

Guide to the War Emergency Council on Student Christian Work Records

RG 99



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1994

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 99

CREATOR: War Emergency Council on Student Christian Work

TITLE: War Emergency Council on Student Christian Work Records

DATES: 1941-1945

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5 linear feet (13 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The records document the effect of war time emergency measures on student religious work on college and university campuses throughout the United States during the years 1942 to 1944. The War Emergency Council on Student Christian Work was established in 1942 to deal with the readjustments made necessary by the impact of World War II on college and university campuses. The Council collected and disseminated information, arranged regional consultative conferences, and worked as an intermediary between the United States military establishment and student religious movements.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.099>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.099>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

War Emergency Council on Student Christian Work Records (RG 99), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

The War Emergency Council on Student Christian Work was established in 1942 to deal with the readjustments made necessary by the impact of the Second World War on college and university campuses. The following ten factors were cited in a memorandum calling for readjustment of student Christian movement activities:

1. After February 1, 1943 practically all able-bodied men over 18 in the colleges will be in some form of military training and under military discipline.
2. Free time and vacations will be on a minimum basis.
3. Non-scientific courses for men will be largely eliminated.
4. It is probable that the program of military training may be largely concentrated in a limited number of the larger institutions.
5. Some colleges are considering a lowering of entrance requirements, which would greatly increase the proportion of underclassmen.
6. Increasing numbers of women's units (military, industrial, etc.) will be located on campuses.
7. Leaders in higher education are having little part in determining war-time educational plans.
8. In most larger military units chaplains probably will be provided.
9. Any work done by voluntary agencies within military units on the campus will be by military permission.
10. All of the above factors, plus the growing emphasis upon consolidated financial appeals, creates a serious crisis for the financing of our regular work, locally, regionally and nationally.

The Council initially was composed of members representing The National Commission on University Work of the Council of Church Boards of Education (denominational student Christian work) and the National Intercollegiate Christian Council (YMCA, YWCA, and regional Student Christian Movements). The Student Volunteer Movement was invited to become a member of the War Emergency Council in October 1943.

The War Emergency Council collected and disseminated information, arranged regional consultative conferences, and worked as an intermediary between the United States military establishment and student religious movements. Negotiations between the War Emergency Council and military officials cleared the way for resident religious agencies on American campuses to be of service to students who were part of the armed services.

To facilitate coordination in dealing with the war-time emergency situation, the Council worked with the National Catholic Welfare Conference and the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations to form the Inter-Religious Council. The War Emergency Council also worked with the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America to form the Christian Commission on War Time Campus Missions. The War Emergency Council played a role in "awakening both students and student leaders throughout the country to the necessity and the possibility of an officially appointed Council representing the various organizations as an instrument of clearance in all their cooperative activities."

In September 1944, the purposes, functions, and organization of the War Emergency Council were transferred to the newly formed United Student Christian Council in the U.S.A., constituting its War Emergency Committee.

Scope and Contents

The Minutes of Series I provide an overview of the activities of the War Emergency Council and its interactions with other organizations. The series includes agendas and other materials related to the meetings for which minutes are available.

The Correspondence of Series II includes correspondence of the executive secretaries of the Council, A. Roland Elliott, and his successor, R.H. Edwin Espy, as well as the correspondence of Assistant Secretary Betty Herrold and other individuals associated with the Council. Prominent correspondents include Fern Babcock, Henry Sloane Coffin, Frederick B. Igler, George Johnson of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Alden Kelley, Clarence Shedd, Abram L. Sachar of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, Henry P. Van Dusen, Gould Wickey, and George Zook of the American Council on Education. There is also correspondence with various representatives of the United States military. Some Council correspondence relating to conferences, surveys, and publications is located in Series III, Program Documentation.

Series III, Program Documentation, contains materials related to the Council's efforts to collect and disseminate information relating to the impact of the war on student religious work. It contains documentation of literature prepared and published, surveys done, conferences arranged, and visits made to campuses. Factual information contained in this series provides insight into conditions on campuses throughout the United States during the Second World War.

The Financial Records of Series IV reflect not only the financial operations of the Council itself, but also the financial needs of local and regional student religious agencies during this time period.

Series V, Related Organizations and Material, contains documentation collected by the War Emergency Council concerning other organizations involved in higher education and/or student religious work during the wartime period. Some of these materials are similar to the program documentation of Series III, but, in general, the collected materials of this series are less directly related to the program goals and initiatives of the Council.

