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Turner (Walter W.) Papers

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Finding aid written in English. 
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository: Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department
Creator: Turner, Walter W.
Title: Walter W. Turner Papers
ID: SpC MS 0512
Date [inclusive]: 1960-1995
Date [bulk]: 1982-1988 (bulk)
Physical Description: 0.5 cubic feet (1 box)
Physical Location:
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: Papers of Walter W. Turner, a professor in electrical engineering at the University of Maine at Orono, from his work on two committees: the Special Committee of Maine Engineers appointed to study the 1959 report by the International Passamaquoddy Engineering Board to the International Joint Commission, and the Baccalaureate Electrical Engineering Planning Committee formed in 1985 to begin the planning process for an undergraduate program in electrical engineering at the University of Southern Maine.

Preferred Citation

Walter W. Turner Papers, SpC MS 0512, [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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Biography

Walter Weeks Turner was born in 1922 in Augusta, Maine. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering from M.I.T. in 1947. He was a professor at the University of Maine at Orono in the Department of Electrical Engineering from 1947 until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1990. His major teaching fields were in wire communications, feedback control systems, electrical machinery, and instrumentation. In 1986 he received the Ashley S. Campbell Award, established by the College of
Engineering and Science in 1979 to recognize faculty members who brought distinction to the education of engineering and science students. He was also a member of the Maine Board of Registration for Professional Engineers from 1974 to 1988.

In 1959 and 1960 Professor Turner was a member of the Special Committee of Maine Engineers appointed to study engineering and economic aspects of the 1959 report by the International Passamaquoddy Engineering Board to the International Joint Commission. The Board had been authorized by the U.S. and Canadian governments in 1956 to survey the desirability and feasibility of the proposed Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project and to estimate the cost of developing the tidal power potential of Passamaquoddy Bay in the state of Maine and the province of New Brunswick. The Committee of Maine Engineers, sponsored by the Maine Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Maine Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and the Maine Association of Engineers, considered the Passamaquoddy project proposal from an engineering standpoint. They concluded in their report that it was not economically justified for the United States and would result in a waste of the country's materials and money.

Professor Turner also served in 1985 and 1986 on a committee to begin the planning process for an undergraduate program in electrical engineering at the University of Southern Maine. The proposal was supported by a number of technical companies in the Portland area but met with considerable resistance from the faculty in electrical engineering at the University of Maine at Orono. After much discussion, the program was approved by the University's Board of Trustees and began in 1988; it received accreditation from the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology in 1992.

Professor Turner died on November 18, 2004.

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Scope and Contents of the Records

The collection contains papers of Walter W. Turner, a professor in electrical engineering at the University of Maine at Orono, from his work on two committees: the Special Committee of Maine Engineers appointed to study the 1959 report by the International Passamaquoddy Engineering Board to the International Joint Commission, and the Baccalaureate Electrical Engineering Planning Committee formed in 1985 to begin the planning process for an undergraduate program in electrical engineering at the University of Southern Maine.

The files from the Special Committee of Maine Engineers contain correspondence among Committee members, from the sponsoring organizations, and from other interested citizens; these letters stress that the Committee approached the Passamaquoddy project proposal from an engineering rather than a political basis. Also included are drafts and final copies of the Committee's report, minutes of meetings, etc.

The files concerning the proposed electrical engineering program at the University of Southern Maine make up the bulk of the collection. They focus on the discussions and meetings held in 1985 and 1986.
concerning establishing the program and include background notes, histories of the planning process, memoranda, correspondence, reports, and proposals. The files also contain information from 1987-1988 detailing the start of the program at USM after its approval by the University's Board of Trustees.

Conservation Note

The collection has been re-housed in acid-free folders and an acid-free box.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469-5729
207.581.1686
um.library.spc@maine.edu
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Use Restrictions

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Restrictions on Access

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Electrical engineering -- Maine -- Study and teaching
- Orono (Me.)
- Portland (Me.)
- Gorham (Me.)
- Proposals
- Correspondence
- Reports
- Minutes
- Notes
- Turner, Walter W.
- Special Committee of Maine Engineers
- University of Maine at Portland-Gorham -- Planning
- Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project

Collection Inventory

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