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Magdalena Pyter
The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland
ORCID: 0000-0002-2203-0185
magdalena.pyter@kul.pl

The College of Agriculture of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow (1890–1923) as an Example of Special-Purpose Education: The Legal View

Kształcenie specjalistyczne na przykładzie Studium Rolniczego przy Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim (1890–1923). Zagadnienia prawne

ABSTRACT

The article focuses on the education of specialists in the field of agriculture on the example of the College of Agriculture of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. The aim is to present the organization and operation of the College within the legal setting of the time. The text has been divided into two parts. The first concerns the period from the establishment of the College of Agriculture (i.e., from the end of the 19th century) to the end of World War I, when the university in Krakow was supervised by the Imperial and Royal Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education in Vienna. The second part is devoted to the period of operation of the College after regaining independence in 1918. The research has demonstrated that the College of Agriculture was an original and innovative solution among the institutions of higher education of the time. The curricula, designed both during the Austro-Hungarian rule and in independent Poland, guaranteed a fully professional education. The novelty was that the college students were also trained in law, political sciences, economics, and management; in other words, they graduated as modern agricultural managers. These conclusions represent a scientific value and demonstrate the originality of the research. Given that the research covers the domain of higher education system, it has an international reach.

Keywords: special-purpose education; Agricultural College; Jagiellonian University; agriculture

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS: Magdalena Pyter, PhD, Prof. Dr. Habil., Full Professor, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration, Aleje Racławickie 14, 20-950 Lublin, Poland.

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INTRODUCTION

Recent decades have seen extensive research into the history and legal aspects of operation of higher education institutions. However, there are few publications that explore the subject in depth. Moreover, analyses of specific elements of the university system, such as, e.g., specialist training in specific fields, are even fewer. This type of special-purpose education was relatively popular, including in the system of higher education of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, that is, besides Vienna, also in the countries represented in the imperial Council of State, among them in Galicia.[1] Extra training at the university level was in great demand among medical doctors, teachers, civil servants, and pharmacists.[2]

The article focuses on the education of specialists in agriculture and discusses the case of the College of Agriculture of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. The author explains the organization and operation of the College within the legal setting of the time. The text has two parts. Part one covers the period from the establishment of the institution (i.e. from the end of the 19th century) to the end of World War I, when the university in Krakow was supervised by the Imperial and Royal Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education in Vienna. The author refers to the Austrian legislation on university education which also governed the Jagiellonian University. Part two is devoted to the period of operation of the College after 1918. The authors highlight changes to the legal system and the process of transforming the college into an independent faculty (1923).

Addressing the subject of the article involves a question about the standard of the programme and organization of the College governed by the legal principles embraced in the regulations issued by the Viennese Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education and, after Poland's rebirth, by the Ministry of Education of reborn Poland, as well as in the statutes and regulations of the College itself. Besides, the author seeks to demonstrate the actual benefits of specialist training. The text relies upon archival records of the College of Agriculture obtained from the Archives of

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[1] The structure of higher education in Galicia is discussed in W. Witkowski, *Historia administracji w Polsce 1764–1989*, Warszawa 2012, pp. 220–222.

[2] The Jagiellonian University offered extra training programmes through its Polish School of Political Sciences, Teacher Training College, Higher Courses for Cooperative Workers, Two-Year Gardening Courses, University School for Nurses and Hygiene Specialists, and Physical Education Teacher Training College. For example, see M. Pyter, *Teacher Training College of the Jagiellonian University as an Example of Special-Purpose Training Institution within the Tertiary Education System of the Second Republic of Poland*, "Studia Iuridica Lublinensia" 2021, vol. 30(4), pp. 473–489; M. Stinia, *Uniwersytet Jagielloński w latach 1871–1914. Modernizacja procesu nauczania*, Kraków 2014, pp. 274–278; M. Wesołowska, *Uczelnie galicyjskie doby autonomii*, "Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego w Krakowie" 2016, vol. 12(960), pp. 107–124.

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the Jagiellonian University (Faculty of Philosophy, College of Agriculture) and various laws, as well as the literature on the subject. The author uses the historical and legal research method.

