Office of the Board of Trustees
Ohio State University

Columbus, Ohio, June 14th, 1906.

The Building Committee met at the office of the President.

Present, President Thompson, Mr. McCracken and Secretary Steeb.

President Thompson presented a plan for the equipment of the School of Mines Building as recommended by Professors Orton, Lord and Ray, and on motion the same was adopted with one exception, that is, the superintendent of construction shall present all bids and proposals to the Building Committee, and said Committee shall award the contracts for any and all work.

On motion Mr. Sweeney was made superintendent of construction at a compensation of $100 per month, and his duties to be those outlined in the plan above mentioned.

$1300 was set aside from the gross appropriation of $17,500 for the equipment of the School of Mines Building, said sum to be used for:

- Electrical Fixtures, Estimated Cost $560.00
- Electric Lamps
  - Bells 82.50
  - Motors 75.00
  - Shades 190.00
  - Chairs 227.50

leaving a balance of $16,300 to be divided among the departments of Metallurgy & Mineralogy, Mine Engineering and Ceramics.

The Secretary presented proposals for the shades for the School of Mines and Chemical Buildings as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firm</th>
<th>Mines Building No.</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Chemical Building No.</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Krauss, Butler &amp; Banham Co.</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>179.12</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>121.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F.S. &amp; A. Howald</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>160.28</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>96.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schroth &amp; Potter</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>167.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowland, Morehouse &amp; Martins Co.</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>182.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D. C. Beggs Co.</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>156.60</td>
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On motion the contract for the shades for the Mines Building was awarded to the D. C. Beggs Co. for $156.60; and the contract for the shades for the Chemical Building to Schroth & Potter for $96.00.
Office of the Board of Trustees
Ohio State University

Columbus, Ohio, July 16th, 1908.

The Building Committee met at the office of the President.

Present, President Thompson, Mr. McCracken and Secretary Stebb.

For the Chemistry Building the following general repairs, at an estimated cost of $155., were ordered:

- One and water cocks to be tightened or repaired.
- Iron supports to be screwed to the desks in Laboratories 1, 6 and 102.
- Walls where dis-colored to be repainted.
- Glass in hoods (two or three broken) to be replaced.
- Doors to lockers, windows, hood fronts and desk drawers to be gone over and put in good working condition.
- All loose hoods to be fastened to wall; cracks in floor and loose boards repaired.
- New pins, of hard wood, were ordered for holding up the hood fronts.
- Tops of the desks that are split to be repaired.
- Iron pipes to be repainted.
- The molding around the table and part of door frame in Room 207 to be replaced.
- In Laboratory No. 1 the hoods having no vent pipes to be attached to other hoods.
- The steam pipe in Laboratory 205 to be repaired.

To meet the proposed re-arrangement of the Laundry Room in the Woman's Dormitory the closet for the boiler room was ordered abandoned and a soil pipe run to the south end of the Basement Hall in lieu thereof.

The proposal of the Huffman-Conklin Co. under date of July 14th, '08 to run gas to urn, plate warmer and bake oven with valve on each line; to run water pipes to three sinks and dish washer, and to furnish the necessary traps and vents, and to run hot and cold water supplies to each of the above fixtures with valves and N.P. Fuller bibbs on each; and to cut out concrete and replace with new, all for the sum of $158.90 was accepted. A credit of $48.00 for sinks omitted in kitchen and serving room was also accepted.

The proposition of the E. Howard Clock Company, under date of April 7th, '08, covering a Watchman's Clock System for the various buildings of the University, the same to include regulator with registering instruments for three watchmen, with program contact for ringing the class bells, and with 50 station boxes, for the sum of $520. F.O.B. Boston, was accepted.

Thorouphon the Committee adjourned.
Master Mechanic Shocks Reporter with Current Dope on Class Bells

Did'ja ever wonder, when you were going up the steps of University Hall three at a time, after you had raced all the way across the campus, and just as you hit the last step you heard the bell ring and realized that you were late to your 8-o'clock for the 1st time—did you ever wonder just how those bells always happened to ring at the same time? You probably have a standing grudge against them for ringing, but even though you may be a senior, you probably yet don't know how it's done.

John P. Coon, master mechanic at the University Power House, knows all about those bells and how they're rung, for he has cared for them and heard them ring for the last decade. If you ask him about the bells, he'll explain that they are all regulated from a clock located in the chief engineer's office just back of University Hall. On the minute hand of this clock and at every five-minute mark are electric contacts. These contacts and the minute hand are connected through a wiring system to every classroom bell on the campus and also to a bunch of dry cells and a dynamo in the Power House. The contacts may then be so arranged that at any five-minute period or at any hour an electric current passes to the bells and releases the clappers. A spring in each bell causes the clappers to ring for a certain length of time. These springs must be wound up about once in two weeks.

