

Part I
1.1.00 Charter of Lehigh University

AN ACT

To erect and establish at, or near, the borough of South Bethlehem in Northampton County, a polytechnic college, for the education of youth, of the name, style and title of the Lehigh University.

Preamble

WHEREAS, Asa Packer of Mauch Chunk, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, has donated the sum of five hundred thousand dollars, for the purpose of founding and endowing a polytechnic college, to be located at South Bethlehem, in the County of Northampton, and has also given fifty acres of land, as a site for the college buildings and park grounds, and is desirous of having the institution incorporated, by legislative enactment, under the name of Lehigh University.

AND WHEREAS, The said donor has appointed William Bacon Stevens, of Philadelphia, Asa Packer, of Carbon County, John W. Maynard, Robert H. Sayre, John Fritz, and William H. Sayre, Junior of Northampton County, Joseph Harrison, Junior of Philadelphia, and G. B. Linderman, Robert A. Packer, and Harry E. Packer of Carbon County, trustees of and for said institution; therefore,

*College
Established*

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that there be and hereby is erected and established, at or near, the borough of South Bethlehem, in Northampton County, for the education of youth, the name, style, and title of which college, and the constitution thereof, shall be, and are, as follows:

Title

ARTICLE 1. The said college shall be, hereafter and forever, know and called by the name and style of the Lehigh University.

Management

ARTICLE 2. The said university shall be under the management, direction and government of a board of trustees, consisting of ten persons, as hereinafter mentioned, one of whom shall be, by them, elected president of the board.

First Trustees, Incorporation, Powers and Privileges

ARTICLE 3. That the first trustees of said university shall consist of the following persons: William B. Stevens; Asa Packer of Carbon County; John W. Maynard, Robert H. Sayre, John Fritz and William H. Sayre, Junior, of Northampton County; Joseph Harrison, Jr. of Philadelphia; G. B. Linderman, Robert A. Packer and Harry E. Packer, of Carbon County; which said trustees, and their successors, to be elected, in the manner hereinafter mentioned, shall forever hereinafter be one body politic and corporate, in deed and in law, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, by the name, style and title of the Lehigh University, at South Bethlehem, in the County of Northampton, Pennsylvania; by which name and title, the said trustees, and their successors, shall be competent and capable, in law and in equity, to take to themselves, and their successors, for the use and benefit of said university, any estate, in any messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, moneys, or effects, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, assurance, will devise, or bequest, of any person, or persons, whatsoever, and in the same property and effects to sell, rent, and dispose of, as occasion may require, for the use of said university, in such manner as to the said trustees, or a majority of them, at a legal meeting of the board, shall seem most beneficial to the institution, and to receive the income, rent, issues and proceeds, to the use and support of said university; and by the same name, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any courts of law, or equity, and in all manner of suits, or actions, whatsoever, and generally, by and in the same, to do and contract, all and every, the business touching, or concerning the business interests of the institution, as fully and effectually as any natural person, or body politic, or corporate, within the commonwealth, have power to manage their own concerns, and to hold, enjoy and exercise all such power, authorities and jurisdictions, as are customary in other colleges in these United States.

Seal

ARTICLE 4. And that the said trustees shall cause to be made, for their use, one common seal, with such devices and inscriptions thereon, as they shall think proper, under and by which

deeds, diplomas, certificates, and acts of the said corporation, shall pass and be authenticated; and the same seal, at their pleasure, from time to time, to change and alter.

*Meeting of
Trustees*

ARTICLE 5. And there shall be a meeting of said trustees, at least once in every year, in the borough of South Bethlehem, at such time and place as the said trustees, or a quorum of them, shall appoint, of which notice, in writing, shall be given by the secretary, at least twenty days before the time of such intended meeting; a majority of the board of trustees, when so convened, shall constitute a quorum, for the transaction of business, and a less number shall have power to adjourn, from time to time, when a like notice shall be given to absent members, at least ten days before the adjourned meeting, signed by the secretary, president, or two members of the board; and the board of trustees, at their annual meeting, and at adjourned meetings, as occasion may require, or a quorum, so convened, shall be capable of doing all the business and concerns of said university, not otherwise provided for in this act, and particularly of making ordinances, for the government of said institution; of filling vacancies in the board of trustees, occasioned by death, resignation, or otherwise; of electing, or appointing, the principals and professors of said university; of fixing the amount of their salaries and stipends, and removing them for misconduct, neglect of duty, or breach of the laws of the institution, or for any reason they, the majority, may deem sufficient; of appointing committees of their own body to carry into execution all, and every, the resolutions of the board; of appointing a treasurer, secretary, steward, managers, and other necessary and customary officers, for taking care of the establishment, and managing the concerns of the corporation.

*President and
Professors,
relative to*

ARTICLE 6. That the head, or chief master, of the institution, shall be called and styled the president of the university, and the masters thereof shall be called and styled professors, but neither principal nor professors, while they remain such, shall be capable of holding the office of trustees; the president and professors, or a majority of them, shall be called and styled the faculty of the university; which faculty shall have the power of enforcing the rules and regulations, adopted by the trustees, for the government of the pupils, by rewarding, or censuring them, and finally, by suspending such of them as, after repeated admonitions, shall continue disobedient and refractory, until a determination of a quorum of the trustees can be had; and of granting and confirming, by and with the approbation and consent of a board of trustees; signified by their mandamus, such degrees in the liberal arts and science, to such pupils of the university, or others, who, by their proficiency in learning, or other meritorious distinctions, they shall think entitled to them, as are usually conferred and granted in other colleges of the United States, and to grant to such graduates diplomas, or certificates, under their common seal, and signed by the faculty, to authenticate, and perpetuate the memory of such graduation.

*Degrees
Diplomas, etc.*

*Misnomer not
to defeat any
gift, device, etc.*

ARTICLE 7. No misnomer of the said corporation shall defeat, or annul, any gift, grant, devise of bequest, to, or from, the said corporation; *provided*, the intent of the parties shall sufficiently appear of the gift, grant, will, or other writing; whereby any estate, or interest, was intended to pass to, or from, the said corporation; nor shall any dis-user, or user, of the rights, liberties, privileges, jurisdictions, or authorities, hereby granted to the said corporation, or any of them, create, or cause, a forfeiture thereof, and the donations of the founders of the Lehigh University including the plots of ground mentioned, so long as the same are held, or used, for the purpose of the institution, shall be free and exempt from taxation.

JAMES R. KELLEY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives

DAVID FLEMING,
Speaker of the Senate

APPROVED - The ninth day of February, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.