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Sanoian Special Collections Library

Henry Madden Library
Fresno, California

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Harold H. Haak Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1954-1997
Creator: Haak, Harold H., 1935-
Extent: 3.75 linear feet
Repository: Henry Madden Library (California State University, Fresno).
Sanoian Special Collections Library.
Fresno, California
Language: English.

Acquisition
The papers were donated by Harold Haak in 1997.

Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright has been transferred to California State University, Fresno.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Harold H. Haak Papers, Sanoian Special Collections Library, California State University, Fresno.

Biography
Harold H. Haak was born on June 1, 1935 in Madison, Wisconsin. He received a bachelor of arts degree at the University of Wisconsin in political science and later an M.A. in 1958. Haak went on to receive a Ph.D. from Princeton University. He was hired as an assistant professor at San Diego State University where he became an associate professor of political science, teaching from 1962 to 1969. Haak also served as Dean of Public Administration and Urban Studies at San Diego. He left his position in 1971 to become the Vice President for Academic Affairs at California State University, Fresno (CSUF). Two years later Haak became the vice president (in 1974 the position was designated as chancellor) of the newly named University of Colorado at Denver (UCD). Haak helped to shape and define the university and its role in the innovative Auraria Higher Education Center (a shared campus for three separate institutions). His efforts were recognized in 1980...
when he was awarded the University of Colorado Medal. Haak served six and a half years in Colorado until he returned to Fresno as president of the university.

Haak’s presidency spanned eleven and a half years, from 1980 to 1991. Haak served on various committees, both academic and public service. He was voted one of Fresno’s most powerful people in 1990. He stepped down as president in 1991. From 1992 to 1993, Haak served as Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the California State University system on an interim basis.

In 1993 Haak returned to Fresno to teach political science at CSUF.

**Scope and Content**

The Harold H. Haak papers measure 3.75 linear feet and date from 1954 to 1997. The collection is arranged in two series: Personal and Professional. The bulk of the collection chronicles Haak’s abiding interest in organizational behavior and career in administration. Haak has annotated the sections within the collection that needed the context of his involvement and its significance explained.

Photographs of Haak and his wife along with letters from colleagues can be found in the Personal series (1954-1971, 1985-1996). There is much biographical information in the applications and vitas. The ROTC folder deals with Haak’s experience as a cadet in 1954, during the height of McCarthyism, whose uniform was taken away because he once knew someone later investigated by the FBI.

Most of the materials relating to Haak’s Professional career (1962-1997) are arranged chronologically by the different phases in his career and begin with his professorship at San Diego State University from 1961 to 1971. Only the two sections at the end, Collective bargaining and Written work, do not follow the chronological sequence. The substance of this series focuses on his presidency at CSUF. Haak’s impact on the university is noted in the presidential evaluations.

Haak’s efforts in the area of athletics was highly visible. He wrote an article on strategies for managing a successful athletic program in “Athletics: Presidential Problem and Prospects,” published in 1990 (Professional, Written work, Published articles, 1985, 1988 and undated). Haak had encountered various problems of this nature as the newly appointed president of CSUF.

Throughout his career as a faculty leader and an academic administrator, Haak has been an ardent proponent of “shared governance” and “collegiality” and wrote extensively on the implications of collective bargaining for higher education.

In addition to his published work, of which many are articles, Haak wrote two fictional narratives. *Parable of a President* and *Victim to Victor* chronicle the trials and tribulations of a fictional university president, Hubert Jones. The two books were well received among Haak’s peers and their comments are filed under the heading Professional, Written work, Correspondence, 1969, 1980-1989.

**Printed Works by Haak in the University Archives**

*Congress and the Politics of Personnel* (1963)
*Parable of a President* (1982)
*Uptight Management* (1987)
*Victim to Victor: A Year in the Life of a University President* (1988) [various articles by Haak in the faculty authors collection]

Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration: Haak presided over the celebration and is featured on the videocassette [housed in University Archives with the 75th Anniversary materials].

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**Personal**

**Box Box 1**

- Applications, 1962, 1971
- Letters, 1985-1996
- ROTC, 1954 and undated
- Photographs, undated
- Vitas, undated

**Professional**

**Box Box 1**

- San Diego State College, 1966-1971 (2 folders)
- Academic Senate of the California State Colleges, 1968-1969
- University of Colorado at Denver
  - Meeting notes, 1980 and undated
Professional

Reports/statements, 1978-1979 and undated
University medal, 1980
California State University, Fresno
Academic Vice President
  General, 1971-1973
  McConnell Report, 1971 and undated
Commission on California Agriculture and Higher Education, 1993-1995
President
  Appointment books
    1981-1984 (7 folders)
    1985-1992 (12 folders)
  Articles, 1980-1991
Athletics
  Memoranda and correspondence, 1980-1986
  Photograph, undated
  Reports/statements, 1981-1990 and undated
Budget cuts, 1980 and undated
Commission on fund raising report, 1988
Faculty grievances, 1984-1986
Letters, 1981-1991 and undated
  Presidential evaluations
    1986 (2 folders)
    1989
  Resignation
    Letters, 1990
    Newspaper clippings, 1990
  Tenth anniversary celebration, 1990
Speeches
  General, 1980 and undated (2 folders)
  Academic Assembly, 1980-1990 and undated
  Affirmative action, undated
University activities
  Armenian project, 1995 (2 folders)
  Coombs Committee, 1988-1991
  Governance and collegiality ad hoc committee, 1984-1985
  National Agribusiness Education Commission, 1988-1989
  Pacific Rim Institute, 1992, 1994, 1995
Review committees
  Presidential
    Kean College, 1993
    York College, 1995
  Directorial
    1992
    1995
Teaching
  Lecture notes, undated
    Folders 1-2
    Folders 3-5
California State University Chancellor's Office, 1992-1993 (2 folders)
Collective bargaining
  Academic Senate of the California State Colleges, 1967-1971
  Colorado, 1974-1975
  San Diego State College, 1966-1970
Written work
Correspondence, 1969, 1980-1989
Interviews for dissertation, 1962
Published articles, 1985, 1988 and undated
Unpublished, undated