

for 18/9/86

PROFESSOR J W BROMMERT

COUNCIL MEETING - 18 SEPTEMBER 1986

(The Chairman will call on Dr Henderson to say a few words on the occasion of Professor Brommert's retirement)

I have known Professor Brommert for the past 25 years because it was in 1962 that I rejoined the staff of the University of Witwatersrand. Professor Brommert was then a senior lecturer having begun working at Wits as a Graduate Assistant in 1945. Our association has been a long and a happy one and I am privileged to have this opportunity of formally saying farewell on behalf of all of us.

In August 1977 I counted myself very fortunate when Wladimir Brommert was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal at Rhodes. In the event it was not only I who was fortunate but so too was this Council and this University.

Over the past nine years Professor Brommert has ~~managed~~ *played his part in the management* the ~~administrative side~~ of the University with the quiet competence that was expected of him and he has left his mark in a number of different areas. Those I recall to-day are the major ones. For example, he was the Chairman of the Quad 11 Control Committee and it was this Committee which brought to a successful conclusion the biggest project that had been tackled by the university for more than a decade. As chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on sport policy he has played a significant roll in ensuring that the sporting

facilities at Rhodes were up-graded thereby paving the way for the establishment of the new sports bursary and professional coaching schemes.

Another area which earned Professor Brommert's support was the Department of Music and its Chamber Choir. Through his interest and through recognition of the choir's ambassadorial potential great strides were made. Today the buildings, the equipment and the choir are of a very high standard.

Of course, Professor Brommert's love of music was well known. For some years he was Chairman of the Grahamstown Music Society and only resigned because of the pressure of work at the University.

When I came to write down these thoughts, I realised I could not possibly cover everything and must leave for another day mention of Professor Brommert's roll in supporting the Tick Research Unit and his service to the University of the Transkei. Nor can I tell you about his role as the Chairman of the Boards of Control of four Institutes and Units including ISEA and the Centre for Social Development.

Gentlemen, it is quite clear that we owe a great debt of gratitude to Professor Brommert, a man of humility, consideration and personal commitment to that in which he believed.

Professor Brommert, on behalf of us all, I wish you a long and a

happy retirment and please remember you will always be most welcome
at Rhodes.

CJE/JEM

9 September 1986