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE OF THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

The establishment of the College of Agriculture at the Jagiellonian University was a response a trend emerging across Europe's higher education establishments, including in Austria-Hungary. Such institutions, especially universities, began to offer forms of training[3] in individual, narrow, and specialized fields. The graduates did not only become specialists and practitioners but obtained qualifications to find employment in administration, schools, or various types of monarchy-controlled enterprises. The Faculty of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University made first efforts to launch a special-purpose training college as early as in the 1880s.[4] However, they encountered substantive and formal obstacles, in particular the insufficient number of qualified teaching staff.[5]

The University was one of the parties applying for the establishment of a training college. The application had to be processed by the Diet of Galicia and Lodomeria and then by the imperial legislature. Franciszek Mycielski, politician, member of the Diet and of the House of Lords of the Imperial Council, undertook to coordinate the project.[6] As a member of the Imperial and Royal Agricultural Society in Krakow, he

[3] M. Pyter, *Swoboda nauczania prawa na uniwersytetach galicyjskich na przełomie XIX i XX w.*, [in:] *Studia prawnicze a rzeczywistość zawodowa*, ed. M. Pyter, Lublin 2009, p. 31.

[4] Regulation of the Minister of Religious Affairs and Education of 1 October 1850 (L 8214 D.P.P. L 370), which, as a result of the Supreme Resolution of 29 September 1850, announces general regulations on studying at university faculties in Vienna, Prague, Lviv, Krakow, Olomouc, Gradek, and Innsbruck, in: *Zbiór ustaw uniwersyteckich, które uczniowie c.k. uniwersytetów z mocy § 17 rozporządzenia Ministerstwa Wyznań i Oświecenia z 1 października 1850 roku L 8214 D.P.P. otrzymują przy immatrykulacji z dodaniem niektórych innych ustaw i przepisów dla młodzieży uniwersyteckiej potrzebnych*, Lwów 1900; Act of 27 April 1871 on the arrangement of university authorities, Journal of Laws no. 63, in: *Zbiór ustaw i rozporządzeń administracyjnych*, ed. J. Piwocki, vol. 6, Lwów 1913, pp. 692–698; Kraków 1890; Archives of Jagiellonian University in Krakow (hereinafter: AJU), WF II 43, Minutes of the meeting of professors of the Faculty of Philosophy held on 23 October 1880, p. 138.

[5] J. Fierich, *Studium Rolnicze (1890–1923). Wydział Rolniczy Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego*, Kraków 1934, p. 1. Nevertheless, the academic community of Krakow and the Agricultural Societies of Krakow, Poznan, and Gostyn were exchanging arguments (mainly through the daily press) on the necessity of establishing a College at the Jagiellonian University. The advocates of the solution pointed to similar successful projects in Halle, Berlin, Vienna, and Dublany.

[6] The figure of Franciszek Mycielski is described in Z. Grot, *Mycielski Franciszek (1832–1901)*, [in:] *Polski słownik biograficzny*, vol. 22, Wrocław 1977, p. 331.

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formally launched the procedure of incorporating a special training programme for farmers into the curriculum of the Jagiellonian University. On 1 October 1888, at a session of the Diet, he tabled a motion calling for the establishment of a Section of Agriculture at the Faculty of Philosophy of the university in Krakow. The motion was passed on 15 January 1889.[7] It is worth noting that both the Galician society and the municipality of Krakow donated some amounts of money and landed property for the purpose of establishing the new educational institution. The Central Management of the Economic Society in Poznan offered a book collection with over a thousand thematic publications and almost a hundred teaching aids for practical classes.[8] In March 1889, the Faculty of Philosophy submitted a detailed organization and financial plan and draft statutes of the future college to the University Senate.[9]

Relevant documents, along with the application of the Faculty and the Senate, were submitted for review to the government consultant and professor at the Agricultural University in Vienna, Adolf Heck.[10] On 18 July 2998, Emperor Franz Joseph I issued a decision on launching the agriculture programme at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University, starting from the academic year 1890/91.[11] The monarch approved the Provisional Statutes on 31 July 1890. The governorate notified the university of the decision in mid-November. First, the Faculty of Philosophy appointed an Agriculture Commission which assumed the organizational effort. First-year students began their course at the College of Agriculture on 1 October 1890. The temporary statutes read that the college is intended as a school, "which would offer young people who wish to pursue the agricultural profession… a dual education opportunity: economic and agricultural, as fundamental to later practice, and administrative and legal, if needed by a farmer-practitioner".[12]

Speaking of the Provisional Statutes of the College, it was defined as follows, "it forms an integral part of the Faculty of Philosophy".[13] For this reason, the teachers and learners[14] were obliged to obey all university and faculty regulations. The course was scheduled to take 3 years. In his announcement on the opening of the College,

[7] J. Fierich, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

[8] *Ibidem*, p. 10.

