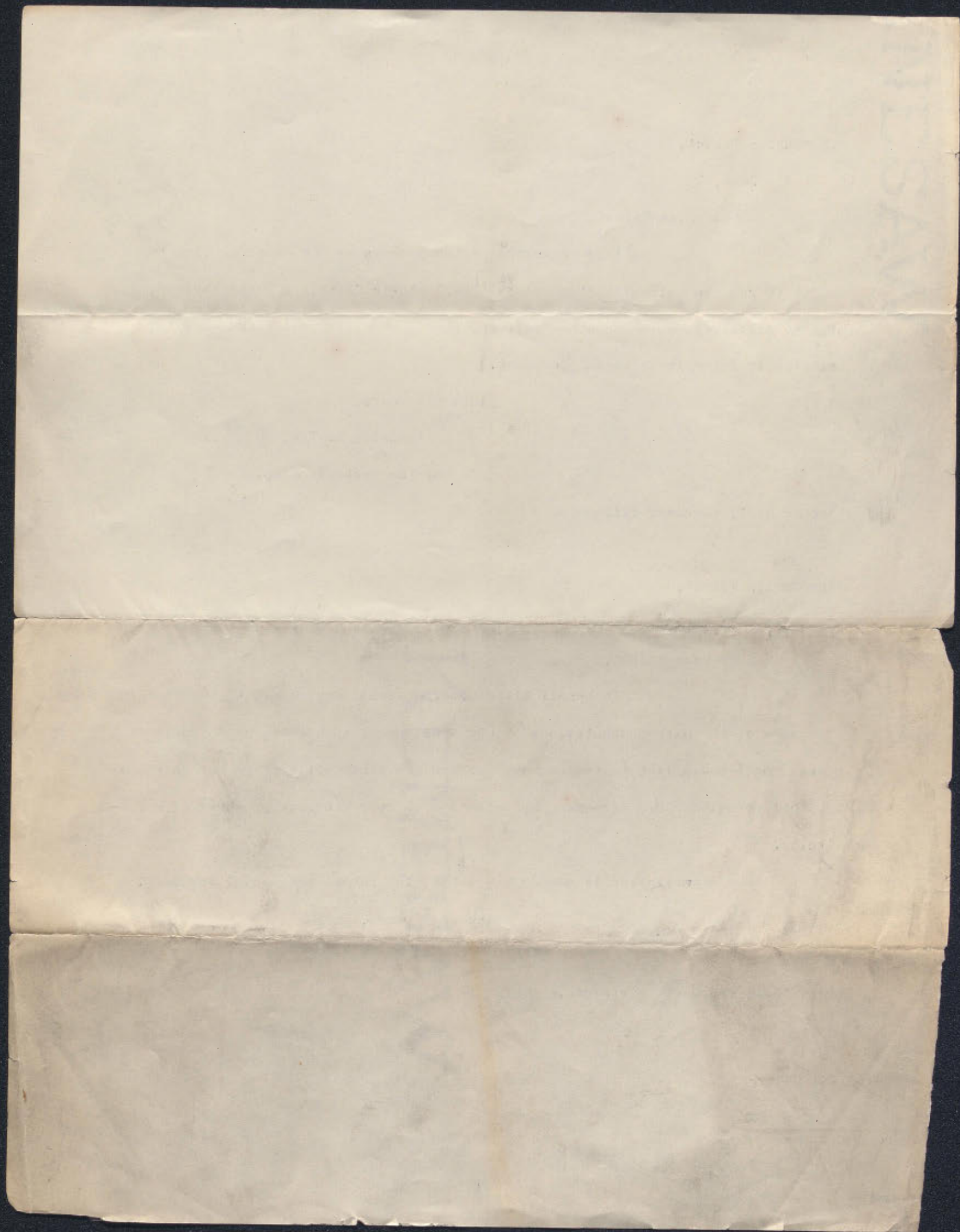
In behalf of the Quadranglers I would like to say that we are aware of the misrepresentations of our club, and its objects, by the daily press; and I would like to assure both you and the other officers of the University, that we neither are nor have any intention of ever becoming, members of a fraternity.

Our organization is simply a private club formed for social purposes.

Sincerely yours,

Edna Stanton.

Kelly Hall, February fourteenth.



1. Name

The Esoteric

2. Object

Sociability

3. Conditions of membership

Members must be in regular attendance at the University and cannot be admitted until they have been in the University for one quarter.

4. Time and place of meetings

2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month from 7-9 P.M. in the rooms of members.

5. Name of President

Adelaide M. Ide

6. Names of members

Adelaide M. Ide

Jessie L. Davis

Sarah Munson

Florence Bull (not in the University at present. No longer an active member)

Harriet C. Spitzer

Elvior D. Flood

Alice Clark

Edith B. Foster.

1. Name

2. Object

3. Conditions of membership

4. Time and place of meeting

5. Name of President

6. Name of Secretary

I. Name

The Sellers

2. Object

Social & Recreative

3. Conditions of membership

The membership of the club is limited to fifty (50)

No candidate is eligible until she has been a member of the University for one quarter (three months)

4. Time and place of meetings

Homes of various members - 2^d Saturday of the month at 2 P.M.

5. Name of President

Lucy M. Johnston

6. Names of members

Miss Edith Foster
" Vivian Crandall
" Alice Van Vliet.
" Harriet Agertin
" Evelyn Matz
" Adelaide Dele
" Angie Presch
" Mary Brooks Baird
" Emendolin Willis

Mrs. Stella R. Stagg
Miss Lucy M. Johnston
Miss Mary Burkhalter

Miss Charlotte Sellen
" Marcella Freeman
" Leila Fish
" Mary Maynard
" Susan Lording
" Charlotte Foyt
" Catherine Baldock
" Helen Davida Hopfen
" Davis
" Isaac Freeman
" Edith Capps
" Una Mc Mahan
" Sarah Munson
(over)

Miss Alice Clark

Miss Eleanor Flood

" Janet Kennedy

" Kate Anderson

Honorary Members

" Elizabeth T. Coolidge

Miss Mary Von Holst.

1. Name

The Pi Sigma

2. Object

Sociability

3. Conditions of membership

Candidates for membership must be members of one of the four women's clubs and have 18 majors credit.

4. Time and place of meetings

Undecided.

5. Name of President

Elizabeth Mac Williams

6. Names of members

Grace Freeman	Elizabeth Messick
Mailla Freeman	Adelaine Ide
Edith Schwarz	Sarah Munson
Edith Capps	Harriet Spates
Anna Mc Clintock	Helen Thompson
Eleanor Jones	Fluorose Bell
Elizabeth Mac Williams	Jeanette Keimedy
	Edith Foster

1. Name

2. Address

3. Conditions of the contract

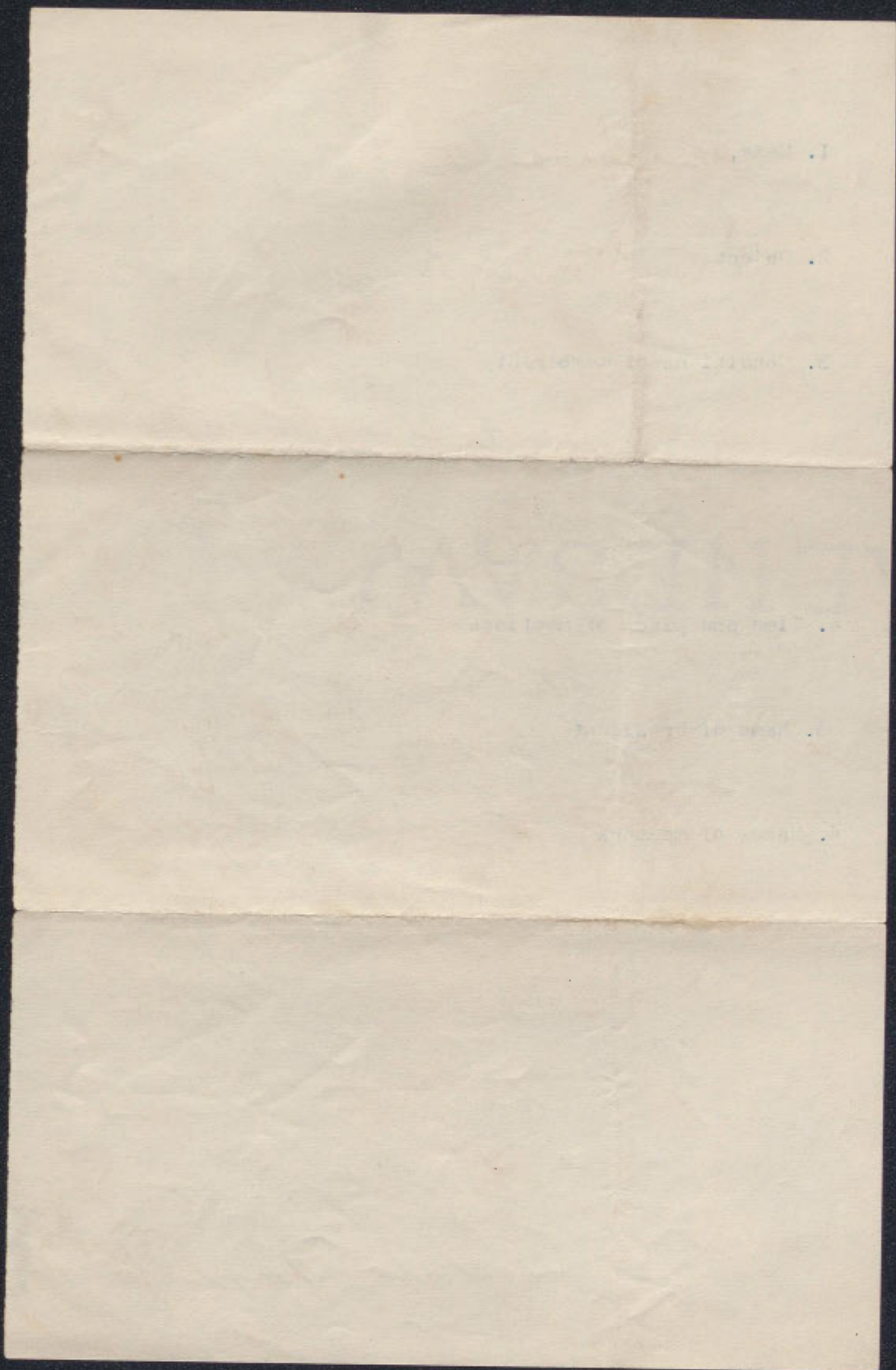
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5. Date of printing

6. Name of printer

EVERETT

1. Name, *The Sigma Club*
2. Object *Literary, Musical and Social*
3. Conditions of membership *Individual requirements which cannot be adequately enumerated.*
4. Time and place of meetings *Fortnightly at the homes of members.*
5. Name of President *Glenrose Bell.*
6. Names of members, *Louise Hannan
Catherine Paddock
Mary Reddy
Mary Jane Cooke
Charlotte Capen
Harriet New
Mabel Dunlap*



1. Name

The Mortar Board

2. Object

Literary work - Social enjoyment

3. Conditions of membership

Three months residence and
adequate scholarships. (not
made public)

4. Time and place of meeting

Three literary meetings
each quarter. Social meetings, and place of
meetings indefinite.

5. Name of President

Eleanor L. Jones (not
made public)

6. Names of members

Mabel E. Dougherty
Grace Freeman
Agnes S. Cook
Eleanor L. Jones
Francis J. Hopkins
Helen B. Thompson
Elizabeth Butler
Edith E. Schwarz
Helen O. Hewitt
Charlotte R. Teller
Margaret Purcell Prescott
Marilla W. Freeman
Laura B. Graves
Edith Capps

1. 1900

2. 1901

3. 1902

4. 1903

5. 1904

6. 1905

END

Kelly Hall,

name: "The Quadranglers"

object: social amusement.

president: Elizabeth McWilliams

officers: Anna James McClintock
(treasurer.)

Edna Stanton.

(secretary)

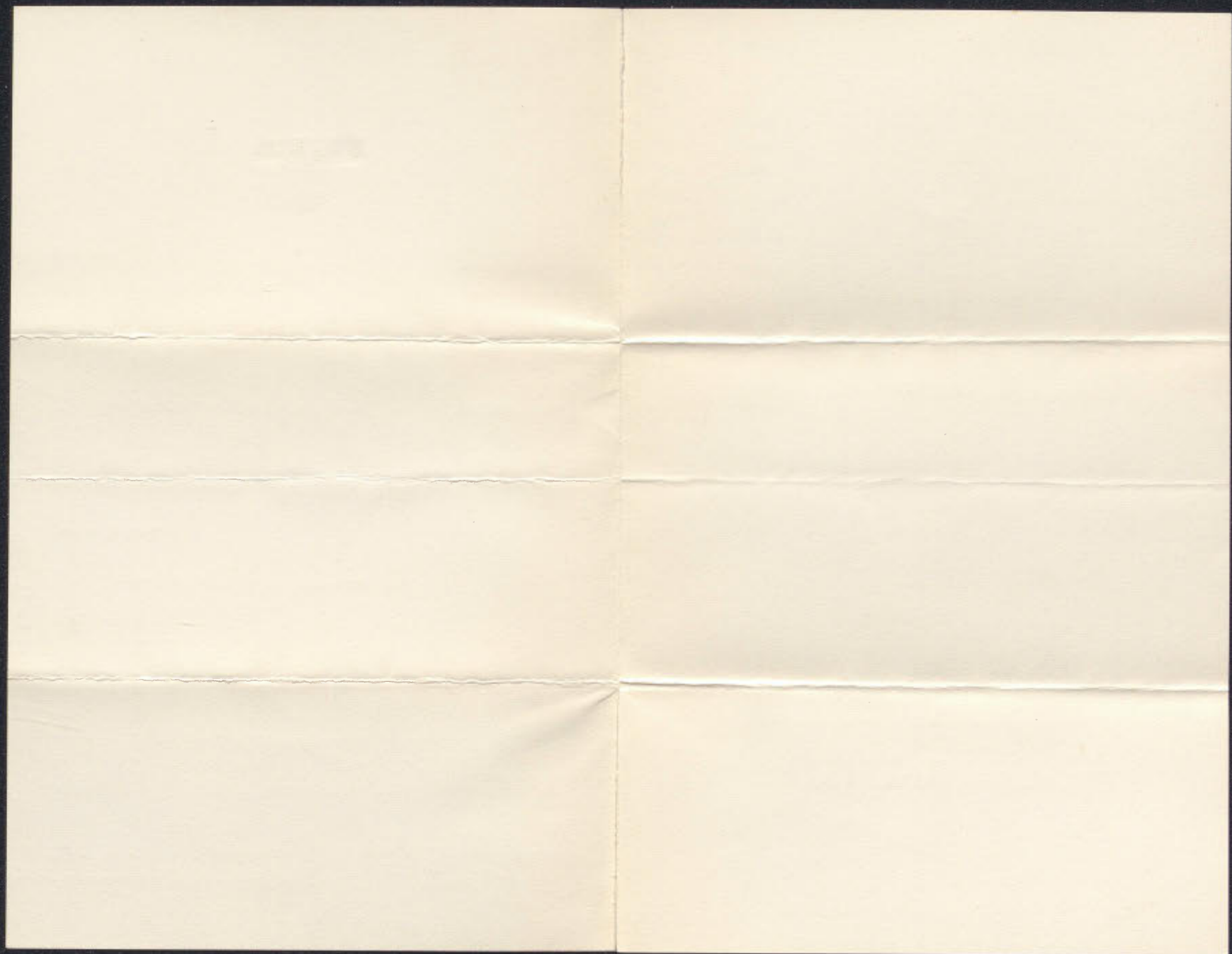
qualifications for admission:

— at least one quarter's work
in the University, & three-
fourths vote from clubmembers.

meetings, Tuesdays 5. p. m.

