

Millikin University Archives: Staley Library

John Charles Hessler Papers

Collection Number: 3.03.100

Inclusive Dates: 1923 – 1945

Bulk Dates: late 1930s and early 1940s

Quantity: 4 series containing 48 folders within 4 boxes.

Acquisition Information: Unknown.

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research.

Copyright: Millikin University, Decatur Review.

Photographs: No.

Condition Notes: Condition varied. Most of the materials are in good condition. Some paper materials are torn, fragile, and brittle. Many papers are thin, delicate, and can flake or break off. Some materials are stapled together with sharp pins.

Processed by: Lisa Hill, April 2018.

Biographical Note

Dr. John C. Hessler served as acting president of the University from June 30, 1919-January 31, 1920. He began his time at the University as a professor of chemistry in 1907 and became dean of the College on October 1, 1917. During that time, he worked closely with Dr. A. R. Taylor, who was serving as acting president after Dr. Fellows resigned in 1915. At the end of his time as acting president, Hessler was offered the chance to become the University's third president, but declined. Dr. Louis E. Holden became president on February 1, 1920. Hessler resigned as dean and professor of chemistry on April 5, 1920, but returned to the University (after time at the Mellon Institute and Knox College) to serve as president from 1934-1944. He is the author of several texts on chemistry. Hessler died in 1944.

Scope and Content Note

This large collection contains papers from Hessler's time as president of Millikin University. It includes some sensitive material related to students' grades, academic status, and "intellect ratings." It also includes correspondence between Hessler and various organizations, businesses, and associations during Hessler's time as Millikin president and professor.

Series Notes

Series 1: Boards and Committees

5 Folders

Collection of typed and handwritten papers from assorted boards, committees, and business partners. Dates range from 1934-1945.

Series 2: Correspondence

38 Folders

Large collection of assorted papers. Some student information listed such as: academic probation, grades, and “intellect” ratings. Range of material dates from 1923-1943.

Series 3: North Central Association

4 Folders

Materials from the North Central Association, and other assorted papers on accreditation.

Series 4: Clippings

1 Folder

One original newspaper clipping.

Collection Inventory

Folder/Item Title	Container #	Folder/Item #	Description
Board and Committees	A-0005 (2 folders) B-0002 (3 folders)	1-5	Collection of hand written and typed papers from assorted committees, boards, divisions, and business partners. Dates range from 1934-1945. (Board of Managers, Alumni Liquidation Committee, faculty and committee minutes)
Correspondence	A-0006 (21 folders) A-0007 (11 folders) B-0002 (6 folders)	6-43	Large collection of correspondence: handwritten and typed letters, telegrams, etc. Some correspondence is interdepartmental and university specific, others are with various outside organizations and associations. Dates from 1923-1943.

North Central Association	A-0005	44-47	Collection of materials from the North Central Association and information on accreditation. Assorted charts. Materials range in date from 1930-1943.
Clippings	A-0005	48	One small newspaper clipping. Article speaks of a trip Hessler will be taking to the West Coast. Handwritten note tells that the article was taken from the December 21, 1940 Decatur Review.