[9] AJU, WF II 44, Minutes of the Faculty Council 1885/86–1894/95.

[10] J. Fierich, *op. cit.*, p. 10.

[11] Studium Rolnicze. Statut tymczasowy dla Studium Rolniczego w c.k. Uniwersytecie w Krakowie, zatwierdzony Postanowieniem Najwyższym z dnia 31 lipca 1890. (Reskrypt c.k. Ministerstwa W. i O. z d. 8 sierpnia 1890, L 16091), in: *Zbiór ustaw uniwersyteckich…*, pp. 45–48.

[12] § 1 of the Provisional Statutes of the College of Agriculture at the Imperial and Royal University in Krakow, 1890 (published by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education), hereinafter: the Provisional Statutes.

[13] § 1 of the Provisional Statutes.

[14] The relevant Austrian law, as well as the statutes and examination regulations issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education, referred to the College trainees as "learners" (Pol. *uczeń*). The legal acts of independent Poland changed this term to "student" (Pol. *student*).

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Rector Edward Korczyński said that "this is not a free course attached to the existing university programmes, but an organic body of sciences included in a system that (…) provides complete vocational education in the field of agriculture".[15] As for the courses taught, the following were available: life sciences, professional agricultural sciences, legal and political affairs, civil law, social economy, treasury, political law, and administrative law.

A novelty and, in a sense, a hallmark of the College programme, compared to other similar courses at universities across Galicia and the monarchy, was that the curriculum contained legal and political sciences.[16] The University decided to introduce this innovation in response to a proposal made at a session of the Diet of Galicia and Lodomeria by members of the National Economy Committee. The original idea was to educate people who would be aware of their civic obligations.[17]

The first *ex officio* head of the College of Agriculture was the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy Prof. Franciszek Schwarzenberg-Czerny. However, in terms of the programme content, the unit was supervised by Prof. Edward Janczewski. From the academic year 1892/93, Prof. Emil Godlewski, head of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, was nominated director and remained in this position for 16 years.[18] The College director was appointed by the Minister of Education following the relevant recommendation of the professors of the Faculty of Philosophy.[19] The director headed the Agricultural Commission, a collegiate body established within the College structure. According to the Provisional Statutes, this body was tasked with the supervision over formal and programming matters, without overstepping its authority to the detriment of both the faculty dean and individual professors. It was composed of staff members of the College of Agriculture and three members of the Faculty of Philosophy, specializing in fields related to life sciences.[20] As from the academic year 1892/93, new Regulations were enforced to set out the terms of division of competences between the dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and the director of the college.[21] Besides the division of competences, the Regulations de-

[15] AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, Announcement of the Rector on the Commissioning of the College of Agriculture at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, n. pag.

[16] Lectures in law for farmers were offered in agreement with the Faculty of Law and delivered by their professors.

[17] AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, Announcement of the Rector on the Commissioning of the College of Agriculture at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, n. pag.

[18] Uniwersytet Rolniczy im. Hugona Kołłątaja w Krakowie, *Wydział Rolniczo-Ekonomiczny. Historia*, https://wre.urk.edu.pl/index/site/4755 (access: 10.7.2023). On the figure of Emil Godlewski, see I. Krzeptowska-Moszkowicz, *Emil Godlewski senior (1847–1930). Pionier polskiej fizjologii roślin*, "Prace Komisji Historii Nauki PAU" 2010, vol. 10, pp. 153–170.

[19] J. Fierich, *op. cit.*, p. 14.

[20] § 8 of the Provisional Statutes.

[21] AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, Regulations of the division of official duties between the Office of Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and the Director of the College of Agriculture, adopted at the session of the Faculty of Philosophy on 3 March 1893, L. 574.

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fined the rules of categorizing the college learners as ordinary and extraordinary and determined how many extra hours they should do and which lectures they should attend to enjoy the status of a student of the Faculty of Philosophy.[22]

The learners were required to sit (and pass) annual exams to be admitted to the next course year. The exams fell within three categories. Each category consisted of life sciences, practical agricultural sciences, and legal sciences. Candidates were admitted, as was the case with other university students, on the basis of a secondary school-leaving certificate. Each of the three exams covered four subjects. After the first year, the learners were required to take exams in organic and inorganic chemistry, zoology with anatomy and physiology of domestic animals, botany with plant physiology, and Austrian civil law. After year two, they were examined in political economy, agricultural geology with soil sciences, physics, and agricultural engineering. The final exams covered agriculture, animal husbandry, farm management with accounting, Austrian state law, and Austrian administrative law. The exams were taken twice a year. A failed exam required a retake. Failure to pass two exams meant repetition of the year.[23]