Members:

Ethel Kern,
Jeanette Kennedy,
Anna James McClinton,
Elizabeth Messick,
Theo Kern,
Elizabeth McWilliams,
Annie Reed,
Mary Winter,
Anne Hull,
Margaret Rumsey,
Josephine Allen,
Edna Stanton.



	Miss Agerter	Esoteric	Idlers	MortarBoard	Nu Pi Sigma	Quadranglers	Sigma Q
3	Miss Agerter	-	-		-		
/	Allin					-	
/	Anderson R.		-				
/	Baird		-				
/	Bell				-		
/	Burkhalter		-				
/	Butler			-			
/	Capen						-
3	Capps		-	-	-		
2	Clark	-	-				
/	A Cook			-			
/	D Cooke						-
/	Coolidge		-				
/	Crandall		-				
2	Davis	-	-				
/	Dunlap						-
/	Fish		-				
2	Flood	-	-				
2	Foster	-	-				
x	(Foye)		-				
3	Freeman G.		-	-	-		
3	Freeman M.W.		-	-	-		
/	Hannan						-
/	Harding		-				
/	Harper		-				
/	Hewitt			-			
/	Hull						
2	Ide	x	-		-		
/	Johnston		-				
2	Jones			-	-		

Chlorine, Hydrogen, and Oxygen

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Esoteric Idlers MortarBoard NuPiSigma Quadranglers Sigma

1	Miss Kane					-
1	Keen					-
3	Kennedy		-			-
1	Loesch		-			
1	Matz		-			
1	Maynard		-			
2	McClintock			-		-
1	McMahan		-			
2	Ma Williams			-		-
2	Messick			-		-
3	Munson	-	-	-		
2	Paddock		-			-
1	Reed					-
1	Reddy					-
1	Rew					-
1	Rumsey					-
2	Schwarz			-	-	
1	Mrs. Stagg		-			
1	Miss Stanton					-
2	Teller		-	-		
1	Thompson			-		
1	VanVliet		-			
1	Willis		-			
1	Winter					-

5 belong to 3
13 " 2
35 " 1
53

Factorial Table: Number of the Factorial

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THE FACULTY OF
ARTS, LITERATURE, AND SCIENCE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF WOMEN
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Copy
The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

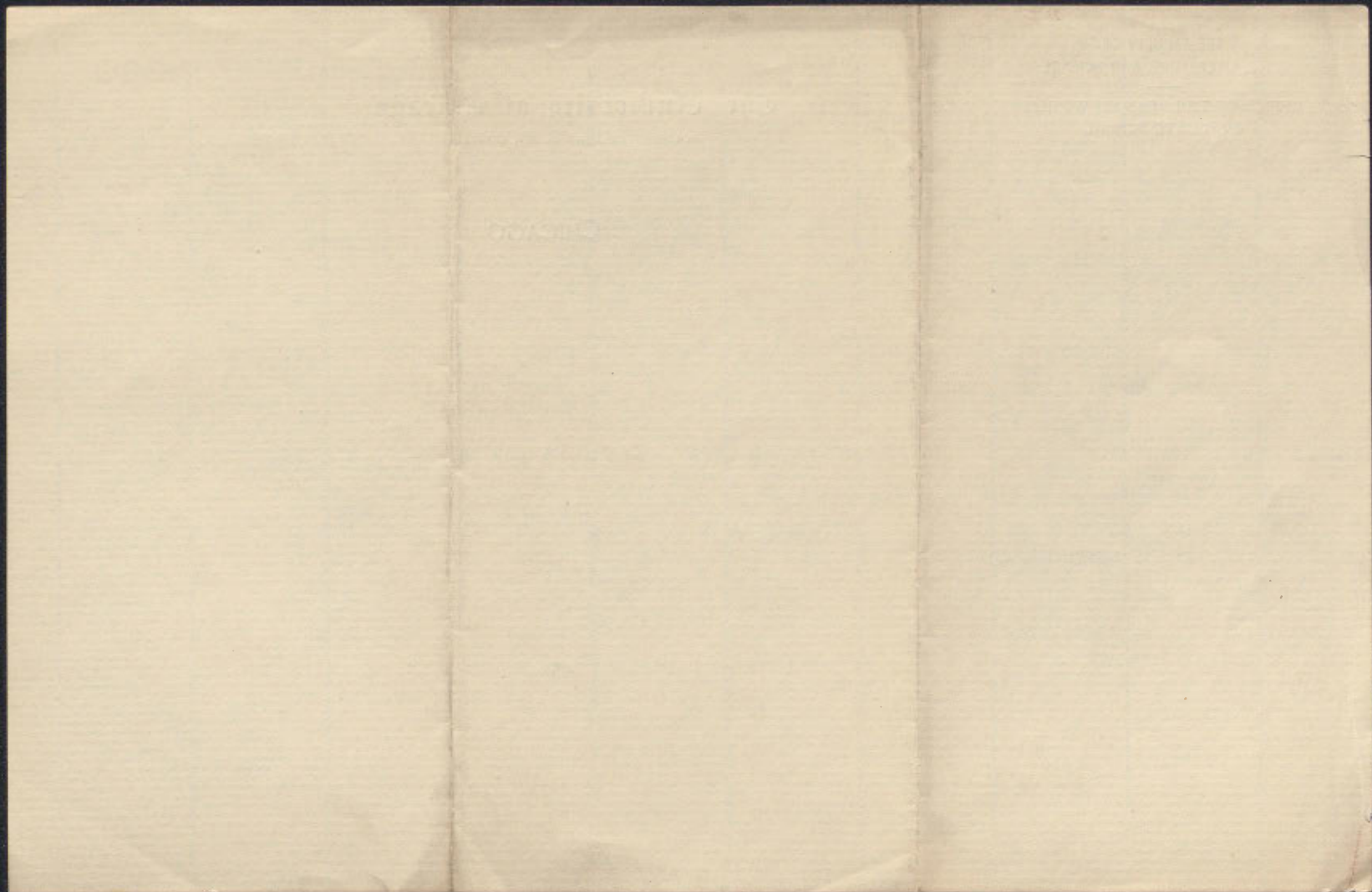
CHICAGO March 19, 1896.

Dear M

You are invited to attend a conference of the women officers of the University at Kelly Hall on Friday, March 20th, promptly at 5 P.M. to discuss the question of the introduction of sororities into the University of Chicago. Will you come prepared to express an opinion in regard to a movement which will affect the interests of all the women in the University?

Very truly,

(signed) Marion Talbot.



The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

CHICAGO

March 19 1896

Dear Miss Talbot:—

The regulations in Exec. Bulletin no VI were voted as a substitute for the actions of the General Faculty taken Oct 24 & Nov 11 1892. I presume therefore that you do not wish these latter actions. Since then Mr Judson presented to the Council his report & suggestions on the Student Organizations. He has not given me his full report, but handed me the following summary to be read at the meeting

Recommended

1. That existing fraternities (named) be at once reorganized on the House plan according to the regulations of the Board of Trustees
2. That existing regulations with reference to Fraternities be continued with the following modification:
 Rule ~~III~~ to be amended making the time limit two quarters in place of one year.

12. those which the faculty adopted Nov 11, 92
which have been amended in
accordance with
by Bulletin no 11

The rules of the Board of Trustees, ^{as amended} are as follows:

The Board voted to permit the organization of Secret Societies provided that

1. Each chapter organized submit its house rules to the Faculty for approval

2. That each appoint a representative with whom the Faculty may confer at such times as may be desirable

3. That membership in the societies be restricted to students of the second year College and students of the University College.

Yours very truly

Frederic S. Goodspeed

The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

EXECUTIVE BULLETIN

NUMBER VI.

TO THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:

I. Attention is called to the action of The University Council, taken Oct. 12, 1895, respecting Gymnasium suits, whereby The Board of Physical Culture is authorized to require all students in the Gymnasium classes to dress in a regulation Gymnasium suit.

II. Attention is called to the action of The Faculty of Arts, Literature, and Science taken Dec. 7, 1895, ratified by The Board of Trustees, respecting Student Organizations.

All Student Organizations must conform to the following regulations:

1. Each organization will file with The University Council; (1) its name, (2) a list of members, (3) such statement of purposes and methods as may be required.

2. It will appoint a representative who shall be the official medium of communication with the University authorities.

3. Eligibility to membership will be subject to such restrictions as may be required by The Council.

4. Any organization which may be disapproved by The Council shall cease to exist. The Council will, at any time, have the right to disapprove of any existing or proposed organization.

5. Such organizations as may occupy distinct buildings or rooms as residences shall be organized as University Houses under the general rules governing Houses.

III. Attention is called to the action of The University Council, taken Nov. 9, 1895, whereby "In any required University work the Dean concerned is authorized to suspend temporarily any student who is guilty of wilful violation of the requirements of the University, or, on continued neglect, to report the case to the proper Faculty.

IV. Attention is called to the following actions of The Board of Physical Culture and Athletics, taken Oct. 5, and Dec. 7, respectively.

1. All unclassified students entering the University with five or more credits shall come under the regular rules of work in the Gymnasium.

2. If a student have ten or more absences in the courses in Physical Culture, no credit shall be allowed him for the work; if he have five to ten absences, he shall receive one-half credit for the work.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT,

GEORGE S. GOODSPEED,

Recorder.

December 16, 1895.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EXECUTIVE BULLETIN

NUMBER 7

The following information was received from the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, on the 10th day of June, 1908:

It was found that the following insects were present in the collection of plants from the State of Texas, and were found to be the same as those reported in the Executive Bulletin, No. 6, of the same year.

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The insects were found in the collection of plants from the State of Texas, and were found to be the same as those reported in the Executive Bulletin, No. 6, of the same year.

Very truly yours,
J. H. HARRIS, Secretary

I am much interested in Mr Capps' letter and a good deal surprised that, knowing that I am opposed to sororities, he would ^{consider the possibility} ~~suggest~~ ~~advise~~ ~~advise~~ of advising the preparation of a plan for organizing them without ascertaining the reasons for my opposition. I differ from him in having given the matter a great deal of thought not only at the time when our decision was reached at the request of nearly every woman of the Univ. but constantly since that time. I have only sought counsel from other institutions and even from members of sororities who are conversant with our conditions to use every effort to keep them out. I believe they would disintegrate rather than make more compact the social life among the women and

CHICAGO

would be fatal to our Union
and seriously weaken the value
and efficiency of our House
system. The sororities are
come eager to get a footing
in the Union and their representa-
tives do not find it difficult
to persuade ^{some of} our girls that the
system would bring them
vast advantages.

I hope I am right in
assuming from your re-
ferring the ^{College} matter
no official discussion of the
matter will be allowed in my absence.

