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Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1962-1963.

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

CINCINNATI
NEW YORK
LOS ANGELES

CLIFTON AVENUE · CINCINNATI 20, OHIO

Administrative Office

October 25, 1961

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. and Silver Park
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Immediately following the Overseers meeting, we had the two days of the Board of Governors, then I had to go to Chicago on Combined Campaign business and then return here for a busy week. Hence, I have been delayed in writing to you to express both my personal deep thanks and that of our school for the manner in which you took hold of things at the Overseers meeting. I was particularly pleased that you steered things to the practical and concrete and discussed matters of organization.

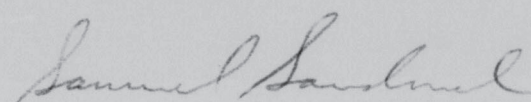
Some time in the next ten days, I will send you certain names, out of whom you might want to choose the two committees that the Minutes call for, - the one on curriculum study, and the other to collaborate with the Board of Governors on the study of personnel needs. I have Herman Snyder's minutes before me - a copy is going to you in case he didn't send it directly, and I note that by it, the statement of purposes and limitations of Overseers (his point 3 in the third paragraph from the bottom) suppose that the Chairman would draft a statement.

Subject to your own plans and disposition, I wonder if we ought to envisage having the next Overseers meeting take place in Minneapolis on the day before the CCAR convenes. On this day there are a number of committees that meet, such as the Commission on Jewish Education and the Executive Committee of the CCAR. Certain absences or conflicts might be occasioned by this simultaneous meeting. The issue

that I put before you is whether you think we should use the CCAR meeting as a convenient place and time for us to get together or whether you think we should try to hold a meeting in Cincinnati. It's my own feeling that we would get a better attendance if we did it in conjunction with the CCAR. But I would want your opinion on this.

Warmest good wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Samuel Sandmel
Provost

P.S. I was especially pleased that Jimmy Wax's statement at the end of the meeting for he spoke exactly how I and the others present felt.



COMMITTEE OF ALUMNI OVERSEERS

Statement of Purpose and Organization

The purpose of the Committee of Alumni Overseers, appointed by the President of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, is to advise him on matters in which the practical experience of the Alumni is of particular importance. Toward that purpose Subcommittees on College Relations, Curriculum, Internship, and Survey on Needs for Rabbinical Personnel will be formed. In addition, The Alumni Overseers will represent the College-Institute regionally and interpret its program and activities to interested groups.

The Alumni Overseers will meet regularly as a group; preferably at the time and place of meetings of the Board of Governors and/or the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Regional meetings of Overseers will be called when the need arises.

Normal term of office is three years. To assure continuity in the work of the Committee and Subcommittees one third of the initial members will serve two years to be replaced by new appointments and another third of the initial group four years. The members of the initial group serving two or four years will be determined by lot.

*In ten days
College Board
Rabbinic Personnel.*

CCAR

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

CINCINNATI
NEW YORK
LOS ANGELES

40 WEST 68TH STREET • NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

Office of the Assistant to the President

March 26, 1962

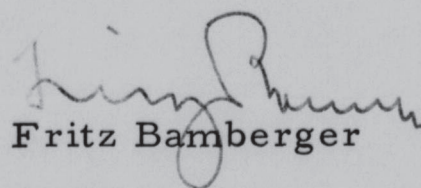
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Temple Tifereth Israel
University Circle & Silver Park
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver,

The attached letter and enclosures were
mailed today to the members of your committee.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely,


Fritz Bamberger

WRHS



COMMITTEE OF ALUMNI OVERSEERS

SUBCOMMITTEES

Committee on College Relations

Norman M. Goldberg
Augusta, Ga.

Richard C. Hertz
Detroit, Mich.

Edgar Magnin
Los Angeles, Calif.

W. Gunther Plaut
Toronto, Canada

Albert Plotkin
Pheonix, Ariz.

Alvin D. Rubin
Roslyn Heights, N. Y.

Edgar E. Siskin
Glencoe, Ill.

Herman E. Snyder
Springfield, Mass.

Earl S. Stone
Denver, Colo.

David H. Wice
Philadelphia, Pa.

Committee on Curriculum

Milton L. Grafman
Birmingham, Ala.

Joseph Klein
Worcester, Mass.

Joseph Levenson
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Harry B. Pastor
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Alvin S. Roth
Albany, N. Y.

Lawrence W. Schwartz
White Plains, N. Y.

Samuel Volkman
Charleston, W. Va.

James A. Wax
Memphis, Tenn.

Committee on Internship

Sidney H. Brooks
Omaha, Nebr.

Julian B. Feibelman
New Orleans, La.

Abraham Vossen Goodman
Lawrence, L.I.

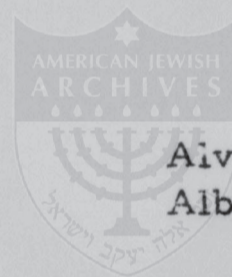
Samuel Horowitz
Billings, Mont.