It is worth noting that the process of organizing individual departments and hiring specialists in the fields of agriculture, law, and political science was particularly smooth.[24] The first group of teachers were "borrowed" from the Faculty of Medicine of the Jagiellonian University, but some also decided to move to Krakow from the University of Agriculture in Dublany. Legal and political sciences were taught by professors from Krakow and Lviv. Apart from organizing the internal structure of the College, no less important was to obtain teaching aids for practical classes. An experimental field was created in Prądnik near Krakow,[25] as well as a botanical garden.[26] Besides, the College purchased a farm in the village of

[22] *Ibidem*.

[23] J. Fierich, *op. cit.*, p. 14. The first exams were very successful. In his report, the university rector noted that learners who had acquired agricultural, legal, and economic knowledge undoubtedly acquired the scientific fundamentals of education. When assessing the adopted college policy, he said, "We will uphold it with all zeal and diligence, so that it becomes a new tradition at our school" (quoted after *ibidem*, p. 22).

[24] In the early period of operation, the following sections and departments were established: cultivation, animal husbandry, farm management, agricultural chemistry, and agricultural engineering. The structure was gradually extended to include the Veterinary Section and the Section of Plant Anatomy and Physiology. See *ibidem*, p. 24.

[25] In 1901 the property in Prądnik was named the Vegetable and Fruit Garden and the Experimental Field.

[26] In 1891 Edward Janczewski set up a botanical garden for the college. It served as auxiliary facility for the study of garden botany. It was the second botanical garden run by the Jagiellonian University. See I. Krzeptowska-Moszkowicz, *Ogród botaniczno-rolniczy Edwarda Janczewskiego przy Studium Rolniczym Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego w Krakowie jako kolekcja roślin użytkowych*, "Architektura. Czasopismo Techniczne" 2012, vol. 109(30), p. 166.

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Mydlniki and adapted it for research purposes. The funds were provided by the Ministry of Education in Vienna.

The education policy pursued at the College of Agriculture, which also covered the legal and economic domain beyond strictly agricultural knowledge, began to gain recognition, both in the university milieu as well as in the city and the region, as a modern form of special-purpose training. A growth in the number of candidates interested in joining the College was visible. At some point, the College authorities decided to make a few changes that were expected to produce even better results and would bring the College closer to being transformed into an independent university programme in the future.

The formal and organizational changes were made in 1909. New departments were established, extra teachers were hired, and the overall educational and research offer was broadened. A four-year course was introduced. The reorganization project was consulted with scholars and practitioners.[27] The survey, which was considered an innovative and professional marketing tool at that time, helped collect information that made the project viable. In a 1908 letter to the Imperial and Royal Ministry of Education, the authorities of the Jagiellonian University emphasized that their special-purpose education was in line with current European trends. The reorganization was also motivated by teaching and research considerations. The authors of the letter stressed that the University had an ambition to train top-level specialists.[28] In general, the College governance were still guided by the same founding principle: to train not only future farmers but future specialists in various farming and breeding activities. They should be pioneers of agricultural progress in the country; should have skills to make their farms more specialized; and, as well-educated theoreticians, they should be able to provide expert guidance to other people.[29] Such a careful combination of theoretical and practical training was expected to breed a new generation of research staff and lead to the modernization of farms.[30]

Together with the authorities of the Faculty of Philosophy, the College directorship endeavored to expand the programme to 4 years. They pointed out that special-purpose training required more time, especially learner's autonomous work. They also argued that the most effective classes were those selected by learners on their own and not imposed by the system. Such an approach was to guarantee the desired effects of selected specialization. No doubt the proposed four-year pro-

[27] A detailed description of the survey, along with the answers, is provided by one of the college professors, Walerian Klecki. See W. Klecki, *Sprawa wyższego wykształcenia rolniczego w świetle poglądów naszych rolników: na podstawie materiału zebranego za pomocą ankiety przeprowadzonej przez Wydział Towarzystwa dla Popierania Polskiej Nauki Rolnictwa*, Kraków 1905.

[28] AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, I&R Ministry, Research Plan, n. pag.

[29] *Ibidem*.