This clock in the engineer's office serves another purpose. It is used as a time clock for the campus cop. This individual in making his rounds of the campus must "ring in" at certain stations. Every time he rings in, his position on the campus and the time is automatically registered at the engineer's office by the clock on a strip of paper in telegraph code. Formerly, according to Mr. Coon, this useful clock recorded the movements of each night watchman on the campus. But the installation of a complete campus telephone system did away with the need of this. Once each week the correct time is received from the Observatory and the clock is adjusted.
No bells

Little do OSU students know, but they are the subject of an experiment.

The Classroom Coordinating Council and the Scheduling Office are conducting an experiment with the bell system in five buildings on campus, said Dolores Brzycki, manager of the scheduling office.

The hourly class bells in Bolz Hall, Hitchcock Hall, Ramseyer Hall, University Hall and Central Classrooms Building will not ring for the remainder of the quarter, Brzycki said.

Starting Spring Quarter, the school day will begin at 7:30 a.m., and the council is trying to find out if the campus depends on the bell system enough to warrant reprogramming it to coincide with the schedule change, Demel said.

The scheduling office and the Classroom Coordinating Council are going to send surveys to instructors and students who use the buildings involved in the experiment to determine its effect.

Brzycki said she has received about a dozen calls, most of which have been in favor of keeping the bells ringing.

—Lucinda K. Lloyd
Bell decision

OSU schedulers will decide the facts of bells that signal the change of classes next week.

The Classroom Coordinating Council will vote Wednesday whether the bells will be preserved. In making its decision, the committee will consider the results of an experiment conducted this quarter by the Scheduling Office.

The office experimented with cutting out the bells in five buildings, and officials conducted a survey to gauge response of faculty and students.

The survey was sent to 400 faculty members and 300 students. Of the surveys sent, 184 faculty and 98 students responded.

—Tracy Rees
Friday marks final bell for Ohio State’s quarter system

Bell that rings between classes to be permanently disabled

This week marks the final week of classes on the quarter system at Ohio State. As part of the semester conversion, the university will be permanently disabling the bells that ring between classes.

The final bell will ring at 4:18 p.m. on Friday (6/1). Ohio State is one of the few schools that still uses bells, and although many classes begin and end at times other than 18 and 30 minutes past the hour, the bell system doesn’t allow variations.

On semesters, there will be no bells between classes. The university’s summer semester begins June 18.
At Ohio State, it's O-H-Bye-O to classroom bells

By Alissa Widman

A sound that has echoed through Ohio State University's academic halls for decades will be silenced today.

The bells that signal the beginning and end of classes beginning on the half-hour, at 30 and 18 minutes past the hour, will dismiss Ohio State students for the final time this afternoon.

They will be disabled this summer to accommodate a new semester schedule with more-varied class structures. The bell system doesn't allow for variation, so classes beginning on the hour never used it, even on a quarter schedule.

Today concluded the last quarter in Ohio State's history. Ohio State, the first of several universities in the state to switch to semesters this year, will begin its first summer semester June 18. By fall, all of Ohio's public colleges will operate on semester schedules.

Disabling the bells is one piece of a years-long transition process, said Jack Miner, senior associate registrar.

"The bell system is really structured for a 48-minute class... but more and more, classes are meeting longer than that now," Miner said. "As we moved to semesters, it became less practical to run a bell system in any way because it wouldn't line up with classes in a clean way."

Ohio State was one of the nation's last universities operating a bell system, he said.

In 1993, Ohio State's scheduling office considered eliminating the bell system because of class schedule changes, according to articles in The Lantern, the student newspaper. The office experimented in academic buildings and surveyed faculty members and students, who said they wanted the bells to stay. The office then reprogrammed the bells to coincide with the new schedule.

Today, however, few students and faculty members spoke against eliminating the bells. Many said they consider the system necessary in a high-school setting but not in higher education. Others said instructors don't follow the bell system.

"The first time I heard one I was so surprised — it's so high school," freshman Lauren Maust said. "It seems like everyone does their own thing anyway... Professors just start and end class whenever they want."

Karen Winstead, an English professor, said many instructors feel restricted by the bells, which don't accommodate classes longer than 48 minutes. She's taught in classrooms with and without them and said many buildings have already phased out the system.

"It's more of a distraction to me, because you're never sure what you're
At Ohio State, it's O-H-Bye-O to classroom bells | The Columbus Dispatch

"Teaching will break naturally at the bell," Winstead said. "I can't imagine anyone being upset about (the bells) going away. They're really a blast from the past."

John Castle, a junior at Ohio State, said now most students and instructors have access to clocks and electronic devices that tell time, but the bells do have their benefits.

"If you have a long-winded (teaching assistant), the bell is a final way of keeping them from getting carried away," Castle said. "I guess we have to take the place of the bell now and let them know when time's up."

The disabled bells will not be removed, Miner said. As academic buildings are renovated, school officials will evaluate the cost-effectiveness of removing the bells in the future.

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