✓ Talbot March 20, 1896
✓ ~~Buckley~~

✓ ~~Cass~~ out of town

Reynolds Mr

Anderson

Dixon

Cary

Robertson

Searles

Jones

✓ ~~Cutter~~

✓ ~~McBastey~~

Clapp

Claypole

Crandall

✓ ~~Barnard~~

Tanner

Bartlett

Bornen

Felton

Goldthwaite

Hammond

France

✓ ~~Gould~~

Lovell

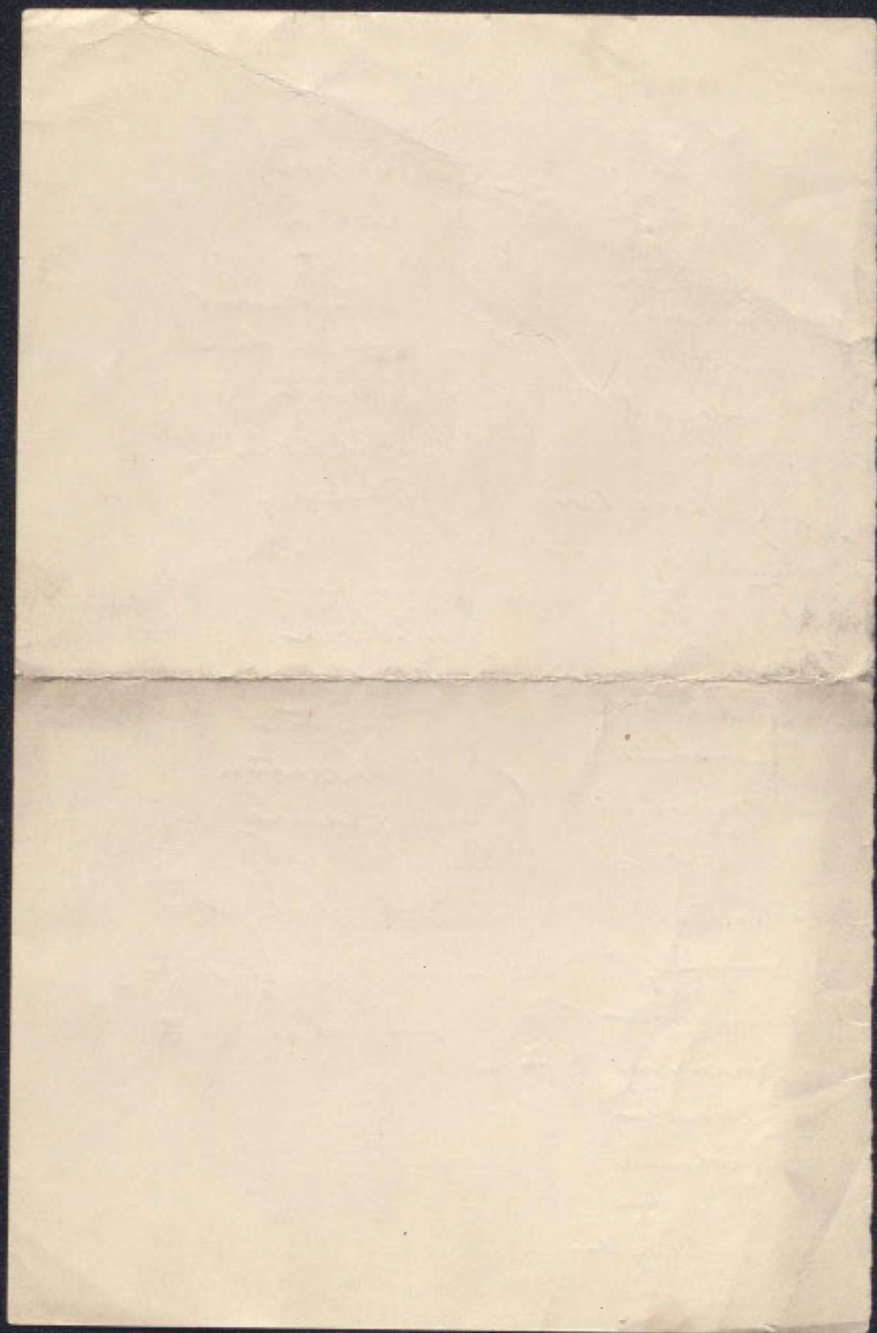
Scotfield

Reynolds E.

Weatherlow

With the Compliments of the Authors.

✓ Helmer ✓	✓ K Merrill ✓ 7
✓ M R Smith ✓	✓ H. B. " ✓
✓ Dame ✓	✓ Miller ✓
✓ Albertson ✓ 7	✓ O'Brien ✓
✓ Trelease ✓	✓ Pellett ✓
Robinson	✓ Richardson ✓
✓ Barnes ✓	✓ Robinson ✓
✓ Bartlett ✓	✓ Sabin ✓
✓ Bradford Empe	✓ Sheldon
✓ Bates	✓ Shorey
✓ L. P. Bates	✓ H. D. Street ✓
✓ Chadwick	✓ P. M. Sulliff ✓
✓ Emery ✓ 7	✓ Ware ✓ 7
✓ Elliott	✓ Wardwell
✓ Winter ✓	✓ Winter
✓ Comstock ✓	✓ Winter
✓ Goodle	✓ Winter
✓ Edwards ✓	✓ M. Young ✓
✓ Foster ✓	✓ B. G. " ✓
✓ Sage ✓	✓ J. Wood ✓
✓ Gentry ✓	✓ Rutan ✓ 7
✓ Gregory	✓ Turney 7
✓ Hanson ✓ 7	
✓ Harding ✓ 7	
✓ Heron ✓	
✓ Howland ✓	14
✓ Jackson ✓	35
✓ Kelley ✓	
✓ Palmer	



To Miss Talbot - Dean of Women - University of Chicago

The following members of women's societies in the University of Chicago desire to express their preference, in the matter of sororities or women's intercollegiate fraternities, that such organizations shall not enter the University.

Agnes Shofford Cook.
(Mental Board.)

Edith Ewing Schwarz
(Mental Board.)

Elinor Douglas Flood,
(Esoteric)

Anne Rowland Reed-
(Quadrangler-)

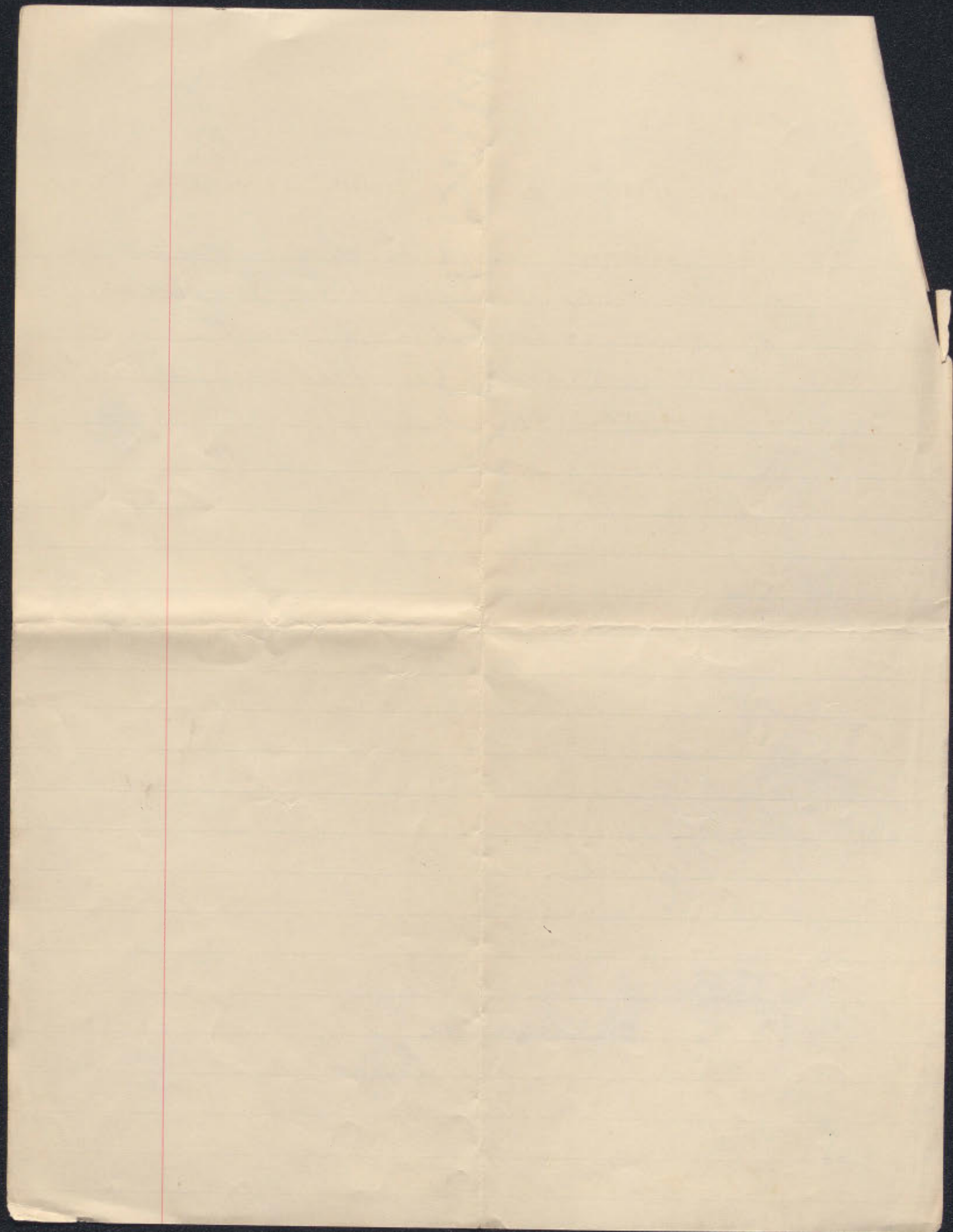
Alice Kepp Clark
(Esoteric).

S. Elizabeth Butler
(Mental Board)

Josephine Turner Allen
(Quadrangler.)

Anna James McCutcheon
(Quadrangler.)

Anna Locke Hunt
(Quadrangler.)



Edith Capps

(Mortar Board)

Mary Winter

(Quadrangler)

Theodora B. Kane

(Quadrangler)

Elizabeth M. Williams

Quadrangler

Grace Freeman

(Mortar Board)

Marilla Waite Freeman

(Mortar Board)

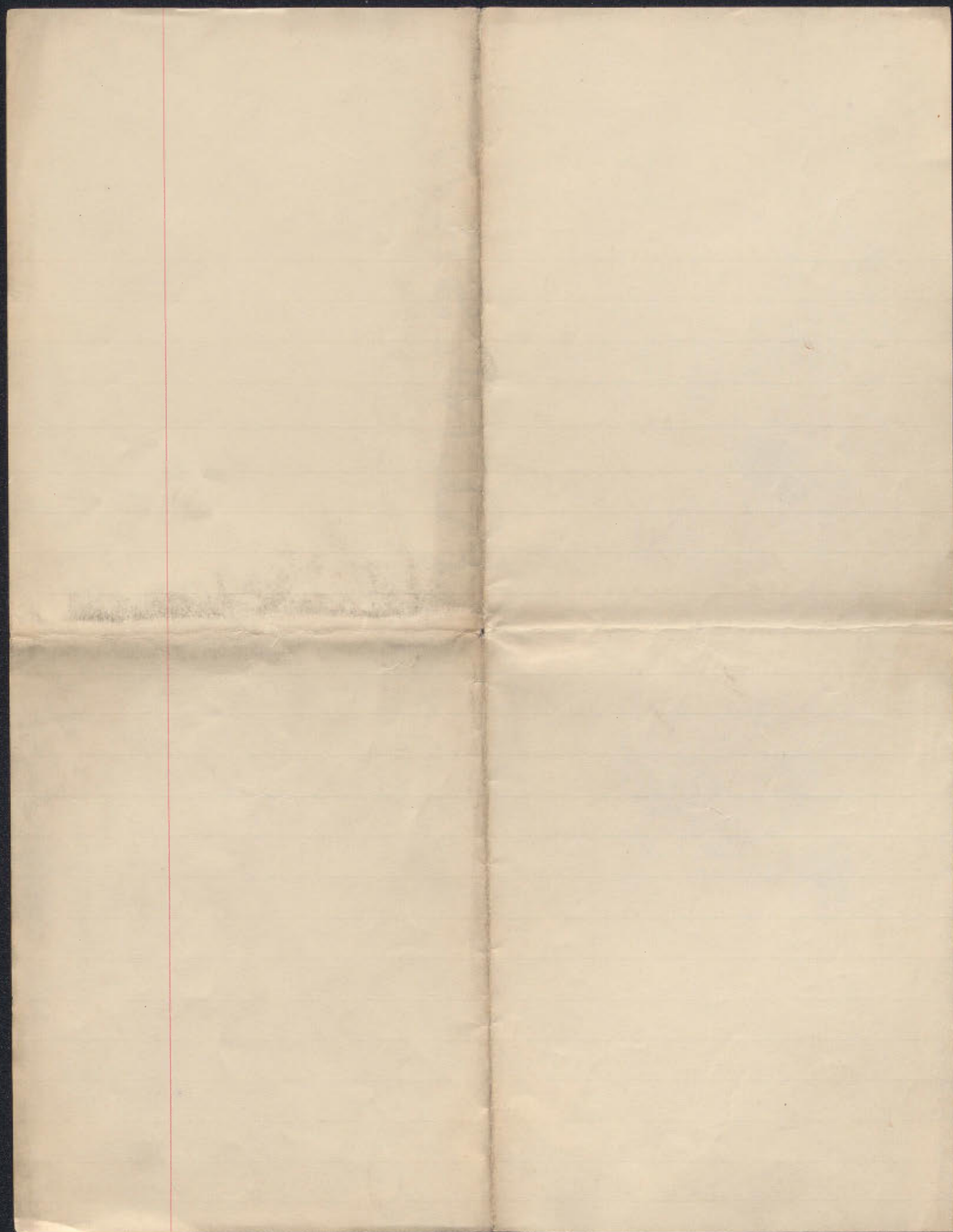
Edith Burdham Foster

(Esoteric)

Jessie Lee Davis

(Esoteric)

Submitted, March 20, 1896.



NANCY FOSTER HALL,
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

15. February, 1895.

To

Miss Marion Talbot
Dean of Women,
University of Chicago.

In view of
the mis-statements which
have appeared in some of
the Chicago papers and in
the University Weekly, it
has seemed best that ^{we} the
Members of The Mortan
Board should submit to

you a direct statement of the end and aim of our Club, and our attitude toward certain questions. We place this statement in your hands, to be done with as you find fit.

In consideration of the special conditions of life which exist here in the University, we wish to say that we are organized on the basis of a private Club; that we are absolutely an independent organization, with

no connection whatever with any "Sorority", and with no intention of becoming a Sorority as you know.

Furthermore, the Mortar Board was organized with the full approval of those members of the faculty with whom we consulted.

The aims of the Mortar Board are twofold, development along certain lines of literary study, and the promotion of intimate friendships among its members. Further than this, one of

its unspoken aim is that
it shall be a stimulus to
its members for
better class-room work. The

Society is very young yet;
it is perhaps too early to
look for marked results in
this field.