[30] Cf. E. Godlewski, *O naukowych potrzebach polskiego rolnictwa. Odczyt wypowiedziany dnia 4 kwietnia na Walnym Zgromadzeniu Towarzystwa Rolniczego Krakowskiego*, Kraków 1906.

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gramme was intended to make the College offer resemble the university education of the time. The proposed changes were to result in greater freedom in the choice of classes. In order to further narrow down the chosen specialization, the College learners were able to apply to the Agricultural Commission for exemption from some of the obligatory classes and lectures.[31]

Ministry's reply to the letter of the College authorities came in July 1910. The Ministry allowed that any necessary documentation be submitted for the launch of the reform. The Faculty of Philosophy sent to the Ministry a draft of the amended statutes, along with a new curriculum and a new division into departments.[32] Ultimately, the revised statutes and teaching and examination regulations were made public by the regulation of the Minister of Religious Affairs and Education on 12 May 1912.[33] Importantly, the Viennese authorities approved all the proposals of the authorities of the university in Krakow, and the College began to operate in a new form.[34]

Another novelty was the requirement for College learners to pen a final thesis. It was a prerequisite for earning a diploma certifying the completion of the programme. The thesis was intended as a minor scientific contribution to confirm the skill of critical thinking and acquired knowledge. The College statutes also contained a revised list of courses. Some new ones were added to the curriculum, some were removed, and some just changed their position on the course list.[35] The option of earning a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Philosophy after graduation was also maintained.[36] A graduate in agriculture holding a PhD was able to pursue a career at higher echelons of administration. After 1910 specialist training at the College of Agriculture began to include internships. An Internship Commission was appointed to manage internships of not only the Krakow learners but also of those at the Agricultural Academy in Dublany and the Agricultural School in Czernichów.[37]

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[31] J. Fierich, *op. cit.*, p. 70.

[32] AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, I&R Governorship, L. 185 of 26 November 1910, n. pag.

[33] Regulation of the Minister of Religious Affairs and Education of 12 May 1912 (Journal of Laws of 23 May 1912, no. 99). The reformers began to implement their new strategy even before it was officially approved by the I&R Ministry, i.e. in 1911. It was possible thanks to an oral go-ahead that the College director Walerian Klecki received from the Ministry.

[34] Cf. AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, The Statutes of the College of Agriculture of the Imperial and Royal University in Krakow, n. pag.

[35] For example, extra farm organization, economics, and accounting course hours were added to broaden specialist knowledge. See § 6 of the Rules of learning and exams at the Agricultural College in C.R. University of Krakow (in: K. Kumaniecki, *Zbiór najważniejszych przepisów uniwersyteckich*, Kraków 1913, pp. 455–565).

[36] Cf. Regulation of the Minister of Religious Affairs and Education of 16 March 1899 (L. 56, Journal of Regulations of the Minister of Religious Affairs and Education, which is issued with the revised Order of exact examinations at the Philosophical Faculties of the universities of the kingdoms and countries represented in the Council of State), in: *Zbiór ustaw uniwersyteckich, które uczniowie…*, p. 166. See also AJU, WF II 47, Minutes of the Faculty Council 1911/12–1917/18.

[37] *Kształcenie praktyczne młodzieży rolniczej*, Kraków 1913.

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Once introduced, the new solutions were positively welcomed by the academic community and practitioners. The special-purpose training was believed to "develop the sense of perception, improve focus, improve the logic of drawing conclusions, invariably prevent abstract deductions, which often come easy when no real items covered in a lecture can be observed right away in reality".[38]

Ultimately, World War I thwarted the plans to complete the reform and launch the fourth year of studies. Many learners were forced to join the army, the professors left the city, and the College building was adapted to accommodate Austrian troops.[39] After a one-year break, the courses resumed.[40] The outbreak of the war caused a significant depletion in the number of learners, some of whom moved to the Agricultural University in Vienna or took up studies at the Industrial and Agricultural School in Warsaw. The courses resumed in a new shape (after the reform) no earlier than in the academic year 1915/16.[41]

The war damage, including of the College facilities, the botanical garden, and the experimental stations, made the director write to the Diet Club and Committee to request the imperial parliament and government to support the College by donating necessary funds. The funds were to cover teaching personnel's salaries, new jobs, the purchase of exhibits, a book collection, and the refurbishment of the building to serve teaching purposes again. As the director of the College of Agricultural reported, "unfortunately, none of the requests listed in the letter has been satisfied to date, although we have limited them to the most essential ones".[42] In the period from 1916 to 1918, the College of Agriculture enjoyed only a relative stability. The long-awaited moment of regaining independence by Poland coincided with the conscription of the academic youth into the Polish army. As a result, lectures and other classes at the College were suspended. After a six-month break, the courses re-started, and the programme was modified in such a way as to enable the learners to gain credits for the entire academic year.