Arrangement

- I. Minutes, 1942-1944
- II. Correspondence, 1942-1945
- III. Program Documentation, 1942- 1944
- IV. Financial Records, 1942-1945
- V. Related Organizations and Material, 1941-1944

Collection Contents

Series I: Minutes, 1942-1944

b. 1, f. 1	Council in process of formation	1942 November
b. 1, f. 2	Full Council meetings - Cincinnati	1943 September 11
b. 1, f. 3	Full Council meeting - Wooster	1943 December 31
b. 1, f. 4	Full Council meeting - New York	1944 September 15
b. 1, f. 5	Executive Committee	1942
b. 1, f. 6-11	Executive Committee	1943
b. 1, f. 12-13	Executive Committee	1944

Series II: Correspondence, 1942-1945

A. Roland Elliott		
b. 1, f. 14-22	Correspondence	1942 January-1943 March
b. 2, f. 23-26	Correspondence	1943 April-July
R.H. Edwin Espy (Secretary of War Emergency Council)		
b. 2, f. 27-30	Correspondence	1943 June-1945 March, undated
Files of Betty Herrold, Assistant Secretary		1943
b. 2, f. 31	Adams, Carlyle; Adams, John Maxwell	1943
b. 2, f. 32	Babcock, Fern	1943
b. 2, f. 33	Bader - Braisted	1943
b. 2, f. 34	Bremer - French	1943
b. 2, f. 35	Forsyth - Holmer	1943
b. 2, f. 36	Hovey - Kagin	1943
b. 2, f. 37	Kelley, Alden	1943
b. 3, f. 38	Kitchen - Mott	1943
b. 3, f. 39	Norris - Seamans	1943
b. 3, f. 40	Shedd, Clarence	1943
b. 3, f. 41	Thompson - Wickey	1943
b. 3, f. 42	Wiggin - Workman	1943
War Emergency Council office files		1944
b. 3, f. 43	Adams - Bollinger	1944
b. 3, f. 44	Braisted - Espy	1944
b. 3, f. 45	Fairgraves - Getty	1944
b. 3, f. 46	Giffen - Guthrie	1944
b. 3, f. 47	Howell - Kaplan	1944
b. 3, f. 48	Kelley - Maguire	1944
b. 3, f. 49	Mains - Schiotz	1944
b. 3, f. 50	Shedd - Turnbull	1944
b. 3, f. 51	Van Dusen - Woodward	1944

War Emergency Council office files (continued)

b. 3, f. 52	Mailing list of campuses and churches	1944
b. 3, f. 53	Form letters and forms	1944

Series III: Program Documentation, 1942-1944

b. 4, f. 54	Memoranda about relationships with other organizations	1942-1944, undated
	Consultative Conferences	
b. 4, f. 55	General	1943
b. 4, f. 56	Pacific Northwest	1943 May, December
b. 4, f. 56	Pacific Southwest	1943 May
b. 4, f. 57	Kentucky, Georgia	1943 June
b. 4, f. 57	North Carolina, Kansas, Tennessee	1943 November
b. 4, f. 58	New England	1943 November
b. 4, f. 58	Midwest Region	1944 January
b. 4, f. 58	Southwest	1944 February
b. 4, f. 58	Colorado	1944 March
b. 4, f. 59	YMCA-sponsored	1943
b. 4, f. 60	Student work in wartime - general	
b. 4, f. 61	Students in uniform - general	
b. 4, f. 62	Campuses with military training units	
b. 4, f. 63	Survey of campuses with military trainees to locate schools needing aid	
b. 4, f. 64	Survey of 25 colleges in Pacific Northwest area	
b. 5, f. 65	List of 218 campuses with war training	
b. 5, f. 66	List of campus coordinators on campuses with training units	
b. 5, f. 67	Educational institutions inspected: War Department - Navy Department Manpower Commission	
b. 5, f. 68	Educational institutions approved: War Department - Navy Department Manpower Commission	
b. 5, f. 69	Women on campuses in wartime	
b. 6, f. 70	Military training programs in higher educational institutions	
b. 6, f. 71	Military enrollment in instructional programs in colleges and universities	
b. 6, f. 72	Student and college survey - study made by Henry David Gray, Division of Christian Education, Congregational Christian Churches	1942
	Basic data on student religious work for Army-Navy trainees	
b. 6, f. 73	Amherst College - Louisiana State University	

Basic data on student religious work for Army-Navy trainees (continued)

b. 6, f. 74	Massachusetts State College - University of Alabama	
b. 6, f. 75	University of California - University of Oklahoma	
b. 7, f. 76	University of Pittsburgh - Yale University	
	Records of service done by campus Y's to trainees	
b. 7, f. 77	General	
b. 7, f. 78	Amarillo Junior College - Mississippi State University	
b. 7, f. 79	North Carolina State University - University of Michigan	
b. 7, f. 80	University of Nebraska - Yankston College	
b. 7, f. 81	Religious work with trainees in colleges	
	Christian Associations on the campuses	
b. 7, f. 82	A&M College of Texas - Brown University	
b. 8, f. 83	Bucknell University - Cornell University	
b. 8, f. 84	Johns Hopkins University - Ohio State University	
b. 8, f. 85	Pomona College - University of Oregon	
b. 8, f. 86	University of Pittsburgh - University of Wisconsin	
b. 8, f. 87	Virginia Polytechnic - Yale University	
b. 8, f. 88	Religious organizations on campuses, including Jewish and Catholic	1943
b. 8, f. 89	"The Work of the College Religious Forces with the Special Training Units" by Benjamin R. Andrews	1943
b. 9, f. 90	Staff campus visitation schedule	1944
b. 9, f. 91	Reports of visitations to campuses with training units	1943
b. 9, f. 92	Speakers to Military Training Units	
	<i>Communique: Wartime Information for Student Christian Associations</i>	
b. 9, f. 96	Issues	
b. 9, f. 97	Issues	1943 February, March, May
b. 9, f. 98	Issues	1943 June, October, December
b. 9, f. 99	Issues	1944 February, May
b. 9, f. 100	Manuscripts and drafts of articles	
b. 9, f. 101	Correspondence	1943-1944