We wish it understood that
in forming this Club, we do
not in the slightest degree
separate our ^{general} interests from
those of the body of undergrad-
uate women in the University.
These interests are and must
always be the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Epnes S. Cook, Pres.

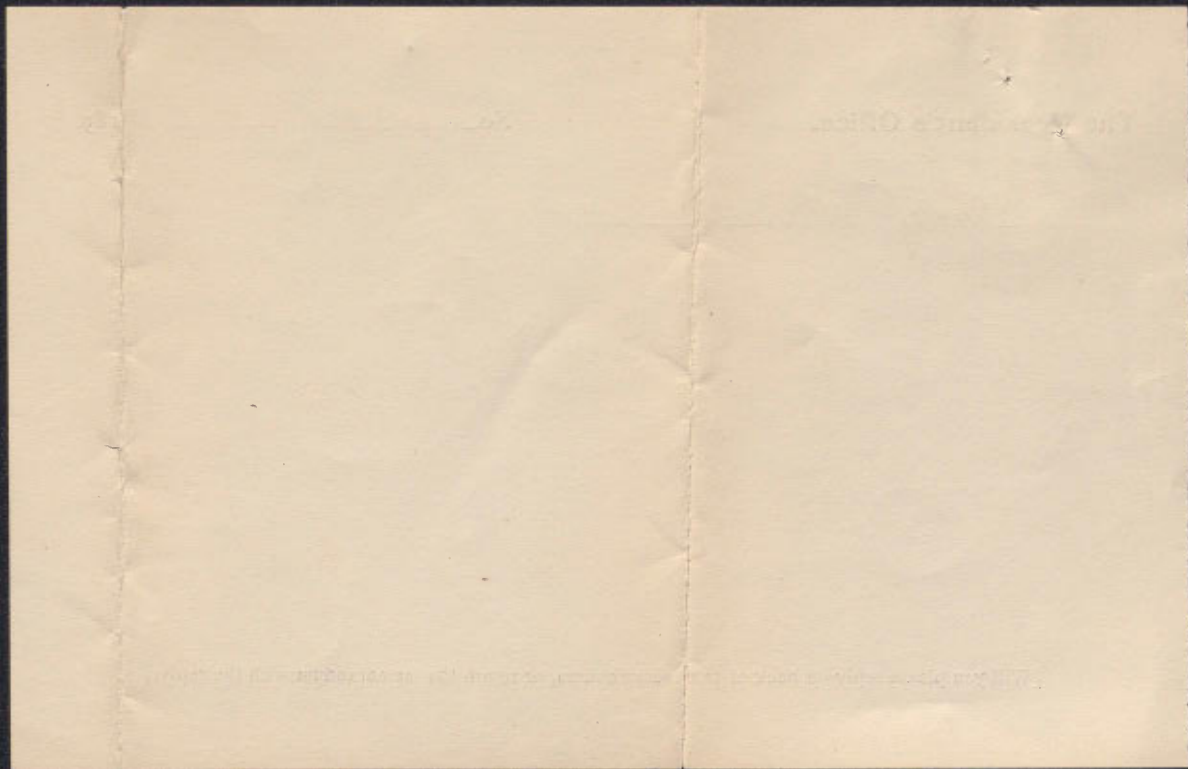
Nellie A. Jones, Sec'y
for the Union Board.

The President's Office.

No. 642 3-8 1896

Miss Talbot

[Will you please reply on back of this memorandum, or return the memorandum with the reply.]



THE COLLEGES

Head Dean

HARRY PRATT JUDSON

Deans

THOMAS CHROWDER CHAMBERLIN

ALICE FREEMAN PALMER

WILLIAM D. McCLINTOCK

MARION TALBOT

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

Founded by JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

WILLIAM R. HARPER, President

CHICAGO November 19, 1894.

Dear President Harper,

Monte Board
I trust much indeed
seems me the
claim to
believe
[I trust that you are pleased with the proposed women's undergraduate society, and that you approve of the dignified and self-respecting way in which they have made known the formation of their organization. It is the outcome of another struggle on the fraternity question which, though Hydra-headed, has thus far been kept under control. I believe that this society will be a help in meeting the efforts of secret societies which are ambitious and eager to found chapters in our University, even against the judgment of our best and strongest women. If you approve of this movement, I trust there may be a chance for you to tell the young women who are concerned in it, if you have any suggestions to make I am sure they will gladly receive them, as they have the interests of the University as much at heart as their own personal pleasure.]

I have had a long and unexpectedly satisfactory talk with Miss Keen. We came to an entirely friendly understanding about some matters which concern her alone, in her relations to me and to the House. I told her, also, that after her brother had proved himself worthy of the new confidence and opportunities which had been given him, and had secured the approval of his teachers and the officers of the University, he would be received in the Women's Halls; until then, I should prefer not to have him call, except to see her personally at Kelly Hall. I told her she should do all she could to keep his confidence and affection, and that any thing in the light of a rebuke or restraint in this matter should come either from the President or from me. My present conviction is that the mothers of our women students have a right to expect that certain safeguards will be placed about

Good

their daughters in these Halls, and that therefore the life in the Women's Halls cannot be counted on as a direct means of reclaiming any young men of questionable habits and character. I should be glad, however, to have the question discussed, if you think best.

Faithfully yours,

Marion Talbot.

Copy.

May 14, 1896.

Dear President Harper,

When Mrs. Palmer and I undertook to organize and influence the life and activities of the women of the University we agreed to try to establish three principles, liberty, equality, unity. In view of the special conditions which distinguish this University from all others to which women are admitted, we ^{thought} believed that we could be successful in securing these characteristics to a degree entirely unknown elsewhere.

Although Mrs. Palmer was a member of a fraternity, she believed that methods of this kind of organization were in distinct antagonism to the ends we were seeking and we both agreed that even though in some colleges these societies might offer some advantages together with their generally acknowledged disadvantages, we should discourage every effort to establish them here, where the spirit of a great University rather than of a provincial college should be fostered. Since the general vote of the Trustees allowing fraternities to be established was passed without special reference to the effect on the somewhat complicated and extremely important form of house organization which was developing among the women, we have acted in accordance with our own judgment and when, from time to time women from other institutions have visited us with a view to establishing their fraternities here we have told them of our preferences and they have courteously withdrawn.

Believing that it was very desirable that we should not seek to maintain a policy which should be at variance with the University, I have on every possible occasion sought to learn the real preference of the students. The fact that for nearly four years no organization was formed, although there had been no prohibition and no general knowledge or discussion of our position has led me to think that there was no demand for fraternities on the part of the women.

In March 1896 steps were taken
(As you know, late this winter) a chapter of a fraternity was established here by women from other institutions. When I learned of this, I decided that possibly my own views should be modified and I stood ready to do this and always shall on any subject when, with further knowledge, I am convinced that it should be done. At the same time I made up my mind that no system involving the social relations of all the women of the University could be justly introduced without the approval of those who were even only indirectly involved. As the first step in securing the information I needed I called a meeting of the women of officers of the University. Of the twenty-six invited twenty-two came and greatly to my surprise voted unanimously *and signed a paper to the effect* that in their opinion the establishment of sororities in this University is undesirable. Several of those who thus voted were active and loyal members of sororities in other places. They appointed a committee to ask the women of the University colleges to consider the subject. The meeting which was called was not largely attended, probably because of the near approach of the examinations, but of those who voted three quarters were opposed to having fraternities here. (It seems to me, however, that not much significance can be given to this vote.)

In view of the fact that a petition has been received from a few women asking for the recognition of a ~~xxxxxxx~~ society which if granted will be followed by the enforced establishment of the whole system, and in view also of the desire of many of the women who have responsibility and influence that the system should not be introduced during this formative period, will it not be possible for you to call together the women of the senior colleges and ask for an expression of their opinion as to whether fraternities should be established now or postponed until some later time when there should be a general demand for them from within rather than without?

I realize fully that the simplest and easiest way of solving the problem would be to recognize the fraternities at once, but though the dangers which I foresee and which the older women in other institutions warn us against will not come in large measure until after I give up my charge, I am ready to do

all in my power and spare no effort to establish the life of the women here upon lines along which it can permanently develop to the highest good of the institution and its members.

My dear Miss Talbot

In behalf of the Quadrangles
I would like to say that we are
aware of the misrepresentations
of our club, and its objects,
by the daily press; and would
like to assure both you

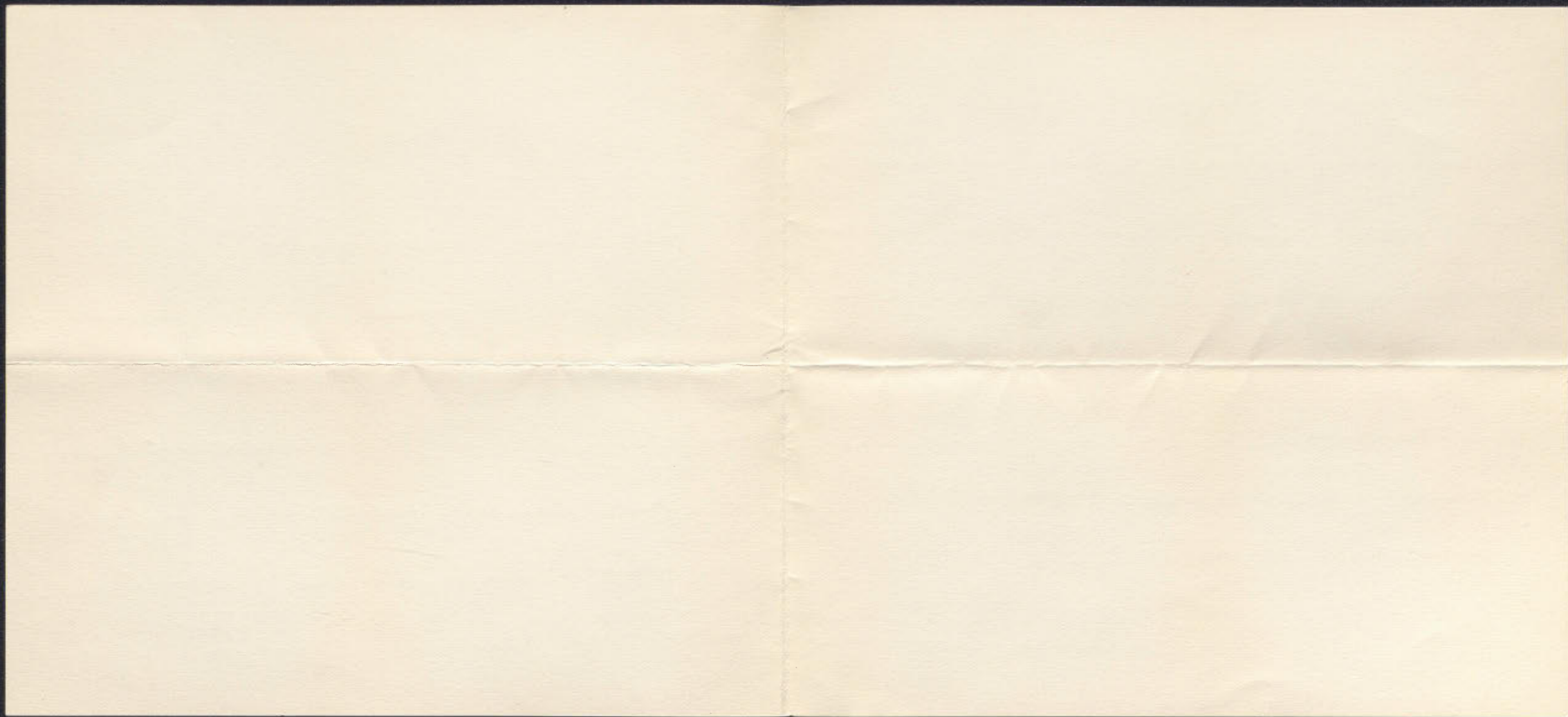
and the other officers of the University, that we neither are nor have any intention of ever becoming ~~members~~ of a fraternity.

Our organization is simply a private club formed for social purposes.

Sincerely yours,

Edna Stanton.

Kelly Hall, February fourteenth.