[38] K. Rogoyski, *O wykształceniu praktycznym rolników*, Warszawa 1912, p. 3.

[39] The College of Agriculture was housed in a new building of Collegium Agronomicum completed in 1912. See W. Klecki, *Studium Rolnicze UJ w Krakowie*, "Czas" 1912, no. 107.

[40] In an announcement published in the press, the authorities of the Jagiellonian University inquired how many people would be ready to enroll for individual courses at the university faculties.

[41] J. Fierich, *op. cit.*, p. 73.

[42] AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, Director's Report Submitted to the Diet Club and Committee, [no date], n. pag.

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THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE REALITY OF INDEPENDENT POLAND

On 3 November 1918, the Section of Science and Schools of Higher Education of the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment in Warsaw (the MRDPE) submitted the following notification to the Senate of the Jagiellonian University, "As from 31 October 1918, the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, along with the Grand Duchy of Krakow, is no longer subject to the supreme authority of the Austrian government in Vienna and becomes subject to the authority of the Polish government in Warsaw. Consequently, the Jagiellonian University is falling under the supreme authority of the Polish government".[43] A week later, this information reached the director of the College of Agriculture.[44]

Due to the fact that it was the first time that the general education at the Jagiellonian University, including the College of Agriculture, had received such official information, it was regarded as temporary. Besides, the Ministry decided that all the past legal instruments governing the University operation were to remain in full force. If there had been a need for any changes, a relevant request should be submitted to the MRDPE. The University authorities at all levels were instructed to continue to perform their duties as before. The only changes applied to the approval of *veniam legendi*. Due to the new structure of the central administration of the Polish state, the power of approval of academic degrees was temporarily transferred to the Senate of the Jagiellonian University. Moreover, the Polish Ministry of Treasury, in agreement with the MRDPE, was obliged to fund the university.[45]

This state of transition continued for a few more years. The first global changes were made under the 1920 Higher Education Establishments Act.[46] It set out new enrolment rules for the College of Agriculture. The division into ordinary and extraordinary learners was abolished. From then on, first-year attendees were given the status of students or auditors. Enrolment was open to graduates of general

[43] AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment, Section of Science and Schools of Higher Education in Warsaw, 3 November 1918, no. 32390, n. pag.

[44] AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, Senate of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow to the Director of the College of Agriculture, 9 November 1918, L. 2006, n. pag.

[45] AJU, SR 5, College of Agriculture, Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment, Section of Science and Schools of Higher Education in Warsaw, 3 November 1918, no. 32390, n. pag.

[46] Act of 13 July 1920 on higher education establishments (Journal of Laws 1920, no. 72, item 494), hereinafter: AHEE. The Act did not refer directly to the College of Agriculture. However, its preamble mentioned this type of institutions: "(…) the task of academic schools is also to prepare young people to take up practical professions which require the scientific acquisition of various fields of knowledge and an independent judgment about theoretical and practical issues that fall within their scope".

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secondary schools and not real or junior high schools as before.[47] The academic year was divided into three trimesters.[48]

An important and much-debated issue was the terms of awarding the proper academic title after the completion of the College programme. According to applicable law, after the four-year course, students were allowed to apply for a doctoral degree (Doctor of Philosophy). The thesis was to cover one of special agricultural skills. Depending on the choice, the relevant agricultural subject was included in the doctoral examination.[49] The question of awarding a title to graduates who were not interested in pursuing a doctoral path caused serious disputes and discussions beginning with the academic year 1917/18. While under the authority of the Austrian legislation, the College of Agriculture was authorized to award the title of engineer. The legal basis was the 1917 Austrian law that offered all graduates of technical schools, among them the Krakow College, the aforesaid title.[50]

However, the governance of the College of Agriculture did not confer it, arguing that this would violate the principle of university autonomy. The problem had not been resolved until the first legislation of independent Poland provided a solution. In November 1921, the College's Agricultural Commission proposed that students who submitted the final thesis be granted the title of a certified farmer. The remaining students were to be conferred a master's degree. The latter complained to the authorities, demanding the title of engineer. Michał Rostworowski, professor of the Faculty of Law of the Jagiellonian University, was requested to offer a solution. He recommended that the College graduates be named agricultural engineers. All those who completed their College education before October 1924 had "the scientific title of agricultural engineer" written on their diplomas. In the following years, the graduates were required to submit an exam thesis to earn the title.[51]

