

1.
Report before the College
Equal Suffrage League at the
Washington Conference - April 16.

The Sigma Tau Chapter.

The membership of the S.T.C.
for the year 1909-1910 is
 $\begin{matrix} 131 \\ +51 \end{matrix}$ full members, and

20 freshmen & associate
members ~~of~~. ^{a total of 151} An increase
over last year of 33.

This means more than
just appears because
each year we lose our
senior class and have
to make up the loss of
the senior suffragists who
form the largest part of
our chapter. <sup>our actual net
over last yr is 70</sup>

I have tabulated the
chapter to show the very
interesting increase in
numbers ^{Freshmen} from the Juniors
to the Senior year. (see back).

- 19% of the Freshman
 - 34.8% — Sophomores.
 - 51.3% — Juniors
 - 60.0% — Seniors
- are suffragist.

(2) It is a very remarkable thing
that only 11 out of the gradual set
of 80 or 13.7% are suffragists
15 out of 40 women members of
the staff of the college have joined
the S.W.C. but a great many of them
belong to the larger State League
he started the suffrage work
this year in the usual manner,
by passing papers round the
dinner halls to be signed by those
who wished to join the League, &
also passing papers for signature
on the bulletin board. At the
same time we sent write to each
woman member of the faculty back
if she wished to join the League
we got in this way with ca
100 members. The higher
officers held meetings for the
Treatment of Anti-Suffragists in
each hall. We took a differ-
ent hall each night & had
the meeting unimpaired after dinner.
We divided the subject up into
parts & each officer took a
part. The same part was
taken in every case. These
meetings were well attended
& hot discussion followed the
speeches.
Before the interest excited
by this campaign died down
we had a large mass meeting
addressed by Mrs. Dwyer of
New York, the first woman in the

③ of Baltimore. Her sub^j was
how women can best fulfill
their duties. In the later part
of her speech she spoke very
strongly about the white slave
traffic, and made a most
powerful impression upon her
audience. Although we
do not wish to rest our argument
^{entirely} on the basis of social evil, yet
I do think it ought to be the
business of every ~~cost~~ chapter
to see that no girl goes out of
College unprepared upon this
subject. The ignorance of the
ordinary undergraduate upon
the conditions & laws of our cities
is surprising and disappoin-
ting, and if a woman cannot learn
the truth of things in college

Perhaps you will think that
we should leave this question
untouched, lest our cause should
be injured, but how shall
this evil be remedied without
the help of intelligent women,
and what argument for the suffrage
is so convincing as the argument
that there is a great practical
good in the world to be done
^{and} only women can do it.

Her address spoke in February
Our next meeting is to be

(4) The end of this month when
Miss Florence Keys Prof of
English at Kansas will speak.

When I told people at BIT
that there were only 150 people
in the League, they were all
astonished & said to me "Why
I thought everyone was a
suffragist". The reason why
the League is not larger at
BIT is paradoxical as it
may sound, because there is
no opposition. We have arrived
at that deplorable pass where
there are no rabid anti-
suffragists. All the violent
and useful anti's of a year or
so ago have joined the suffrage
camp, leaving behind us without
one of our most effectual weapons.
Most people, we have found
who are not suffragists are
either not interested or in-
elegantly on the fence. The
uninterested ones, fortunately
the minority, are by far the
harder to deal with & per-
haps persistence is our only
weapon against them: the
majority, the undecided ones

(5) I have said to me so often
"if you would only let us hear
~~the other side~~", we don't want
to make up our minds until
we have heard both sides.
that I have come to feel
we ought to let them hear
the other side & present an
anti-suffragist speaker for
them. When we present our
doubting companions with the
other side, they can't believe
that our arguments can be
adequately representative of
the anti's. They feel that
we must be concealing some
splendid argument against
our case which would be in
agreement with that "feeling"
we all have come across so
often, & yet not satisfy their
reason. I told it will be a

good plan for each Suffrage
Chapter to have one anti-
Suffrage speaker a year if
such a rare bird were to
be procured, and have
present at the meeting one
Suffrage speaker to answer
his arguments.

① I should also advocate the
Plan of the staff officers pre-
senting the subject themselves
each year. If this is done
with enthusiasm it carries
great weight. I think great
care must be taken not to
overdo the propaganda. If
you are always talking about
one subj - even suffrage -
people begin to avoid you &
your influence is gone.

I should also suggest that
the dues be collected at
the end of the year instead
of in November. If the
numbers of the chapter are
sure to have increased
by the end of a year.

Literature is important, but
it should be largely statis-
tical. There are very
few sentimental arguments
that appeal to a college girl
after she has been in college
one year. In the majority of
cases her doubt is as to
the practical working of so
git a reform. If we can

⑦ ^{conscience} ~~conscience~~ ^{per} ~~per~~ ^{that} ~~that if a good
reform ~~has~~ ^{has} been put
through ~~and is good~~ it is
her business to see that
it works. There is no reason
why every college woman
in America should not
be a suffragist.~~

Augustine. Aug 11. 1910.

This ended my report, and
sums up for us the work of
the year. Now although
we are the largest chapter
in relation to our size that
there is, it seems to me we
ought to be larger. What
worries me also is the fact
that some of our members are
not as keen suffragists
as they should be. This is
because there is nothing
practical about a suffragist
to do in college except just
be a suffragist. If we could
give a place, or a series
of open air suffrage meetings
at which different people spoke,
or if we had opposition enough
to have debates, ^{people would}
find they cared ^{about suffrage} very much
more than some of us do now.

^{must} However all these problems are
to be solved next year. We will
now proceed to the election of officers.

1908 - 1908

Faculty	13
Graduates	12
Seniors	30
Juniors	25
Sophomores	22
Freshmen	<u>16</u>
	118

1909 - 1910

Faculty	15	
Graduates	110	80 13.7%
Seniors	42	70 60%
Juniors	33	64 51.3%
Sophomores	30	86 34.8%
Freshmen	20	105 19%