

**Finding Aid for the  
Founding Documents  
of  
Youngstown State University,  
1884-1963**



**Record Group Number  
RG 01**

**University Archives and Special Collections**

**William F. Maag , Jr. Library**

**Youngstown State University**

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**Youngstown, OH 44555**

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## **Descriptive Summary**

- Title:** Youngstown State University, Founding Documents, 1884-1963
- Creator:** Youngstown Chapter of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Youngstown College (later The Youngstown University, then Youngstown State University)
- Extent:** .40 linear feet
- Abstract:** This collection contains documents pertaining to the founding of Youngstown State University. Included are Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and other pertinent items.

## **Administrative Information**

- Provenance:** Office of the President, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio
- Preferred Citation:** Youngstown State University, Founding Documents, 1884-1963, RG 01, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.
- Restrictions:** None
- Processing :** Processed by Brian Brennan, March 2007.
- Finding Aid:** Written by Brian Brennan.
- Revised Edition:** Written by Lisa Garofali, November 2009.

## **Historical Background**

While 1908 is viewed as the year of Youngstown State University's birth, its heritage extends further back in time. In 1884, a chapter of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was founded in the steel-producing city of Youngstown, Ohio. While noted today for addressing the physical fitness needs of young men, the YMCA

was once also very concerned about their mental fitness. As such, the Y provided classes where instruction was provided in practical subjects, such as English, mathematics, and law. The Youngstown branch was quite active in promoting these educational opportunities. In 1908 it offered a bachelors-level course in law, now considered the foundation of YSU.

Youngstown State University began as a series of courses offered by the Youngstown YMCA. Beginning in 1908, bachelor-level courses (in law) were taught for the first time. As the institution evolved, it went through a number of name changes (Youngstown Institute of Technology, then Youngstown College), but maintained its formal connection to the YMCA. In 1944, however, Youngstown College became an independent private institution of higher learning. In 1955, it was renamed The Youngstown University, then, it became known as Youngstown State University in 1967, when it became a tax supported institution.

### **Scope and Content**

This collection contains documents covering the foundation of Youngstown State University, from the inception of the Youngstown YMCA in 1884 to changes in its corporate character in 1963. Documents include articles of incorporation, bylaws, correspondence, and meeting minutes.

### **Colophon**

The collection was processed in 2007. The Founding Documents were processed by Brian Brennan, senior archivist at the YSU Archives and Special Collections. Brian has been with the university for over 20 years. He has a Masters in History with an emphasis on Military History. He was certified as an Archivist in 2008 and became a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists.

The revision of the Finding Aid and writing of this colophon is by Lisa Marie Garofali, a History graduate student with over two years experience working full time in the YSU Archives as of November 2009. Added to this Finding Aid during revision is the description of the series listed above the corresponding folders to that series, the author of the Finding Aid and author of the revision has been added in the Administrative section.

This collection was deposited in the YSU library by persons unknown at a date unspecified. It was accessioned in the YSU Archives May 11, 2005 and included as a part of a larger acquisition, which includes the presidential and public relations papers, materials and artifacts. The Collection was created by James L. Wick, Jr. former Chairman of the Youngstown College Board of Trustees. It was originally part of the Board of Trustees records but due to the importance of the contents, it was separated into its own collection entitle "Founding Documents of Youngstown State University, 1884-1963."

## **Series Description**

Series I: Constitutions  
Series 11: Correspondence  
Series 111: Minutes  
Series IV: Subject Files

## **Related Materials**

See also Youngstown State University, Board of Trustees, Records (RG 03)

## **Index Terms**

Articles of incorporation  
Board of Governors  
Board of Trustees  
Bylaws  
College Presidents  
University Presidents  
YMCA  
Young Men's Christian Association  
Youngstown Association School  
Youngstown College  
Youngstown Institute of Technology  
Youngstown State University  
Youngstown University  
Youngstown, Ohio

## **BOX 1**

### **SERIES I: CONSTITUTIONS**

This series includes the Incorporation papers of the YMCA, Youngstown Association School, and Youngstown College. These incorporation papers include the official names of the corporations, purposes, and statement and schedule of property for the corporations. Also in this series are documents relating to Amendments to the Code of Regulations. Amendments included in the series are in regards to the membership and power of the Board of Trustees and the name change of Youngstown College to Youngstown University.

#### **Folder No.**

#### **Contents**

1	Incorporation Papers, YMCA, 1884
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|---|---|
| 2 | Incorporating Papers, The Youngstown Association School, 1916                   |
| 3 | Incorporation Papers, The Youngstown College, 1937                              |
| 4 | Proposed Amendment to the Code of Regulations, 1944                             |
| 5 | Code of Regulations of the Youngstown University as Amended to October 14, 1963 |
| 6 | Certification of Amendment (Copies), 1944- 1963                                 |

## **SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE**

This series includes correspondence between Howard W. Jones (first as Associate General Secretary and then Director). A majority of the Correspondences are between Jones and Mr. T. H. Nelson, Senior Educational Secretary of the National Council of the YMCA. Points of interest in the correspondence include educational surveys, more freedom of the school from the YMCA for fear of a municipal university forming, and whether or not to discontinue the law school.

<b>Folder No.</b>	<b>Contents</b>
7	Correspondence between Howard W. Jones and YMCA Officials, 1931 – 1933

## **SERIES III: MINUTES**

Minutes in this collection range widely with a huge gap between dates with minutes from 1931, 1932 and then 1955. The early meetings from 1931-1932 involve calling the school Youngstown College instead of Youngstown Institute of Technology and approaching the problems of accreditation and the transfer of student credits to other colleges. The meeting of 1955 announces the completion of the name transfer of Youngstown College to Youngstown University.

<b>Folder No.</b>	<b>Contents</b>
8	Minutes & Agenda, 1931-1932

## **SERIES IV: SUBJECT FILES**

This series is composed of two types of documents which are listed as folder titles. The YMCA-Youngstown College Documents from 1937 include : the YMCA Constitution, proposed changes in that Constitution and By-laws, the Articles of Incorporation of Youngstown College, proposed changes in the Articles of Incorporation, and the present and proposed By-laws of Youngstown College. The final document of the series is the Supplement to Petition. The documents confronts

comments about the mismanaging of the YMCA affairs and the 25% salary cut of the faculty.

<b>Folder No.</b>	<b>Contents</b>
9	YMCA - Youngstown College Documents, 1937
10	Supplement to Petition from Faculty, n.d.