

**Bradford Durfee College of Technology,
Board of Trustees and Committee
Minutes and Correspondence, 1899-1964**

**University Records Collection - URC 2
Guide and Collection Inventory**

3.4 linear feet

(5 bound volumes, 3 of ledger-size; 2 slip-case binders and 2 manuscript boxes)

Administrative background: In 1895 the Honorable Samuel Ross, member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Court and a prominent New Bedford resident, helped sponsor a bill that authorized the creation of three state textile schools in Massachusetts, in the cities of New Bedford, Fall River and Lowell. The result was the establishment, over the next 9 years, of Bradford Durfee Textile School in Fall River (1904), the New Bedford Textile School (1899), and the Lowell Textile School (1895). Although the Bradford Durfee Textile School was chartered in 1895 and incorporated in 1899, it did not open its doors until 1904, when the first building was finally completed on the corner of Durfee and Bank streets in downtown Fall River (see **URC 12** for a more detailed chronology of the various buildings that made up the school over the years). The city of Fall River raised \$35,000 to match funds from the Commonwealth for its construction. The first class consisted of 5 day and 163 evening students. Four options were offered: a 3-year diploma course in General Cotton Manufacturing, and 2-year diploma courses in Designing and Weaving and in Chemistry and Dyeing. Over time the certificate courses were extended to 3 years and a course in Mechanical Engineering was added. In 1946 the school name changed to Bradford Durfee Technical Institute and in 1947 the school was authorized for the first time to award the bachelor of Science degree. The name of the school changed again in 1958 to the Bradford Durfee College of Technology to reflect its status as a college with a 4-year curriculum (non-degree granting schools with less than 4-year curricula were known as technical institutes).

In 1960 it merged with the New Bedford Institute of Technology to form SMTI (Southeastern Massachusetts Technological Institute), which was later renamed SMU (Southeastern Massachusetts University). The trustees of both schools maintained separate campuses in New Bedford and Fall River until the present facility in North Dartmouth was completed in 1964. The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth still maintains both buildings in downtown New Bedford.

See **URC 1** for the records of the Trustees of the New Bedford Institute of Technology and **URC 3** for the records of the Board of Trustees of SMTI and SMU.

Scope and Contents Note: The collection consists of Board of Trustee and Trustee committee meeting minutes, 1899-1964, some bound and others unbound, arranged chronologically, as well as Trustee correspondence, 1918-1964. The minutes for 1927-1931 are missing. The correspondence is indexed but the minutes are not. The Teaching Committee minutes exist only as photocopies of the originals; the location of the originals is not known, although they were apparently stamped "SMU Archives" at some point in time.

Acquisition: retrospective.

Access: The collection is public record and unrestricted, with the exception of personal information per exemptions, outlined in the Massachusetts Public Records Law.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from the collection should be discussed with the University Archivist.

Citation: *Bradford Durfee College of Technology, Board of Trustees and Committee Minutes and Correspondence, 1899-1964*, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Archives and Special Collections.

Processing note: Finding aid by Judy Farrar, July 1998. Originally catalogued as BDTS4.

Item list

Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes:

Volume 1	Bradford Durfee Textile School, Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1899-1908
Volume 2	“ “ “ Minutes, 1909-1917 (Minutes, 1918-1926 are in volume 6)
Volume 3	“ “ “ Minutes, 1932-1944
Volume 4	Bradford Durfee Technical Institute, Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1946-1957
Volume 5	Bradford Durfee College of Technology, Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1957-1961
Box 1, Folder 1	“ “ “ Minutes, 1962-1963
Box 1, Folder 2	“ “ “ Minutes, 1963-1964

Board of Trustee Committees:

Volume 6	Teaching Committee Minutes and Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1918-1926
Volume 7	Teaching Committee Minutes, 1927-1932
Box 1, Folder 3	Committees, Minutes, 1947-1952
Folder 4	Committees, Minutes, 1953-1964
Folder 5	Building Committee Minutes, 1947-1964
Folder 6	Finance Committee, Minutes, 1947-1964
Folder 7	Scholarship Committee, Minutes, 1948-1964

Board of Trustee Correspondence:

Box 2, Folder 8	Index to Correspondence, 1918-1945
Folder 9	Correspondence, 1918-1925
Folder 10	Correspondence, 1925-1933
Folder 11	Correspondence, 1933-1940
Folder 12	Correspondence, 1940-1944
Folder 13	Correspondence, 1943-1958
Folder 14	Correspondence, 1960-1964