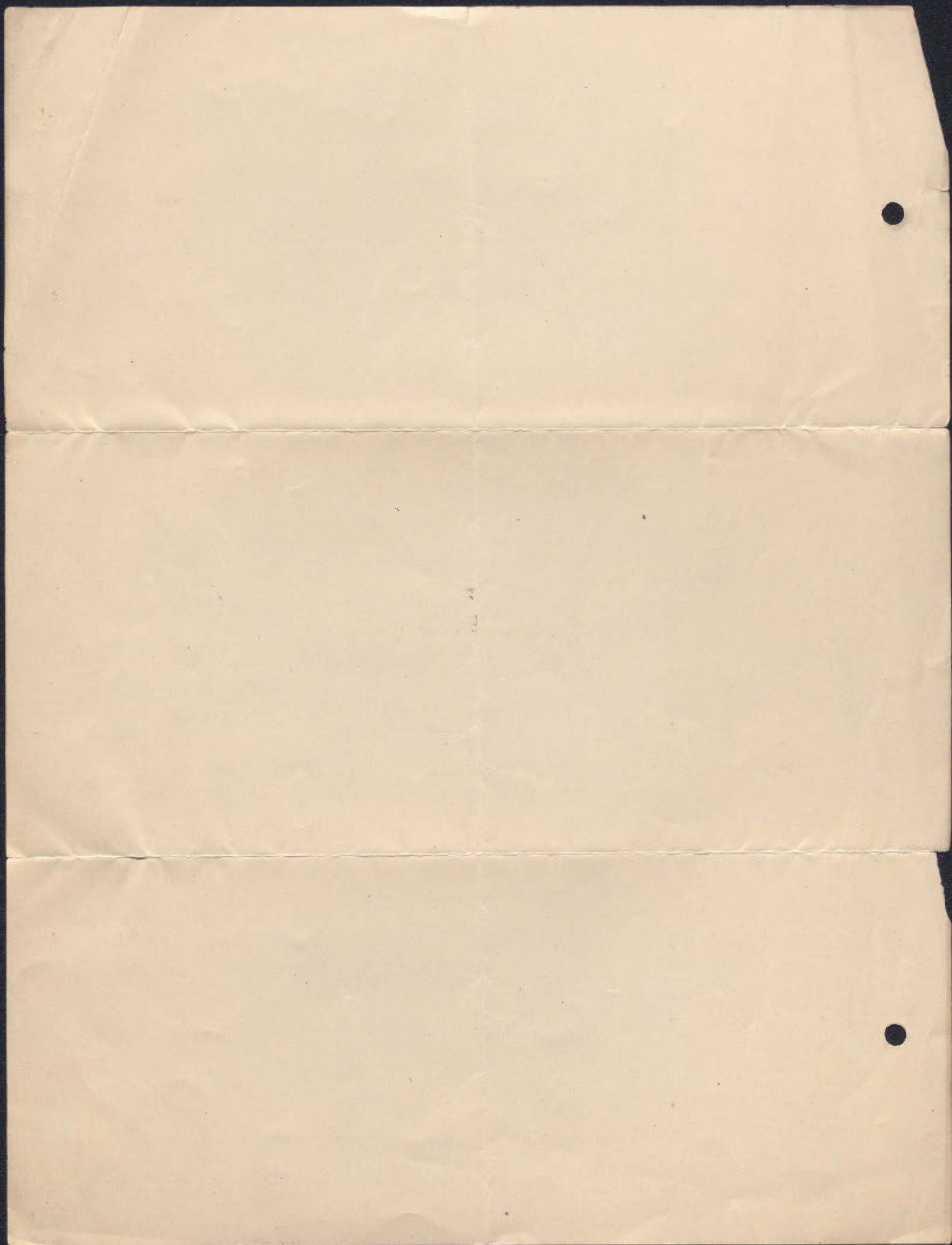
including fellows

At a meeting of the women officers
(of this University) held on March 20th 1896
at which twenty-two out of twenty-eight
were present the following resolution
was unanimously adopted: -

Resolved: - That it is the sense of this
meeting that under the conditions
existing in this University it is not
advisable to introduce sororities.

Some of the arguments leading to this
resolution were -

- (1) Since the local chapter is governed by the
general organization, the presence of
sororities here would mean a certain
degree of influence upon our government
by other institutions.
- (2) It is the policy of this University to
emphasize a democratic spirit by
means of the house life and it is
felt that sororities would militate
against this policy.
- (3) In our University, in the midst of this large
city, there are already too many distractions
and demands upon the time of the students
without the additional demands arising
from sororities.



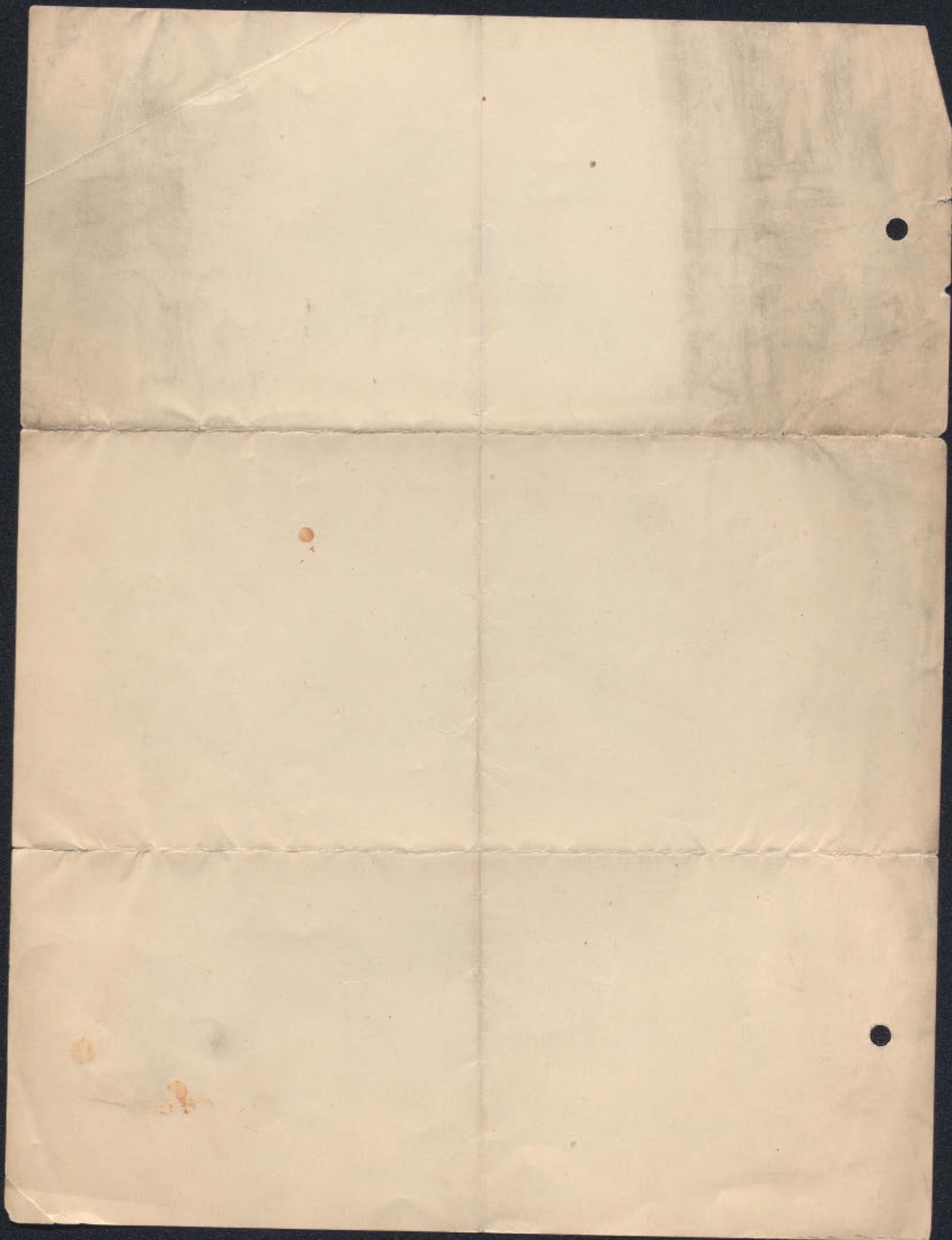
A committee was then appointed which was empowered to call a meeting of the women of the University College 1st day before their this resolution and to ascertain their opinion on the subject.

Committee:

Cora L. Scofield - Chairman
 Emily Bartlett Bartlett

Luanna Robertson

Amy Langer
 Helen L. Lowell.



Action of the Board of Student Organizations, etc.

March 19, '96. Information having been given respecting the purposes of the Pi Beta Phi fraternity, it was voted that they be requested to delay further operations until the women in the University halls can be consulted.

April 29, '96. It was moved and seconded that the Board of Trustees be requested to withhold their permission for the establishment of fraternities among women in the University.

April 29, 1896. It was voted to refer this motion and the whole subject to a special committee, consisting of Miss Talbot, Mr. Iddings, and Mr. Castle, to report at the next meeting.

Action of the Board of Student Organizations, etc.

March 19, 1936 Information having been given respecting the purposes of the Phi Beta Phi Fraternity, it was voted that they be requested to delay further operations until the women in the University Hallis can be consulted.

April 22, 1936 It was moved and seconded that the Board of Trustees be requested to withhold their permission for the establishment of fraternities among women in the University. It was voted to refer this motion and the whole subject to a special committee, consisting of Miss Talbot, Mr. Lobbins, and Mr. Castle, to report at the next meeting.

The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

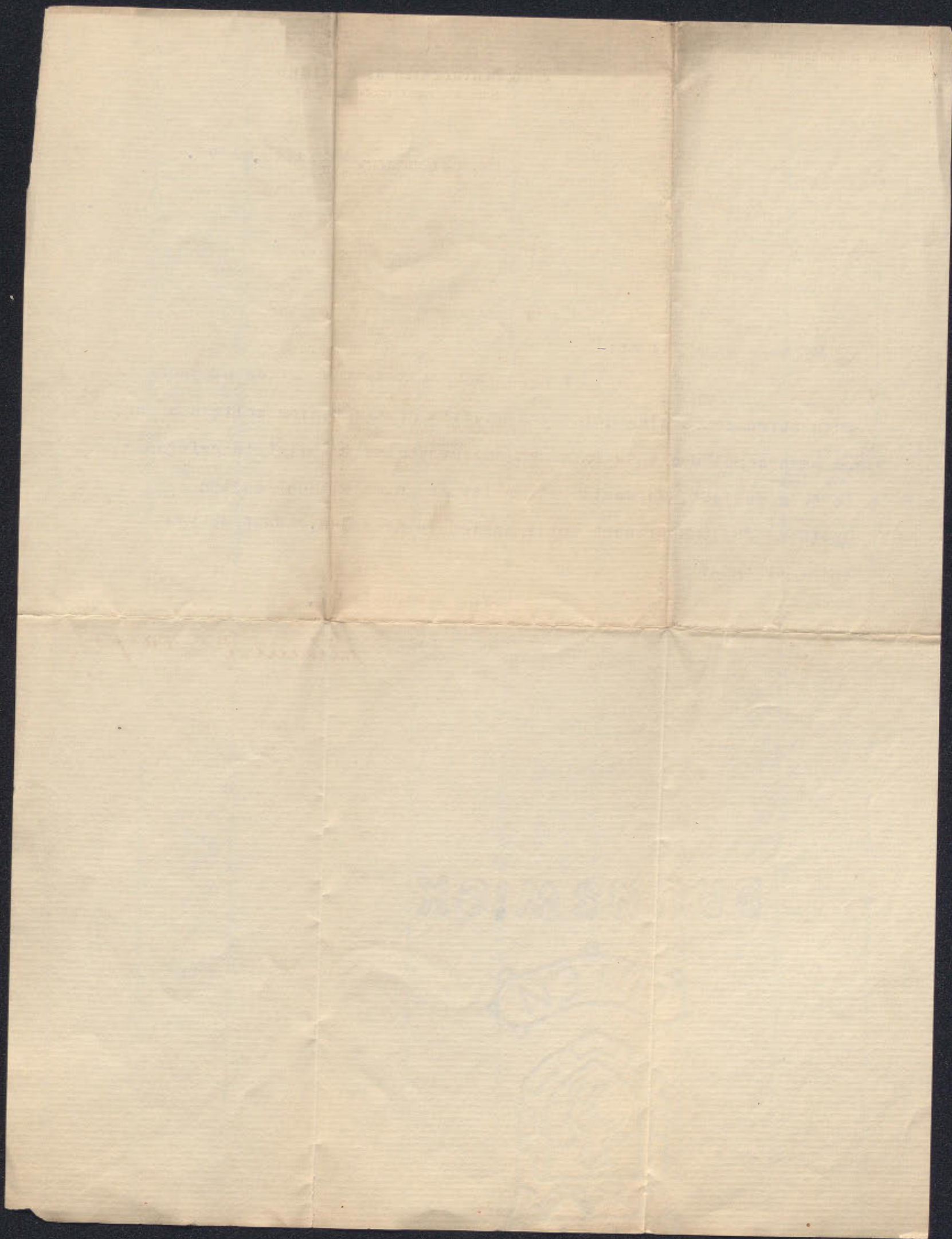
CHICAGO May 18th, 1896.

My dear Miss Talbot:-

I have thought over the matter of your suggestion concerning holding a meeting of the senior college women, and have concluded that inasmuch as everything is quiet in reference to this subject, we would better let it go on without saying anything for the present until action is demanded. What do you think of this?

Yours very truly,

William R. Harper



At a meeting held on March 20, 1896 and attended by twenty-two of the twenty-six women officers of the University of Chicago the undersigned voted that under the conditions existing in the University it is not advisable to introduce sororities.

Cora L. Scofield Fellow Luanna Robertson, Instructor
Rebecca Crandall Fellow Zella Allen Dixon, Asso. Prof.

Wynne Reynolds Instructor Josephine C. Robertson, Prof.
Emily Reynolds Fellow,
Eveline B. Bartlett

Nellie E. Goldsmith, Fellow

Jane K. Weatherlaw, Fellow

Mary Bowen, Fellow.

Ann Janner, Fellow?

Kate S. Anderson, Instructor.

Helen M. Seales, Fellow.