The College governance were aware that the institution needed to respond to the needs of the reborn country. First reform plans were drafted at the beginning of 1921. The main goal of the Agricultural Commission was to further narrow the existing specializations. No less important was to enable students from other universities and research institutions to move to and study at the College of Agriculture in Krakow and vice versa. After a few months, in June 1922, a transformation plan was ready and submitted to the MRDPE. It was approved in the same month.[52]

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[47] Article 85 AHEE.

[48] Article 83 AHEE.

[49] K. Kumaniecki, *Zarys prawa administracyjnego na ziemiach polski. Administracja szkolna*, Kraków 1920, p. 121.

[50] J. Fierich, *op. cit.*, p. 99.

[51] *Ibidem*, p. 100.

[52] It is interesting that the MRDPE added a teaching specialization to the existing agricultural subjects. The purpose was to train the teachers of agriculture to work in the rapidly developing system of vocational agricultural education.

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While the reform was still in progress, opinions that the College of Agriculture should be separated from the structure of the Faculty of Philosophy were not uncommon. The Faculty of Philosophy was the sponsor of this idea. The Faculty authorities argued that the operation of the College, as well as similar institutions, with the Faculty structure did not facilitate efficient management. One of the largest units at the Jagiellonian University, the Faculty of Philosophy, was overwhelmed with work and responsibilities, and the administration of the College was regarded as yet another formality. In mid-1922, the Faculty authorities expressed an opinion that the College of Agriculture was operating at such a high level of efficiency that it should become a fifth, independent faculty of the Jagiellonian University.[53] Initially, the College leadership opposed this solution. Operating with the faculty structure meant access to the faculty facilities and infrastructure. Some new solutions emerged soon. One of them was to divide the Faculty of Philosophy into the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Life and Agricultural Sciences.[54] Another idea was to create an Agricultural Section within the Faculty of Philosophy. The College managing authority, the Agricultural Commission, finally decided to transform the unit into an independent Faculty of Agriculture. However, it required the immediate establishment of such a number of departments that would make the organizational structure of the new faculty relatively stable. The College wished to keep the departments that it had created independently, and which were now part of the Faculty of Philosophy. If the Faculty had been negative about the proposal, the authorities of the College of Agriculture would have opted for its complete dissolution.[55]

In May 1923, after a resolution of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy to remove the College of Agriculture from the Faculty structure but without any of the existing departments, all the College professors, and some of the Faculty members, registered a *votum separatum*. The dispute was resolved amicably: the College separated from the Faculty of Philosophy with two departments to form the Faculty of Agriculture. The leadership of the Faculty of Philosophy were obliged to ensure that the departments and all teaching aids that had served the College before were still at its disposal. In turn, the Faculty of Philosophy was able to enjoy access to the departments and sections of the newly established Faculty of Agriculture.[56]

The College of Agriculture was transformed into the Faculty of Agriculture on 15 September 1923.[57] The decision to separate the College from the Faculty of Philosophy had been contemplated for more than a year. Finally, the Faculty itself

[53] J. Fierich, *op. cit.*, p. 114.

[54] AJU, WF II 48, Minutes of the Faculty Council 1918/19–1924/25.

[55] J. Fierich, *op. cit.*, p. 115.

[56] *Ibidem*, p. 116.

[57] The provisions of the statutes of 1912, which were incompatible with the regulation establishing the new faculty, were repealed.

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initiated the separation procedure. The new faculty was established under a regulation of the Minister of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment dated 18 August 1923.[58] The regulation provided that the entire structure of the College of Agriculture be transferred to the new unit. Individuals wishing to earn a doctoral degree were able to do so under the terms in force at the Faculty of Philosophy until separate regulations were put in place.[59]

Following this legal act, on 9 January 1924, the MRDPE and the Ministry of Agriculture issued a regulation approving the programme and examination regulations of the new faculty.[60] Ultimately, the newly established university unit acquired more than ten departments, six of which were created anew. The Faculty authorities were appointed, and the first meeting of the Council of the Faculty of Agriculture was held on 15 September.

