Economics, Department of; Records

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
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Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title: Department of Economics Records
ID: ua613
Date [inclusive]: 1971-1985
Physical Description: 1.0 cubic ft.
Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material: English.
Mixed Materials [Collection]: X
Abstract: The collection documents the day-to-day work of the Department of Economics.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Department of Economics Records, 1971-1985. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Department of Economics Records).

Biographical History

The current Department of Economics was created in 1966 in the Division of Social Sciences[State University of New York at Albany, Undergraduate Bulletin. 1966-67, p. 136.]. By that date, however, economics had been taught at the University for almost 100 years, and a department of economics has existed in one form or another for fifty-five years. The 1868-69 catalogue of the New York State Normal School included a course in Political Economy, the nineteenth century name for economics[Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the New York State Normal School for the Fiftieth Term. Beginning July 1, 1869, p. 14.]. This course, like all Normal School courses, combined the academic subject with pedagogical methodology. In 1890, with the creation of the New York State Normal College and the
change in emphasis of the school to a strictly professional program in pedagogy, the Political Economy course content was restricted to the teaching methodology of economics [Circular for the New York State Normal College, Albany, N.Y., for 1890 and 91, p. 6]. It was not until 1906 when the State Education Department reorganized the Normal College into a four year liberal arts college far teachers that a course in economics, as opposed to teaching methodology, was once again offered [The State Education Department's reorganization extended "the scope and breadth of it's work so that it might be equipped for the attainment of scholarship equal to that of literary and scientific colleges." New York State Normal College, Albany, Circular and Announcement of the Courses of Instruction, 1906-1907, p. 6, 51].

In 1909 the Normal College adopted a departmental structure and economics became part of the joint Department of Government and Economics. Its first chairman was Professor Adam A. Walker [Minutes of the Executive Committee (1844-1939), Transcribed from the Minute Books in Four Volumes, Vol.2: 1869-1909, p. 676-77]. The last mention of this joint department comes in the course catalogue from 1913, one year before the New York State Normal College became known as the New York State College for Teachers [New York State Normal College, Annual Circular and Announcement, 1913-1914, p. 65]. Economics was listed in the course catalogues from 1914 to 1934, but it is unclear whether it existed as an independent Department of Economics or as joint Department of Economics and Government [The correspondence of President Brubacher with Irene A. Rachdorf in 1927 regarding a prospective vacancy in Economics and Government refers variously to a "divided program in the "departments of Economics and Government" (Rachdorf to Brubacher, January 29,1927; same to same, February 28, 1927), Office of the President Records, President A. R. Brubacher Correspondence, Economics and government folder, 1926-27]. Dr. Walker was chairman of the Department of Economics and Sociology from 1934 to 1936, [New York State College for Teachers, Annual Catalogue, February 26, 1934, p. 41] and continued to teach economics in the Department of Social Studies, from 1937 until the early 1940's [Official Catalogue, New York State College for Teachers, Ninety-Seventh Year, February 28, 1941, p. 66].


The Department of Economics first appeared in the Graduate Bulletin in 1966, but there was no indication of any graduate degrees being offered [State University of New York at Albany, School of Graduate Studies Bulletin, 1966-67, p. 99]. Graduate degrees were first mentioned in 1967 when the department offered a program leading to a Master's Degree [ State University of New York at Albany, School of Graduate Studies Bulletin, 1967-68, p. 91]. In the Graduate Bulletin of 1968 students seeking doctorates in economics were referred to the Ph.D. program in political economy offered by the School of Public Affairs [State University of New York at Albany, Graduate Bulletin, 1968-69, p. 76]. That same year, the University Senate approval Ph.D. program in the Department of Economics. The Ph.D. was first offered in the fall of 1969 [University Senate, "Report of the Graduate Academic Council, July 1, 1967 - June 30, 1968," p. 2]. The aim of this program was "to prepare productive research scholars competent to teach in a college or university and to conduct economic research for private or public agencies." Concentrations were offered in many fields, including economic theory and doctrine,
quantitative economics, economic history, development economics, monetary and fiscal economics, international economics, labor economics, economic organization and social control, and regional economics [State University of New York at Albany, Graduate Bulletin, 1969-70, p. 82.]. A Doctor of Arts program in economics was added in 1971 to prepare students to teach in colleges [University Senate, "Report of the Graduate Academic Council, July 1, 1970 - June 30, 1971, p. 3; State University of New York at Albany, Graduate Bulletin. 1971-72, p. 11-12.]. The program "combined practical experience in teaching economics with a broader academic grounding than that generally required for the Ph.D. degree." The New York State fiscal crisis of the mid-1970's caused the discontinuation of the D.A. program in the 1974-75 academic year. The M.A. and Ph.D. programs continue to be offered.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes publications on econometrics and a proposal for a Doctor of Arts program in economics.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is unprocessed and is likely disorganized. Individual items may be difficult to find.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Encoded in EAD by Jodi Boyle 2015
Processing Information


Acquisition Information

The Department of Economics donated the materials in this collection.

Access

Access to this collection is restricted because it is unprocessed. Portions of the collection may contain recent administrative records and/or personally identifiable information. While it is likely that portions of the collection may be viewed, access must be managed by an archivist.

Copyright

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Controlled Access Headings

- Economics
- UAlbany Academic Departments