

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, December 30, 1931.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled.*

In accordance with section 6 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as amended by chapter 51 of the Acts of 1923 and by chapter 170 of the Acts of 1924, the Department of Education transmits herewith the petition and accompanying bill of C. Ruggles Smith, John M. Russell, George P. Tilton, H. F. Whittemore of Boston, Patrick H. Duane of Waltham, and Francis S. Sears of Weston, for authority for the University of Massachusetts, Inc., to grant the degree of Bachelor of Science.

The petition of the University of Massachusetts for the right to grant the degree of Bachelor of Science appears to call for a somewhat extended statement.

The University of Massachusetts is described by the petitioners as a premedical school offering a two-year premedical course, with the requirements for admission covering the satisfactory completion of a high school course. The petitioners desire to extend the course of the University of Massachusetts to three years and to give the degree of Bachelor of Science. This degree, it is intended, shall be given after one additional year shall have been completed satisfactorily at the Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery.

The University of Massachusetts was incorporated in August, 1917, under the general incorporation act. It did not derive its charter from a special act of the Legislature. The catalogue of the University of Massa-

chusetts, which is incorporated in the same bulletin with the catalogue of the Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery, includes a faculty of eleven members, some of whose names also appear as members of the faculty of the Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery. Only seven or eight members of the faculty appear to give full time to instruction within the University of Massachusetts.

Two pages of the joint catalogue of the University of Massachusetts and the Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery are devoted to descriptive information of the first-named institution.

The catalogue does not describe in detail the courses offered by the University. It lists as prescribed subjects "Chemistry, Physics, Biology, English, French or German, Latin and Greek derivatives, Anatomy, and Physiology." It states that, in addition to classroom instruction in these subjects, "students are required to complete a series of laboratory courses in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology, including Protozoology and Comparative Anatomy."

The tuition and other charges to students in the University of Massachusetts are stated by the catalogue to be \$250 a year, with additional charges for books and equipment amounting approximately to \$40 a year.

The University of Massachusetts, by statement of the treasurer, has funds as follows:

Trust fund from sale of building and land, 415 Newbury Street, Boston . . . . .	\$65,000
Trust fund from gifts of alumni and friends . . . . .	125,000
In bank . . . . .	4,500
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Total . . . . .	\$194,500

The University of Massachusetts appears to receive annually from student fees approximately \$16,000. It pays annually faculty salaries of approximately \$11,000. The University, apparently, owns no property, but makes use of the facilities offered, probably without cost, by the Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery.

It is to be noted that the bill and petition for giving to the University of Massachusetts the right to grant the degree of Bachelor of Science indicate that it is the intention of the University of Massachusetts to offer its work, and to award its degrees, in co-operation with the Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery. The University of Massachusetts does not contemplate, for the present at least, the extension of its own course for the Bachelor of Science degree beyond three years.

In connection with this bill and petition, it seems important to call attention to the fact that the University of Massachusetts appears to be the only institution in this country carrying the name of a state, which is not conducted directly under state auspices or has been directly chartered by the legislature of the state.

The University of Massachusetts does not have at all the scope of a university in the common understanding of that term. In fact, the term "college" could not be appropriately applied to an institution so limited in buildings and equipment, in financial resources, or in the scope of its educational work.

The Department recommends that the bill and petition of the University of Massachusetts to grant the Bachelor of Science degree be not approved. Further, the Department recommends that the Legislature take whatever steps it may consider necessary to inquire into the propriety of permitting the University of Massachusetts to continue to use its present name.

Very truly yours,

PAYSON SMITH,

*Commissioner of Education.*

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Petition of C. Ruggles Smith and others that the University of Massachusetts, Inc., be authorized to confer the degree of bachelor of science. Education.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Two.

An Act authorizing the University of Massachusetts, Inc., to grant the Degree of Bachelor of Science.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The University of Massachusetts, Inc.,  
2 a corporation organized under the general laws of  
3 the commonwealth in nineteen hundred and seven-  
4 teen, is hereby authorized to confer the degree of  
5 bachelor of science on such of its graduates as are  
6 properly accredited and recognized by the majority  
7 of its trustees.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its  
2 passage.