Communique : Wartime Information for Student Christian Associati [...] (continued)

b. 9, f. 102	Mailing lists
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b. 10, f. 103, 104	Manuscripts considered for publication
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b. 10, f. 105	Re: literature and publications
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Series IV: Financial Records, 1942-1945

b. 10, f. 106-111 Financial records

1942 October -
1945 October,
undated

Series V: Related Organizations and Material, 1941-1944

An alphabetical listing of related organizations is followed by five folders of miscellaneous published material.

b. 11, f. 112-114	American Council on Education: <i>Higher Education and National Defense</i> - bulletin	1943 January - 1944 June
b. 11, f. 115	Catholic Association for International Peace	1943
b. 11, f. 116-118	Christian Commission on Wartime Campus Ministries	1943 October - 1944 October
b. 11, f. 119	Commission to Study the Organization of Peace	1941-1943
b. 11, f. 120	Congregational Christian Study of World Organization	undated
b. 11, f. 121	Guardians of America	1942
b. 11, f. 122	Informal Conference on Church Relations with Post War Europe	undated
	Inter-Religious Council	
b. 11, f. 123	Formation Meeting	1942 December 10
b. 11, f. 124	Correspondence re: appointments to Advisory Committee	1942 December-1943 March
b. 11, f. 125	News release, Meeting	1943 January 15; 1943 February 17
b. 11, f. 126	Meetings	1943 March 22; 1943 May 14
b. 11, f. 127	Survey of Religious Organizations on Campus	1942-1943
b. 11, f. 128	Methodist Church, Wesley Foundations	
b. 11, f. 129	National Intercollegiate Christian Council: War Emergency Committee	1942 November-December
b. 11, f. 130	National Intercollegiate Christian Council: <i>The Intercollegian</i>	1943 April-December
b. 12, f. 131	Pacific School of Religion - Training for Post-War Rehabilitation Abroad	1943
b. 12, f. 132	Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Board of Christian Education	1942-1943
b. 12, f. 133	Public Affairs Committee, Inc.	1944
b. 12, f. 134	Student Planning Conference on the World Mission of the Church, Continuation Committee	undated
b. 9, f. 93	U.S.O. - program material	undated
b. 12, f. 135	United States Navy - Navy V-12 Bulletin No. 12 "Manual for the Operation of a Navy V-12 Unit"	1943

b. 12, f. 136	United States Office of Education, Federal Security Agency: <i>Education for Victory</i>	1943 May-August
b. 12, f. 137	United States Office of Education, Federal Security Agency: <i>Education for Victory</i>	1943 September-December
b. 12, f. 138	United States Office of Education, Federal Security Agency: <i>Education for Victory</i>	1944 January-March
b. 12, f. 139	United States Office of Education, Federal Security Agency: <i>Education for Victory</i>	1944 April-July
b. 12, f. 140	United States War Department	1943
b. 12, f. 141	University Commission of the Council of Church Boards of Education	1943
b. 12, f. 142	World Council of Churches, Provisional Committee	1942
b. 12, f. 143	World's Student Christian Federation	1943
	YMCA	
b. 9, f. 94	Miscellaneous program material	1942-1944
b. 12, f. 144	National Council	1942
b. 12, f. 145	Southern Area Council, Committee to Disseminate Information on the World of the Future	1941-1943
b. 12, f. 146	Student committees	1943
b. 12, f. 147	YWCA, National Student Council Wartime Expansion Program Committee	1942-1943
b. 12, f. 148	Local and regional YMCA and SCM publications	1942-1943
b. 12, f. 149	Miscellaneous writings and speeches re. war and reconstruction	1942-1943
b. 9, f. 95	Information re: motion pictures (program material)	undated
b. 13, f. 150, 151	Newspaper clippings	1942 November-1944

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

College students -- Religious life
Universities and colleges -- Religion
World War, 1939-1945

Names

Coffin, Henry Sloane, 1877-1954
Elliott, Arthur Roland, 1895-
Espy, R. H. Edwin
Grant, Fern Babcock, 1904-
Herrold, Betty
Sachar, Abram Leon, 1899-1993
Shedd, Clarence Prouty, 1887-
Van Dusen, Henry P. (Henry Pitney), 1897-1975
Wickey, Gould, 1891-
Zook, George Frederick, 1885-1951

Corporate Body

War Emergency Council on Student Christian
Work