Agnes M. Claypole Fellow

Cornelia M. Clapp "

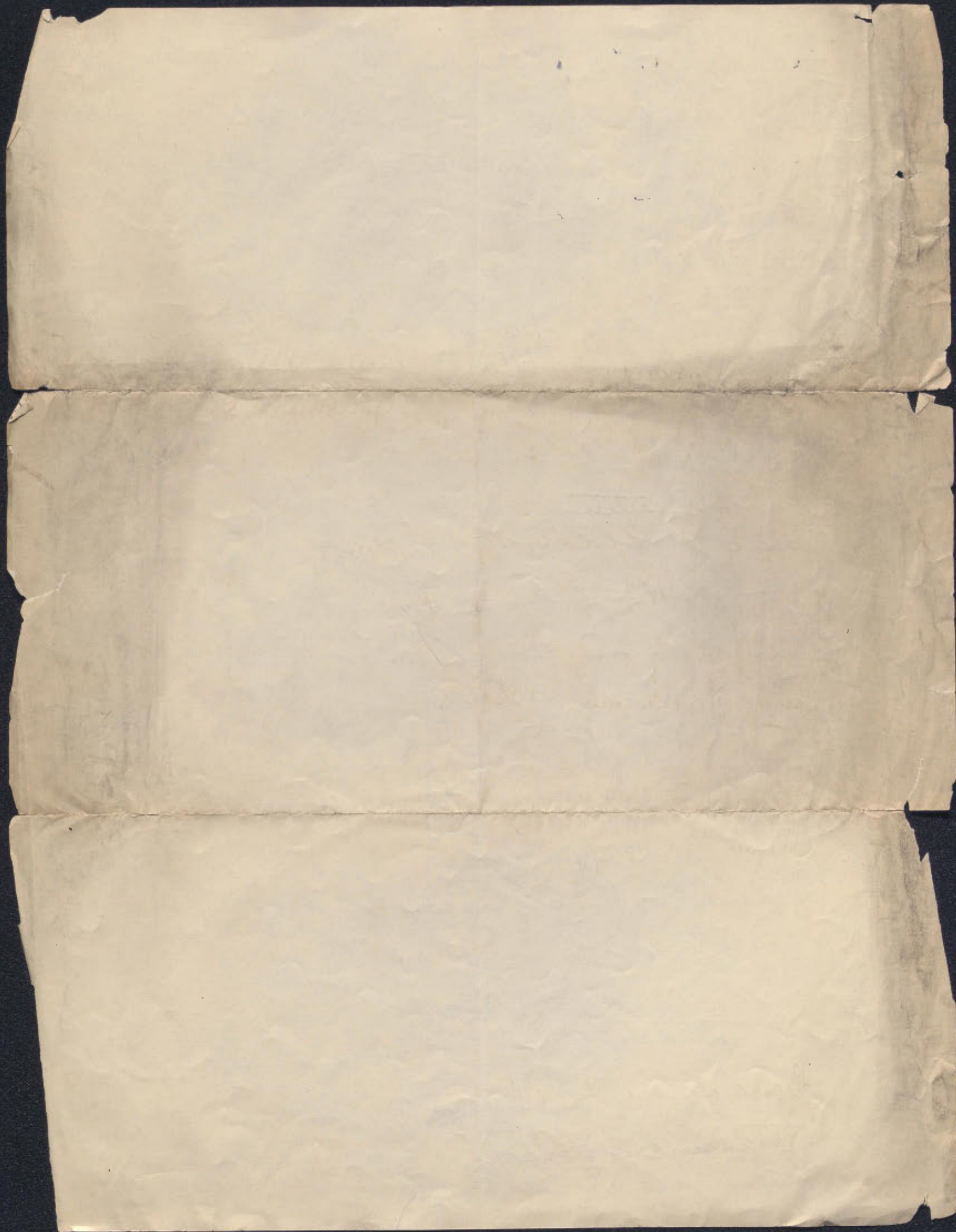
Helen L. Lovell "

Wilma Cave France Fellow
Antoinette Cary Dean

Jessie Louise Jones Fellow

Katharine C. Felton "

Marion Talbot Dean and Asso. Prof.





Miss Marion Talbot
University of Chicago:

My dear Miss Talbot:

As Kappa Kappa
Gamma is periodically
approached on the
subject of entering
the University of
Chicago, I desire
to understand,
officially, the
position of the
authorities towards

fraternities, if you
can favor me
with an interview.

I fear you will
hardly remember
me as a former
secretary of the
Chicago Branch and
later of the Eastern
New York Branch
of the A. C. A.

If I may call
upon you soon,
will you kindly

appoint time and place?

Yours very sincerely
Katharine S. Sharp

Grand President

Kappa Kappa Gamma

2484 Commercial St.

Ravenswood, Chicago

November the twelfth 1896

March 20, 1897.

Report of Special Committee of the Board of Student Organizations appointed to
Consider the Application of Alice Weirce and Others to Establish a Chapter of Pi
Beta Phi Fraternity.

Your Committee would report that of the seven petitioners three
have left the University and two have withdrawn their names from the petition.
Two of the patronesses, Miss Helen Culver and Mrs. W. I. Thomas, have declined to
serve and have expressed their regret that they did not earlier understand the
full significance of the project.

Your Committee would recommend (1) that the request be laid upon
the table; (2) that no similar requests be granted until some of the problems now
engrossing the attention of the women be more nearly solved and until it be evi-
dent that there is a general demand for the fraternity system from a considerable
body of the students, endorsed by the women of the Faculty; (3) that the present
request together with those already informally received by Miss Talbot receive
the first attention if in the future the system should be introduced.

March 20, 1937.

Report of Special Committee of the Board of Student Government appointed to
consider the application of Allen Miller and others to establish a Chapter of the
Beta Phi fraternity.

Your Committee would report that of the seven petitioners there
have left the University and two have withdrawn their names from the petition.
Two of the petitioners, Miss Helen Oliver and Mrs. W. I. Thomas, have declined to
have and have expressed their regret that they did not call for maintaining the
eligibility of the project.

Your Committee would recommend (1) that the report be laid upon
the table; (2) that no similar request be granted until some of the problems now
confronting the situation of the women be more nearly solved and until it be over-
come that there is a general demand for the fraternity system from a considerable
body of the students, suggested by the women of the Faculty; (3) that the present
request together with those already informally received by Miss Miller be received
the first attention if in the future the system should be introduced.

The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

CHICAGO, June 7, 1897.

Dean Talbot:

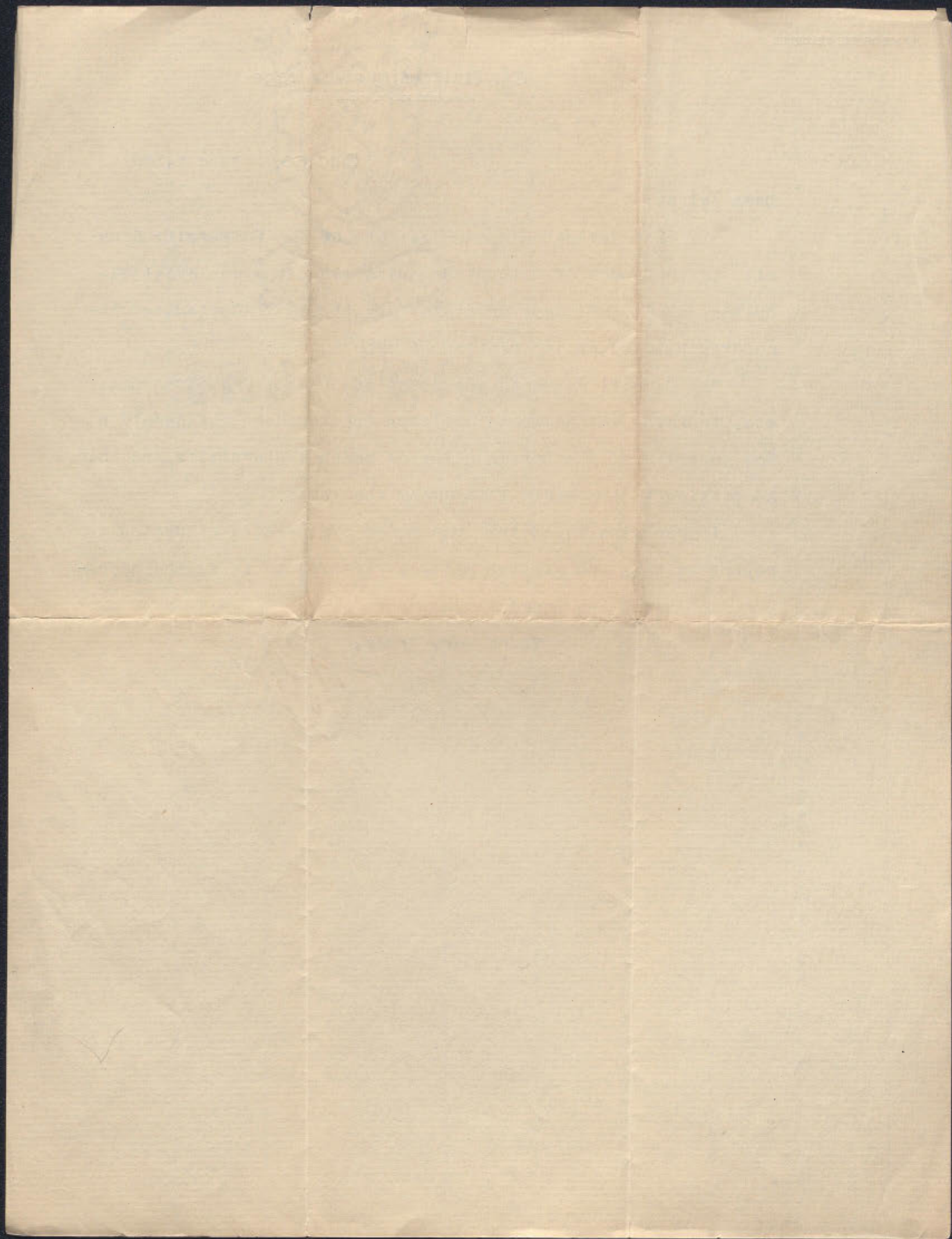
The following communication of The University Council to the Board of Student Organizations, etc. was received by the Board of Student Organizations, etc. and adopted, and the reference voted, at its meeting of June 5, 1897:

The Council requests the Board of Student Organizations, etc. to refer to the women officers for further consideration the question of the introduction of women fraternities and their adaptation to the house life among the women.

It was also voted that the women officers be requested to report on this and similar matters referred to it at the December meeting of the Board.

Yours very truly,

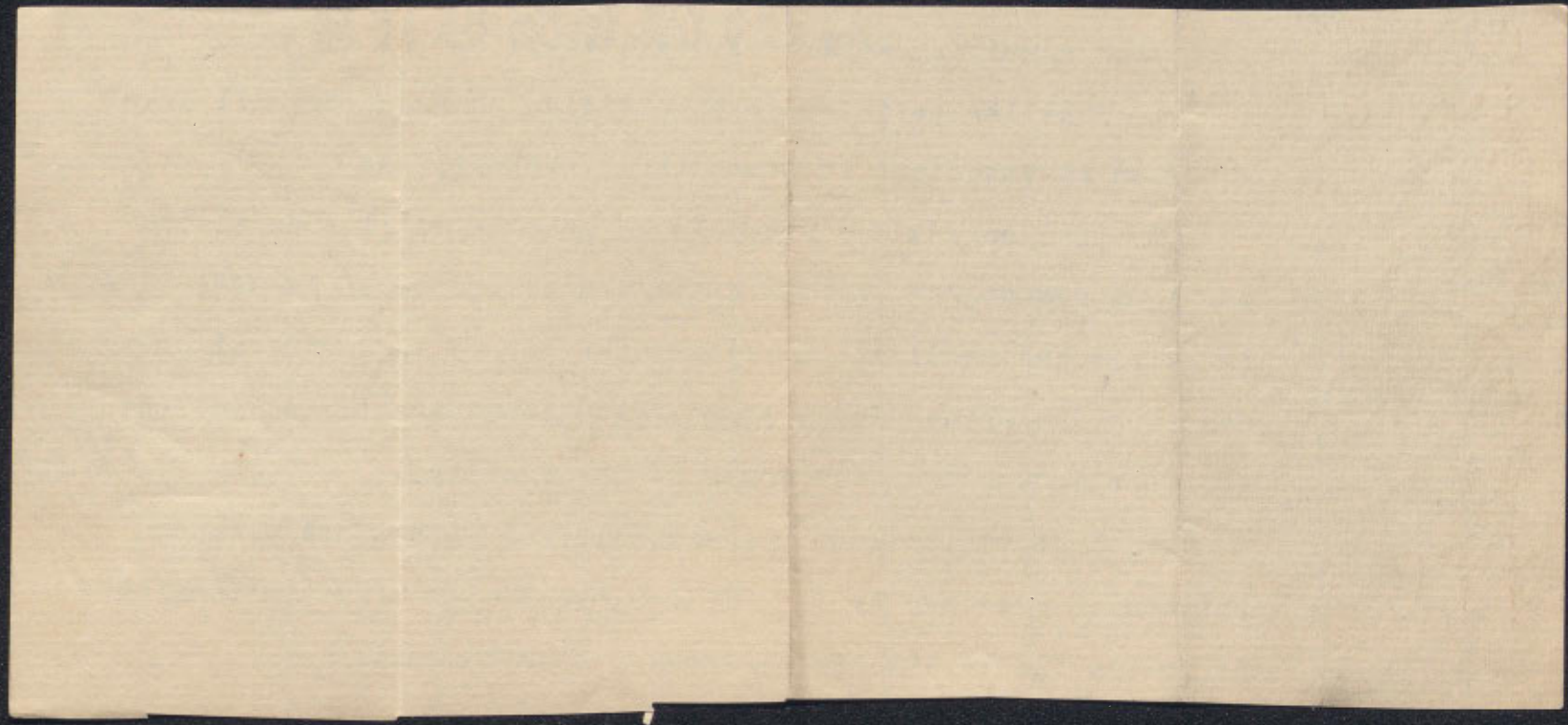
H. Woodruff
Recorder



Action of Board of Student Officers
ratified by the University
Council, June 1897
C.S.S.

Your Committee would recommend that:

1. That the petitioners be notified that the Council does not deem it expedient to grant their request; and
2. That no similar requests be granted until some of the problems now engrossing the attention of the women be more nearly solved, and until it be evident that there is a general demand for the fraternity system from a considerable body of the students, endorsed by the women of the Faculty.
3. That the present request, together with those already informally received by Dean Talbot, receive the first attention if in the future the system should be introduced.



5605 Madison Ave.

Dear Miss Talbot, -

Our action yesterday at the Faculty Council was a very great surprise and blow to the young ladies expecting to organize a chapter of the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity at the Chicago University and I think it only just that you should know our side of the subject.

It has always been our custom as it is of all fraternities to preserve the greatest secrecy in organization never making known our intentions before the announcement of the organization except to the head of the institution

grossly misunderstood.

