

December 27, 1954

Senator A. A. Erhart  
P. O. Box 506  
Pismo Beach, California

Dear Al:

I just received a copy of the letter you sent to Dr. Simpson regarding co-education at Cal Poly. I will be very much interested in his answer, especially after reading the answer he sent to Mrs. Powers. So far, he has not answered my letter on the subject which was sent when you first came to the office on this matter. I am quite sure he will do something about this letter, especially when you imply that you will take the matter up with the Attorney General's office, if nothing else can be done.

Best wishes for a very happy holiday season.

Very sincerely yours,

Julian A. McPhee  
President

cc-McCorkle  
Kennedy

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
P. O. BOX 506  
PISMO BEACH, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP  
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A. A. ERHART  
SENATOR  
29TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Senate

Dec. 20, 1954

President Julian A. McPhee  
California State Polytechnic College  
San Luis Obispo, California

Dear Julian:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I have just sent to Dr. Roy Simpson regarding the admission of women to Cal Poly. As you know, I am very much concerned about this problem and I sincerely hope that a favorable solution can be reached.

Dorothy joins me in wishing you and your family a very Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A. A. Erhart

AAE:ala

Dr. Roy Simpson  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State Department of Education  
721 Capitol Avenue  
Sacramento 11, California

Dear Dr. Simpson:

I am writing to you for advice as to how we can best handle a situation involving a request for admission of women students to Cal Poly. The problem was presented to me officially as a legislative representative of this county by a group of San Luis Obispo county and city school teachers.

A petition signed by 100 women school teachers of this area was presented to me on Tuesday, November 16th, at a meeting which I was asked to attend. They claim they have been denied the right to admission at Cal Poly only because they are women and that they believe this action to be not only illegal, but "unfair, unjust, and un-American."

On the basis of the facts presented to me at that meeting, I could not help but agree with them that they were being discriminated against and that such discrimination could not be justified in a state, tax-supported institution.

I did not want to take any action that would embarrass the college officials, so I contacted President McPhee on November 18th. I followed up this conversation with a letter to President McPhee, a copy of which is attached. President McPhee has answered my request for information in his letter of November 27th, a copy of which is also attached.

It is my understanding that President McPhee can do nothing about the admission of women as regular students until he is given that authority by the State Department of Education. In view of existing legislation, I cannot provide any sound argument that would refute the claim of the women who have contacted me that they have a legal right to admission. It is my opinion that we should provide admission for women to Cal Poly or we should amend the existing law which specifically establishes the college's obligation to provide education for "both sexes." Personally, I would oppose any legislation that would attempt to limit the future enrollment at Cal Poly to men only.

It would appear to me that we should seek an Attorney General's ruling on whether or not Cal Poly is obligated at the present time to accept women students. Before taking any further action myself, I would appreciate having you advise me as to what procedure you would prefer that I follow in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A. A. Erhart

cc: President Julian A. McPhee  
California State Polytechnic College  
San Luis Obispo, California