

Charles F. Watson

1926

1949

A respected faculty member and administrator, Charles F. Watson, chair of the geography department, director of education and chairman of the faculty, served the campus twice as acting president upon the deaths of John F. Sims in 1926 and Ernest T. Smith in 1940.

A Wisconsin native, Watson began his career as a high school teacher and principal. After studying geology at the University of Chicago, he taught at Drury College, Springfield, Mo., and at Indiana Normal School, Indiana Pa.. He came to Stevens Point Normal School in 1913 as head of geography and assistant football coach. In 1919 he directed the grammar department and in 1921 he became the director of education. In 1928 he completed a master's degree in geography at the University of Chicago.

Watson's first tenure as acting president was for several months in 1926 upon the death of John F. Sims following gall bladder surgery. Sims had led the campus for 20 years prior to his death. Watson's second term was for a short period replacing Ernest T. Smith, who only served about a month before his death from a bronchial ailment.

At the time of Watson's retirement in 1946, he served as director of education and as a geography instructor. He died in 1954.