You remember that when Miss Pierce and I consulted you first you advised us that if we did organize here we should invite representative girls from the different clubs, thus tacitly allowing us to make arrangements for organization. This morning

delegates are arriving from Anne Arbor, Hillsdale, Franklin, Galveston, Champaign and Evanston, the ladies whom we have invited to be our Patrons have accepted invitations to supper and all other arrangements are made for the organization of a chapter. All this, though it places us in an extremely

in which we were organizing. Here we departed from our usual custom knowing that you were opposed to fraternities and we wanted to be entirely free from reproach. Needless to say we expected you to respect our confidence and understand the spirit in which we consulted you; that you have not done so is evident from your accusing Miss Pierce of duplicity.

We gave you ample opportunity to offer any opposition you might think necessary in your official capacity and then took measures to organize a chapter. No important step was ever taken without announcing it to you, not because it was necessary but because we wished to show you the greatest respect, and if possible in some measure to remove your prejudice against fraternities. Our action has been extremely foolish from a fraternity point of view and the next woman's fraternity that wishes to enter this University may profit by our failure and go ahead as ~~many~~ ^{most} fraternities have done trusting to recognition afterwards.

Miss Pierce has been worriedly conscientious throughout and it seems to me has met with the reward too often given those very anxious to conciliate — has been

embarrassing position we
will give up with as good
grace as possible and in
accordance with Dean Judson's
advice, will await further
action of the Council.

As far as I personally
am concerned I am more
than ever anxious to organize
a chapter here. It would be
interesting to see if Chicago
University is what it claims
to be - an institution offering
the same privileges to men
and to women.

It is certainly an irony
of fate that tonight Alpha
Delta Phi is initiating a
chapter at the auditorium
and that tomorrow they

will be received without a question of
opposition by the authorities.

This is entirely my personal view and
not the voice of the Fraternity.

Trusting that in this affair you
will preserve all the secrecy consistent
with your position, I am

Very respectfully yours

Elizabeth Kemnicott Culver

Friday - March Twentieth,

THE FACULTY OF
ARTS, LITERATURE, AND SCIENCE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF WOMEN
GRADUATE SCHOOL

The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

CHICAGO

March 20, 1895.

Dear Miss Culver.

Your ^{kind} note is just received. I regret
very much that any misunderstandings should
have arisen in regard to a matter which
concerns ~~all~~ the women in ~~the~~ University. But
I think it possible that some of ~~these~~ ^{it} at
least might be removed if we could have
a personal interview.

Very sincerely

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

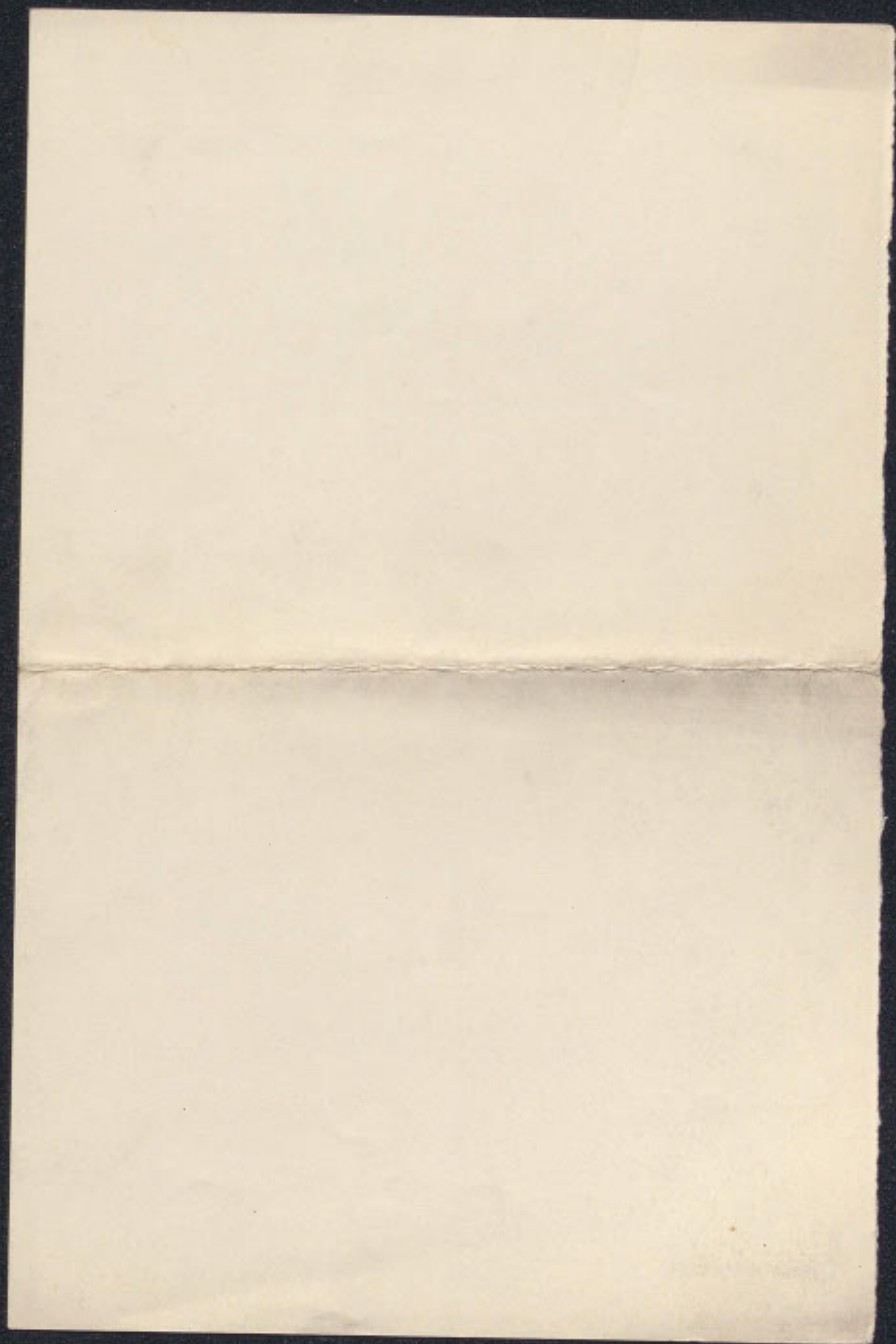
CHICAGO



March 21-1876

You are urged to attend a
meeting of the University
Collegial women to be held
Monday at four o'clock
in T B Cobb Hall to discuss
the advisability of introducing
sororities into this University.
This question involves the
interests of every woman
in this University and
therefore deserves the
careful consideration of
each of you.

Signed by
The Women Officers of the Union



The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

CHICAGO

March 2, 1897.

COPY

Dear Miss Peirce,

The Board of Student Organizations is to hold a meeting on Saturday next and I hope that there will be time then, as there has not been at its recent sessions, to take action on the petition of Pi Beta Phi. As, in Miss Culver's words, "it is not your intention to make effort at reorganizing in the University of Chicago," shall I report that no action is necessary on the petition? Since I wish to be sure that the matter is left on the records in a form which will be as satisfactory as possible to all who are at present concerned, I should be glad to have you send me a formal written statement either withdrawing the application or asking that it be laid on the table. From your point of view the latter form might possibly be of some advantage if at some ^{in the future} future time we should all practically agree that the fraternity system should be given a place in the life of the women of the University.

Hoping to hear from you by Thursday, if possible,

I am, very sincerely,

Marion Talbot.

Copy of letter sent
Miss Peirce
March 2 - '97

March 2, 1897

COPY

Dear Miss Peirce,

The Board of Student Organization is to hold a meeting on Saturday next and I hope that there will be time then, as there has not been at its recent sessions, to take action on the petition of El Sol. As, in Miss Cui-ven's words, it is not your intention to make effort at organizing in the University of Chicago, and I repeat that no action is necessary on the petition, I think I would be justified in saying that the petition is not a term which is to have any real effect. I am, however, with statements with reference to the petition or making that it be laid on the table. From your point of view the letter form might possibly be of some advantage if at some time we should all practically agree that the fraternity system should be given a place in the life of the women of the University.

Hoping to hear from you by Thursday, if possible,

I am, very sincerely,

Marion Talbot.

The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

CHICAGO

December 17, 1896.

Dear Miss Culver,

I should have acknowledged long ago your very courteous letter concerning the admission of Pi Beta Phi fraternity to the U of C. It seemed to me, ^{which had been} however, that you and I did not have the same understanding of the action taken by the University, and I have been making inquiries and consulting the records in order to ascertain the exact status of the matter. I find that the request from the fraternity was not refused, as you state, but action was deferred and placed ^{the question was} in the hands of a special committee for consideration. The study which has been given to the subject has confirmed the opinion expressed last spring by all the women officers of the University that the introduction of sororities into the U of C is undesirable, for the present at least, whatever may be our judgment in the future, when ^{shall} we have worked out some of the problems which now face us. You will understand that ~~xxx xx~~ ^{real} this request was not limited in its scope to the recognition, ^{serious-minded} as an organization, of a few ~~maxima minded~~ women with ~~serious purposes and~~ good character. It involved the development of the social and organized life of the women of the University along distinctly different lines from those already tried and which, in the judgment of the responsible women officers, should have further time for ~~maxima~~ free development. ^{II.} At the present time there is a good deal of discussion going on concerning the men's fraternities. The rules ^{now} which govern them would not be satisfactory to the sororities, and yet it would be invidious to discriminate between the men and the women.

My sense of justice and of courtesy makes me feel that the appli-

cation before the Board should receive as prompt attention as possible, and yet I shrink from pressing the matter to an issue at just this point. If permission should be given, the organization would start with little prestige or influence, and with considerable responsibility for the whole system.

In view of these considerations, and of your kind offer of assistance, may I ask your opinion as to the advisability of having the request withdrawn temporarily, or of having the petitioners ask to have the request laid on the table for the present?

My consideration of the subject has to be abstract, or in other words, I have to take into account not merely the few women concerned in this special group, ^{and} but all types of women who might be ~~concerned~~ concerned directly or indirectly, ^{as well as} the workings of the system, not merely in the present, but in long years to come. I beg you, however, to believe that I have a deep personal and present interest in the matter, and that I would ~~gladly~~ be glad if I could unservedly acquiesce in the plan proposed, as I certainly could if it were not involved with other problems.

With cordial regards,

With cordial regards and the hope that our concerted action may be both wise and just,

I am, very truly,

2339 Calvert St.
Baltimore.

Dear Miss Talbot

I received a letter from
my aunt, Miss Culver,
last week in which she
mentioned a talk she had
had with you recently on
Fraternities. She seemed
to think that some further
action was necessary
on the part of Pi Beta
Phi regarding our request
to enter the Chicago Univer-
sity. I had thought that
the refusal of such a
request was final and

that any further action was superfluous. It is against the rules of our Fraternity to organize in any institution without the consent of its Faculty. It is not our intention to make any effort at reorganizing in Chicago University now or ever.

My Aunt would of course refuse to be a Patroness of a Chapter that was not willingly received and I should not think of identifying myself in any way with such a one on her account if not upon my own.

You need have no fear that Pi Beta Phi will ever attempt to gain a foothold in the Chicago University without your knowledge and consent.

If my influence with the Fraternity Council can be of any assistance to you at any time you may count on my assistance.

Most sincerely

Elizabeth Kennicott Culver

November Eighteenth

Eighteen hundred - twenty six

2005 Madison Ave.
Dec. 6, 1896

Dear Miss Talbot,

I hope I have not
kept these letters too long.
I wanted the girls, who
had heard of them, I find,
through Miss Peice, to
hear them, and Mary was
so busy to do so until
yesterday. I think
Charlotte Carroll Ware

States the case very fairly -
It seems to me that the
objections urged against
fraternities are such as
might be urged against
Societies Equally well, and
one or the other seems inevitable.

The rushing is certainly
a serious evil and one that
thoughtful fraternity girls
recognize a disproof - They
think it could be done away
with by proper regulations on
the part of the college authorities.
Yours sincerely
Mary E. Davis.

2339 Calvert St.,
Baltimore.

Dear Miss Talbot -

When I received your letter in regard to the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity last winter, I wrote immediately to the Grand Council about the petition to the University of Chicago. I expressed a wish that the petition might be withdrawn if possible because I felt some embarrassment in

having drawn my aunts, Miss Culver's name into anything that was displeasing to you. It was, I felt sure, annoying to her to have me take part in anything in opposition to your wishes.

The Fraternity considered the matter from all sides and decided that they could not with dignity withdraw the petition until some action was taken upon it by the faculty. They had no plans at that time for entering the University in case of a favorable reply. I do not know of any such plan now. I think it is a matter of principle with the women of the Fraternity; they think that women's fraternities should not be debarred from an institution where men's fraternities are so cordially welcomed. It is because they believe so entirely in the Fraternity idea that they wish a decided expression of opinion from the faculty.

The Pi Beta Phi Fraternity feels that

it has been candidly
treated and misrepresented
to the members of the
University Faculty and
to the Fraternity. I would in
general answer that its
own dignity demands
that the petition should
receive some attention

Personally I am very
sorry that the matter should
have come up again and
would do anything I could
to help you without being
untrue to my Fraternity.

I am very sincerely yours
Elizabeth Kemmell Culver

Mar. 22nd.

March 15.

Dear Miss Culver.

