

Advisory Committee on University Resource Management (ACURM) Meeting

Meeting Minutes for Meeting of April 6th, 2021

Attendees

- **Present:** Lisa DiCarlo (chair, faculty), Meaghan Carley (grad), Ana Boyd (undergrad), Mukul Khanna (undergrad), Scott Frickel (faculty), Mark Blyth (faculty), Sara Cunningham (alum), David Muller (alum), Musa Pam (staff)
- **Absent:** Tiffany Amaral (staff), Kayla Rosen (alum)
- **Presenters:** Jason Carroll (UCS President), Deborah Meirowitz (UCS General Body Member), Zane Ruzicka (UCS Chair of Campus Life)

Agenda

1. Approve last meeting's minutes
2. UCS presentation
3. AOB - UCS presentation

Notes

- **Meeting minutes approval tabled to allow for more presentation time**
- **UCS presentation**
 - Brief Holocaust Timeline
 - Anti-semitic laws, practices, and exclusion was before the 1930s
 - First concentration camp was March, 1933
 - Background: Brown CIT and Naming
 - Opened in 1988, dedicated to Watson Sr, President of IBM from 1914-1952
 - 1952, turned leadership to his son, IAPA Watson is named after him, an alum
 - IBM and the Holocaust
 - 1933-1939, IBM, through German subsidiary Dehomag, leased machines and tech to Nazi Germany (NYTimes)
 - Helped Nazis identify “undesirables” in their population
 - (2008 article “IBM and Germany 1922-1941”)
 - Dehomag equipment greatly facilitated the operation of concentration camps
 - Dehomag designed custom programs for the leased machines
 - Punch card data helped keep track of prisoners’ ethnicity, keep track of punishments, maintain death statistics, etc.
 - Watson Senior’s Role: An Example from Dehomag

- 1934: Dehomag hosted ceremony of new plant in Germany, attended by Watson's personal representative and Nazi officials
 - Watson got the translation of the speech (speaking about Nazi mission) and congratulated them for a job well done and sentiment well-expressed)
 - Nitler awarded him "Merit Cross of the German Eagle With Star" (NYTimes article)
 - The World Knew the Horrors of the Nazis Early On
 - Mein Kampf published in 1925
 - The world knew of the Nazis (1933, the first census, NYTimes front page reported mass protest in NYC), also news about other events
 - Points of Contention
 - Some things are disputed (which gets more attention), but others aren't disputed
 - Emphasis that Black was solely interested in finance
 - Points of Contention: Reviews and Retractions
 - Harvard Business School
 - Argues Watson played an active role in Germany and Dehomag
 - Watson continued to profit off of the Nazis and the business ties
 - Proven/generally disputed things, not including the debated arguments, are horrible enough, lists them
 - Profiting off of this persecution is already enough
 - Lists arguments from CalTech report (2020)
 - Community action and other steps they've taken
 - BDH article
 - Change.org petition
 - Social media posts
 - Event recording, lecture with Black
 - Brown recognizes the power of naming
 - Removed "plantations" from the school's charter
 - Renamed Wilson to Page-Robinson Hall
 - Final question: Would we be okay with this today?
- UCS Presentation Questions
 - Musa: why would this only include Watson Sr and not Jr
 - Because the harm starts with Watson Sr. Remove him before having a conversation about his son. No particular ties with Watson Jr and his time at IBM
 - David: fails to see how IBM made a huge difference (the Holocaust still would have been atrocious). Q: Did the actions of Watson make any difference in the atrocity?

- 1. Hollerith machines were state of the art
- 2. Even if the machines were not crucial, they knew the horrors and ignored them in pursuit of money (they supported the Nazi regime in either way)
- Conversation about whether we're honoring a genocide profiteer
- Lisa: Did any American businesses withdraw from Germany?
 - Harvard Business School article: seems that many people were encouraging Watson to back out, so seems that some other businesses did back out
 - The US cut off Dehomag relationships in 1917 (??)
 - In the midst of a war with numerous sanctions
- Mark: How did IBM manage to beat the blockade? (after 1939)
 - Dehomag was paying IBM licensing to use its products, so written as expense instead of a profit
- Scott: This presentation stepped away from Black a bit?
 - Focusing on the fact that there are proven atrocities, supplementing Black with other resource
 - Pertinent to give the fullest picture possible, providing new information
 - Taking into account Bartov's criticism of Black's argument