Records of the Office of the Dean of Freshmen/Director of Admissions (1947-1957)

Creator: Rev. Laurence C. Langguth, S.J., Dean of Freshmen (Dean of Men) and Director of Admissions
Title: Records of the Office of the Dean of Freshmen/Director of Admissions (1947-1951)
Dates: 1947-1957
Quantity: .2 linear foot
Origin: These records were extant in the University Archives as of 2003. No record of transfer.
Repository: Fairfield University Archives and Special Collections

Scope and Content Notes

This record group consists of files from the office of Rev. Laurence C. Langguth, S.J. Father Langguth was Dean of Freshmen (also known as Dean of Men) and the Director of Admissions when Fairfield University first opened its doors in 1947. (Please see below for a brief biography of Fr. Langguth.) The first two folders extend from 1947 through 1951, and consist mainly of correspondence with some reports. These concern a variety of activities associated with these offices, including admission requirements, information on the first registration day, housing and meals for incoming students, fees, letters of inquiry re: building grants, and also reports of student misbehavior or student protests and attendant guidance and/or disciplinary action. The third folder is a compilation of grade studies and grade reports from 1949 – 1957, and seems to come primarily from the Office of the Registrar but is included with these materials as they were part of the Director of Admissions files.

Biographical Note

Born and raised in the Dorchester area of Boston, Massachusetts, Rev. Laurence C. Langguth, S.J. attended a local parochial school and Boston College High School. He entered the Society of Jesus at Shadowbrook in Lenox, Massachusetts, in 1928, assuming the customary ascetical and classical studies, followed by studies in philosophy at Weston College in Weston, Massachusetts. Father Langguth taught physics and math at the College of the Holy Cross for two years before returning to Weston College for theology studies. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1940. He later began studies towards a doctorate in physics at Harvard University. However, it was around this time in 1943 that Father Langguth was appointed to teach math and physics at the newly established Fairfield College Preparatory School, in Fairfield, Connecticut. Then in 1947, Rev. James H. Dolan, S.J., the Father Rector, announced that Fairfield University would open its doors to its first freshman class in September. The Provincial Superior of the New England Jesuit Province, Rev. John J. McElaney, S.J., wrote to Father Dolan: "The result of my thoughts and prayers on your new Dean is that Father Langguth is the person you want. ... I have been over a list of possible candidates and honestly feel that Father Langguth is the answer to your prayers." So after finishing his teaching schedule at Prep in June, Father Langguth became the Dean of Freshmen and Director of Admissions at Fairfield University. Known for his organizational skills, photographic memory, and personal rapport with students, Father Langguth was considered the unofficial dean of admission, dean of discipline, and provost. It was the students who affectionately nicknamed him, “The Prussian.” In 1953, he was appointed Dean of the College, which made him Executive Assistant to then president, Rev. Joseph D. Fitzgerald, S.J. Father Langguth was responsible for hiring the first Glee Club director, Mr. Simon Harak, in 1948, and was a key player in the
building of Canisius and Gonzaga Halls, handling the day-to-day details of both projects. He appeared in 1950 as a faculty commentator for the Radio Club’s series Fairfield University Interprets the News, broadcast on WICC in Bridgeport, answering questions related to the proposed Anti-Communist Law. After Shadowbrook, the Jesuit Novitiate in Lenox, Massachusetts, was destroyed by fire in 1956, Father Langguth became less involved with the university. He was instrumental in rebuilding the facility, just down the hill from its previous site, directing construction and fund-raising.  In 1957, Father Langguth officially left Fairfield and became the Rector of the new Shadowbrook until 1964. He also served as director of new construction for the New England Province of the Jesuits. He next served at Bishop Connolly High School in Fall River, Massachusetts, as supervisor of buildings and grounds and as teacher of math and science. In 1987, he moved to Loyola House, a large Jesuit residence in Boston, to serve as administrator and guest master until failing health obliged him to move to Campion Center, Weston. He died on May 28, 1999.


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BOX AND FOLDER LIST

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Office of the Director of Admissions / Office of the Registrar – Grade Studies / Grade Reports (1949-1957)</td>
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