Ely E. Pilchik
Newark, N. J.

Hyman Judah Schachtel
Houston, Texas

Harry J. Stern
Quebec, Canada

Malcolm H. Stern
Norfolk, Va.



Committee on Survey on Needs for Rabbinical Personnel

Abraham J. Feldman
Hartford, Conn.

Raphael H. Levine
Seattle, Wash.

Leon I. Feuer
Toledo, Ohio

Morris Lieberman
Baltimore, Md.

Bertram Klausner
St. Louis, Mo.

Sanford E. Rosen
San Mateo, Calif.

Sidney M. Lefkowitz
Jacksonville, Fla.

Max Schenk
Brooklyn, N. Y.



Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

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March 26, 1962

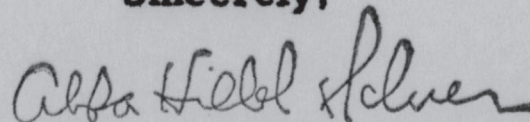
Dear Colleague,

Please find enclosed a brief Statement of Purpose and Organization of the HUC-JIR Committee of Alumni Overseers of which you are a member. Also enclosed is a proposed list of subcommittee appointments.

Changes in committee appointments will be gladly made if you feel you can be more helpful on a committee other than the one suggested. Pertinent information on matters appearing on the agenda of the Alumni Overseers' next meeting will be mailed to you after the subcommittee memberships have been definitely established.

I as well as Dr. Glueck and the College administration look forward to fruitful work with the subcommittees.

Sincerely,



Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman
Committee of Alumni Overseers

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
40 West 68th Street
New York 23, N. Y.

May 31, 1962

To: Alumni Overseers
From: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Please find enclosed statements on "Problems of Curriculum" and "A Rabbinical Internship Program", which will serve as a basis of discussion by the respective subcommittees at the meeting of the Alumni Overseers in Minneapolis on June 18th.

At that meeting a report will be made to the subcommittee of Survey on Needs for Rabbinical Personnel on the plans of the corresponding committee of the Board of Governors and Dean Paul M. Steinberg who serves as technical advisor to that committee will be present for discussion of these plans.

The subcommittee on Public Relations will hear a report from Dr. Fritz Bamberger and then discuss ways of effective cooperation between Alumni and College in the area of college publicity.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Minneapolis.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

Cincinnati 20, Ohio
May 25, 1962

TO: HUC-JIR ALUMNI OVERSEERS - Subcommittee on Curriculum

FROM: Dr. Samuel Sandmel, Provost

SUBJECT: The Problems of Curriculum

It is necessary to define two terms for the purpose of communication. Let us understand Curriculum as the content of what is taught, and Course of Study as the arrangement of that content. Thus, Bible is in the curriculum; in the course of study, there are nine one-quarter courses in Bible. Comparative Religion, however, does not appear in the curriculum. It must be noted that the problems which relate to the academic program can fall under the heading of Course of Study rather than Curriculum. The issues of sequence of materials can become quite as complicated as Curriculum itself.

The problems of our Course of Study often derive from historical situations in the background of the College-Institute; for example, the relatively high proportion of Bible in the curriculum, and hence the need to arrange the courses appropriately.

Granting a relationship between Curriculum and Course of Study, often there are issues that are quite separate. Are all the disciplines that should be represented in the curriculum actually present? If not, what disciplines are needed that are not there? Is the relative weight of presently-included content just? Are there areas which are in the curriculum, but out of proportion, and which might be reduced so as to make room for content at present not included?

The first task of the Curriculum study is a scrutiny of what the Curriculum and Course of Study at present provide. The catalogue of the College-Institute describe these; copies of the catalogue are on the way to you.

May 18, 1962

MEMORANDUM

TO: HUC-JIR ALUMNI OVERSEERS

FROM: Sylvan D. Schwartzman

SUBJECT: A Rabbinical Internship Program

As a long-time advocate of a rabbinical internship program, may I point out that the College is one of a decreasing number of ministerial-training institutions that does not provide for such a full-time experience. Studies of coop education and student teaching as carried on at the university level as well as of all forms of professional internships confirm the numerous benefits that accrue to the individual. Indeed, most professions have come to regard some type of internship as indispensable.

For the most practical benefits to the student in terms of its carry-over to his stay at the College, I prefer having such a program come not after Ordination (when he is no longer pursuing his studies at the College), but immediately following his passing of the B. H. L. examination (at the end of his second year of residence) when he is officially admitted to candidacy for the Rabbinate. Thus he can apply what he will have learned through experience to the remaining years of his stay at the College as well as to his bi-weekly congregation, chaplaincy, and full-time rabbinate.