CONCLUSIONS

Specialist training available for farmers was one of the types of special-purpose education. A number of university establishments subject to the Austro-Hungarian legislation designed such programmes in their curricula. The Jagiellonian University was among them, and it offered this type of training across several fields of study. In the academic year 1890/91, the university in Krakow launched special-purpose education courses for individuals pursuing or intending to pursue the farming profession. Organized within the College of Agriculture, the teaching strategy was governed by the Austrian legislation, which imposed a general programming framework. The College was able to tailor its programme and requirements to the economic and social realities of 19th-century Galicia owing to its statutes. It should be noted that in that period the economically backward region needed well-educated and professional farmers who would be able to set up and run farms effectively. This idea remained the number one priority when Poland regained independence in 1918. The legislation of reborn Poland, especially ordinances and regulations, placed an even greater emphasis on developing specializations in agriculture. After completing the course at the College of Agriculture, the graduates were in a position to apply for a doctoral degree (Doctor of Philosophy) to take up research work or choose a career at various levels of state administration.

[58] Regulation of the Minister of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment of 18 August 1923 establishing the Faculty of Agriculture at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow (Journal of Laws of the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment 1923, no. 18, item 158), hereinafter: REFA.

[59] § 3 REFA.

[60] Records regarding the Faculty of Agriculture are available in the files of the AJU, WR 1-200.

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When reviewing both the Austrian legislation, as well as domestic and internal University regulations, the College of Agriculture can be certainly said to have been a very original institution with its own teaching programme, own educational infrastructure, and a carefully designed organizational structure. Of significance was that some of the subjects taught were law and economics. The College boasted a modern curriculum and aimed to attract law students, mainly from landowner families, who might be interested in acquiring specialist education to manage their family estates professionally. The College trained first agriculture managers. The elite character of the College was also emphasized by its impressive infrastructure: apart from the College departments, it also operated experimental auxiliary sections and laboratories and ran its own botanical garden.

Apart from teaching, the staff of the College of Agriculture undertook numerous projects and initiatives aimed to improve the quality of agricultural production in Galicia. They collaborated with farmers and practitioners associated in the Agricultural Society of Krakow and rendered consulting services for every institution that requested it. The College also taught courses for teachers from vocational schools of agriculture. The College published a journal, "Roczniki Nauk Rolniczych" ("The Yearbooks of Agricultural Sciences"). It cooperated with the Academy of Learning, and its professors co-authored *Encyklopedia rolnicza* (*The Agricultural Encyclopaedia*). Internships were made available, and cooperation was established with the Society of Landowner Clubs.

Both under Austrian rule as well as after Poland regained independence in 1918, i.e. in two distinct legal systems, the College of Agriculture grew and developed dynamically. Therefore, it should be no surprise that efforts were made to make it independent from the Faculty of Philosophy as a separate university unit. The Faculty of Agriculture was established in 1923, but it did not start from nothing: the teaching staff and infrastructure were already there, inherited from the outgoing College institution. The College learners obtained the status of students of the Faculty of Agriculture of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

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ABSTRAKT

Przedmiotem artykułu jest kształcenie specjalistów w zakresie rolnictwa na przykładzie Studium Rolniczego działającego na Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim w Krakowie. Celem jest przedstawienie organizacji i działalności Studium w relacji do zasad prawnych, które je regulowały. Tekst został podzielony na dwie części. Pierwsza dotyczy okresu od organizacji Studium (tj. od końca XIX w.) do zakończenia I wojny światowej, kiedy to krakowska uczelnia pozostawała pod protektoratem c.k. Ministerstwa Wyznań i Oświaty w Wiedniu. Drugą część poświęcono Studium Rolniczemu funkcjonującemu po odzyskaniu niepodległości. W wyniku badań ustalono, że Studium stanowiło oryginalne i nowatorskie rozwiązania w zakresie szkolnictwa wyższego. Programy nauczania, zarówno austro-węgierskie, jak i rodzime, dawały gwarancję w pełni profesjonalnego wykształcenia. Novum stanowił fakt, że specjaliści otrzymywali wykształcenie także w zakresie prawa, nauk politycznych, ekonomii i zarządzania, co pozwalało na kreowanie nowoczesnych menedżerów rolnictwa. Wnioski te mają wartość poznawczą dla nauki i zarazem przesądzają o oryginalności badań. Ze względu na obszar badań, jakim jest system szkolnictwa wyższego, mają one zasięg międzynarodowy.

Słowa kluczowe: kształcenie specjalistyczne; Studium Rolnicze; Uniwersytet Jagielloński; rolnictwo