I have been wondering
very for some time if either
my letter written to you in
December or your reply has
been lost. I should be very
sorry to seem discourteous
or to fail to profit by any
suggestions which you might
make. In view of the peculiar
and unfavorable circumstances
which exist, I recently asked Miss
Pierce to withdraw her petition
or ask to have it laid on the table.
She declines to do either. The
matter is to be brought up
at a special meeting of the

Board the latter part of this
week

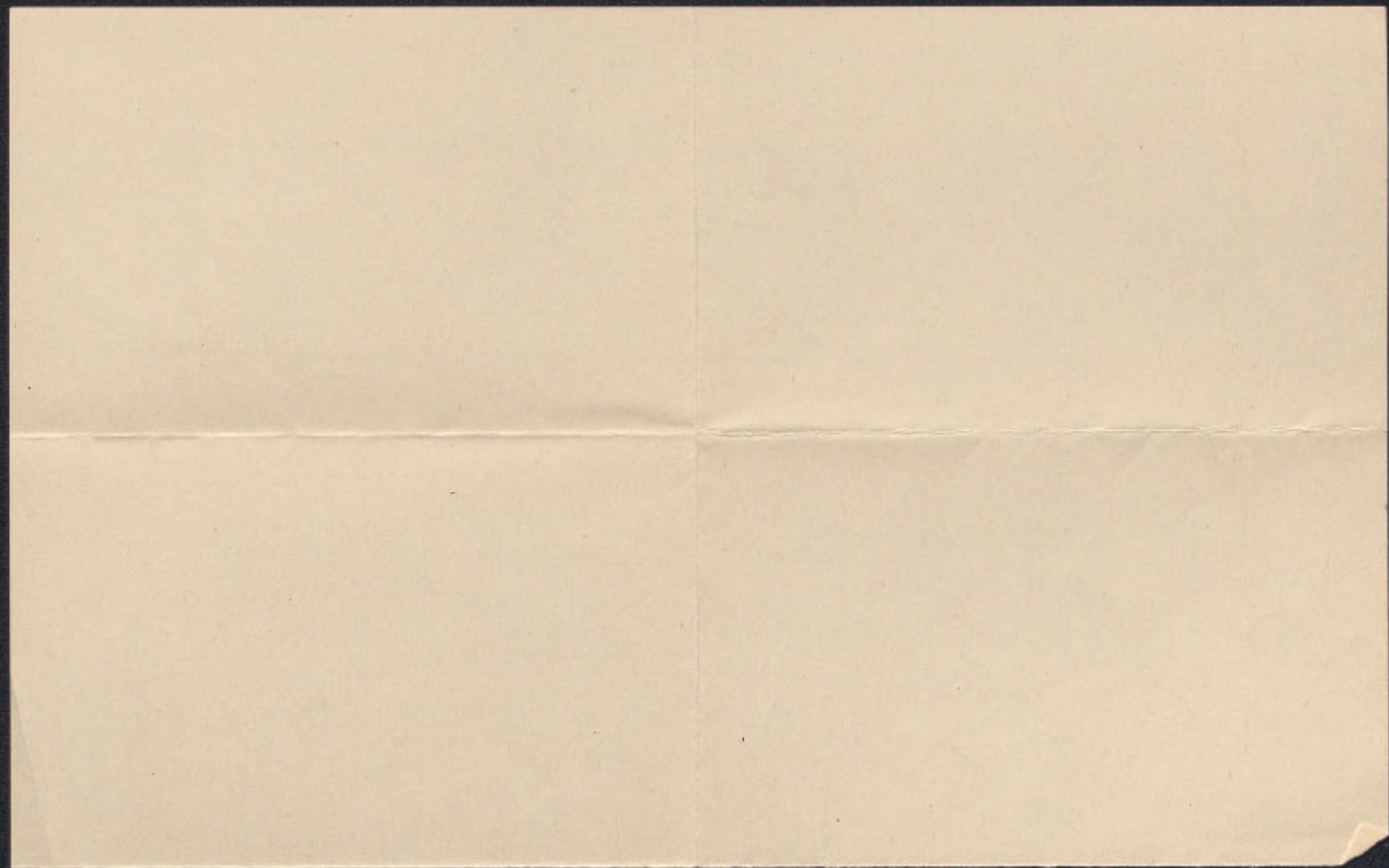
With sincere regards,
Very truly

Nov. 15 - '97

To The Board of Student Organizations of
The University of Chicago;

I wish to withdraw my name from
the petition for a Chapter of Pi Beta Phi
at the University of Chicago.
Florence R. Hefli.

Kelly Hall,
March 6, 1897.



Dear Miss Talbot,

Yours of the 2nd. inst.
relating to the Pi Beta Phi
matter has been received.
I do not know by what
authority Miss Culver
speaks for the Fraternity.

There are now more
persons interested in our
organization in the
University than there were
a year ago — and if no
objections exist in the
faculty, it is quite possible
that a chapter will be
formed here. You will
therefore readily see that

while I have not the time
or strength to take the
lead in such a matter,
I should be pleased if
others chose to do so, and
under such circumstances
it would not be consistent
in me to ask for a
withdrawal of the application
or that it be laid on the table.

Very Respectfully Yours
Alice R. Rice.

5464 Washington Avenue.
Chicago.

March 4, 1897.

The University of Chicago.

To the Board of Student Organizations
of the University of Chicago.

A petition presented to the Council
of the University of Chicago a year ago,
in which a request was made for recog-
nition of a chapter of the Pi Beta Phi
society among the student organizations
of the University, contained my name.
Within a few weeks after the filing
of this petition, I came to feel that the
conditions of social life among the
women in our university were such as
make the establishment of any society
a step of doubtful wisdom. My
impression was that the consideration

If the matter had been laid aside by
action of the council. I have, however,
recently learned that the question
is still pending. I therefore beg
that in considering the petition, the
members of the Committee will not
regard my name among those
desirous of forming this social
organization.

Respectfully submitted.
Grace Darling.

The Secretary of the TT Fraternity.

The University of Chicago.
Will you kindly send to
me as soon as you con-
veniently can, an album or
other photographs, five
or six in number of mem-
bers of the club, in groups
or singly, for use in an
article, which I am now
preparing for the New
England Home Magazine.
Will you also list me (1)
the number of members, (2)
the times and places of
meeting, (3) the respective
names of the members, when
photographs you may
send, (4) facts concerning the
present ceremonies, con-
nected with the fair?

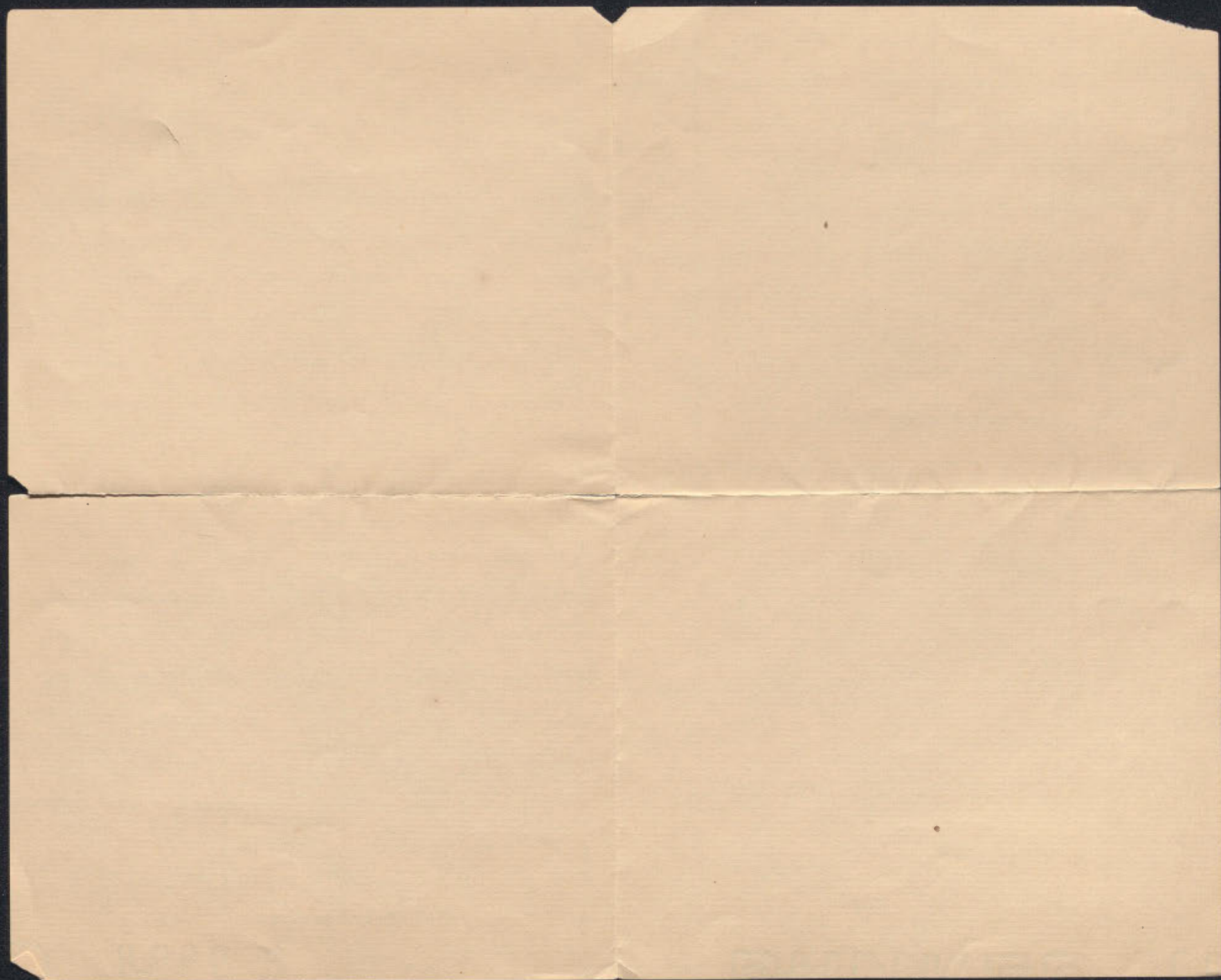
Will you kindly reply at
once? The reason being that
the editor desires my ar-
ticle for publication upon
a certain near date. The
photographs will be returned,
uninjured.

Very truly yours,
(Miss) Constance Gray,

39 Jason Street,

Dorchester, Massachusetts.

March 11th, 1898.

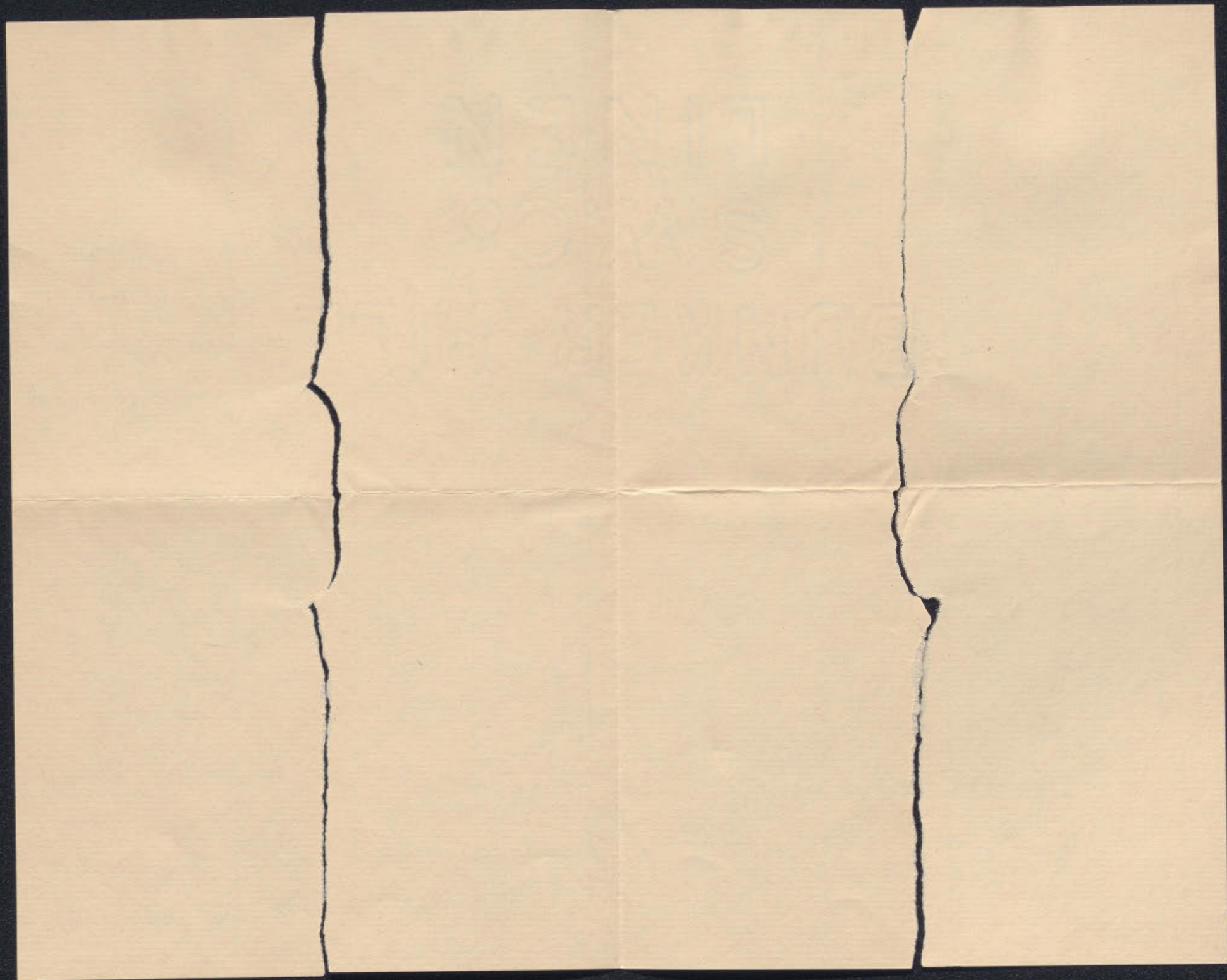


Dear Miss Talbot:-

I thank you for your note. Had I been aware that women's fraternities were not recognized by the University, I should not have mediated an article about any such club. I can not thus remember the charming pamphlet, which I received at the University.

I beg your pardon for not sooner replying; my nephew has been, and I fear, still is, languidly ill, although he is better.

Very truly yours,
Elizabeth M. C. C. C.
39 Janon Street,
Arlington, Massachusetts,
April 5th, 1898.



Action Board of Student Organizations, May, 1898.

Moved and carried, that the board enquire of the women officers of the University whether it would not be advisable to withdraw approval from all secret local clubs among the women, and to forbid the initiation of women students into these clubs.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

April 1, 1898.

CHICAGO

My dear Sir:-