In general, this internship should involve a full year of apprenticeship to a suitable rabbi, with periodic conference of a director of the program with both the cooperating rabbi and the intern. This should be preceded by a program of several weeks duration designed to prepare the student for his experience and provide him with the necessary tools to be of maximum service to the cooperating rabbi. The congregation would be expected to make provision for the self-support of the intern (and wife). The intern would also be required to carry on certain in-absentia studies to maintain his academic level of performance. (Serving, too, as a precedent for maintaining good study habits in the active rabbinate.)

The advantages of such an internship program are:

- (1) The maturing of the student through his confrontation of the realities of life in an adult world.

- (2) Equipping the student for the realities of rabbinical service both in his bi-weekly congregation and ultimately his own rabbinate, as well as developing within him a mature concept of the expectations to be met by the present-day Reform rabbi.
- (3) The development of a greater motivation for learning in the areas taught by the College, with evident relationship between what the student is taught at the College and the day-to-day needs of the rabbi. Similarly it will provide the student with more accurate perspective on the knowledge he is accumulating.
- (4) The curriculum and instructional methods obtaining at the College are bound to undergo significant modifications as subject-matter is brought into greater contact with the experiences and felt-needs of students. The College will also have the benefit of the observations of the cooperating rabbis.
- (5) The possible weeding-out of students whose personality-difficulties or inadequate motivations make it evident that they are ill-suited to the rabbinate.
- (6) For many students this will also serve as a welcome break in the routine of a five-year academic program which often tends to become mechanical and routinized. This alone should serve to improve the climate of the student-body.
- (7) The personal growth of the cooperating rabbi as a result of his work with the intern. (The University of Chicago Divinity School reports this.)
- (8) More intimate personal contact between the College and its alumni who will be sharing another important common interest.

The possible disadvantages of such an internship program are:

- (1) The practical difficulties of securing sufficient cooperating rabbis, the coordinating of such a program, and the problems of administering it effectively.
- (2) The interruption of the academic routines already developed by the student.

- (3) The lengthening of the College program by an additional year. (It is, however, conceivable that by the addition of heavier summer studies as well as the in-absentia studies during the intern year, this difficulty might be overcome.)
- (4) Additional expense to congregations (for maintenance of interns and their wives) and to the College (for adequate personnel to administer the program).
- (5) With the uprooting of students for their year of internship its effects upon the employment and housing of those with wives.
- (6) The additional burdens imposed upon the cooperating rabbi, as well as the potential of difficulties between the rabbi and intern, and the rabbi and the College.
- (7) The possibility that the intern might be persuaded to stay on as an assistant or educational director, and thereby discontinue his studies at the College.
- (8) The relative immaturity of students at the end of their second year. (They are about 23 years old and some are already married.)

All-in-all, though there are possible disadvantages to the plan of an internship coming after the B. H. L. Examination, I am persuaded that the potential benefits in terms of the practical gains both to the student and the program of the College itself far outweigh these.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

40 WEST 68th STREET

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

2335 Collingwood Avenue
Toledo 10, Ohio

July 24, 1962

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

You will recall that at the recent convention in Minneapolis, I spoke to you about a program that I was hoping to present at the next Conference in Philadelphia in which Sol Freehof and you would share the evening discussing "The American Rabbinate in our Lifetime". Dr. Freehof has already indicated to me that he would be happy to participate in such a program if you would share it with him.

Following the Conference, our Executive Board met and during an informal discussion of next year's program, I mentioned the possibility of this program. The Executive Board was delighted and suggested that the program take place on the last evening of the Conference and be substituted for the regular Conference lecture. It was even suggested that the program might be given a little more formal atmosphere by being preceded by a Dinner.

Since the program is planned to take the place of the Conference lecture and since it is within the province of the President to invite the lecturer, Dr. Freehof and you will receive early in the Fall a formal invitation from Albert Minda to share this program.

Needless to say, I am very anxious to have your consent. I have dreamed about this program and want very badly to present it to the Conference.

Hortense joins me in sending our love to Virginia and yourself and our best wishes for a pleasant summer. As you know, we are off to Italy in the next couple of weeks and will be back around the 15th of September. If you get a chance to drop me a line before I leave

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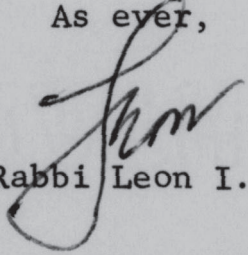
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*Ex-officio

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

#2

Toledo which will be around the 3rd of August, I
will appreciate it.

As ever,


Rabbi Leon I. Feuer

LIF-s



July 25. 1962

Dear Rabbi Feuer:

Your letter of July 24th is being held for Dr. Silver's attention upon his return to his desk from a trip abroad. We expect him to return in about three weeks.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Leon I. Feuer
2335 Collingwood Avenue
Toledo 10, Ohio



Beatrice F. May (Mrs.)
Secretary to Dr. Silver

MISSING PAGE (S)



the faculty of the
College - Institute
in cooperation with
the congregational rabbis.
The compensation of the
volunteers shall be
borne by the
cooperating congregation.