

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
LAWRENCE

November 17, 1942

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Director, Department of Physical Education  
University of Kansas

My dear Dr. Allen:

Thank you very much for your courtesy in submitting copies of the physical fitness tests which are being currently used in connection with the physical conditioning program.

If the assumption that the only valid test of educational activities is to be found in the formula "What does the doing of this thing do to the person who does it," then I am still firmly convinced that the tests which you are imposing are singularly ineffective and of very scant value.

My reason for reaching this conclusion lies in the fact that physical fitness in the last analysis is not a question of chinning or broad jumping but a question of metabolism, of circulatory efficiency, of hormone balance, and of general structural condition.

The correlation between ability to chin and these elements to which I have called attention has never been established. It may even be negative; it certainly is not ideally high. I judge from reports which reach me from time to time that in a sizable percentage of your material the correlation is actually negative.

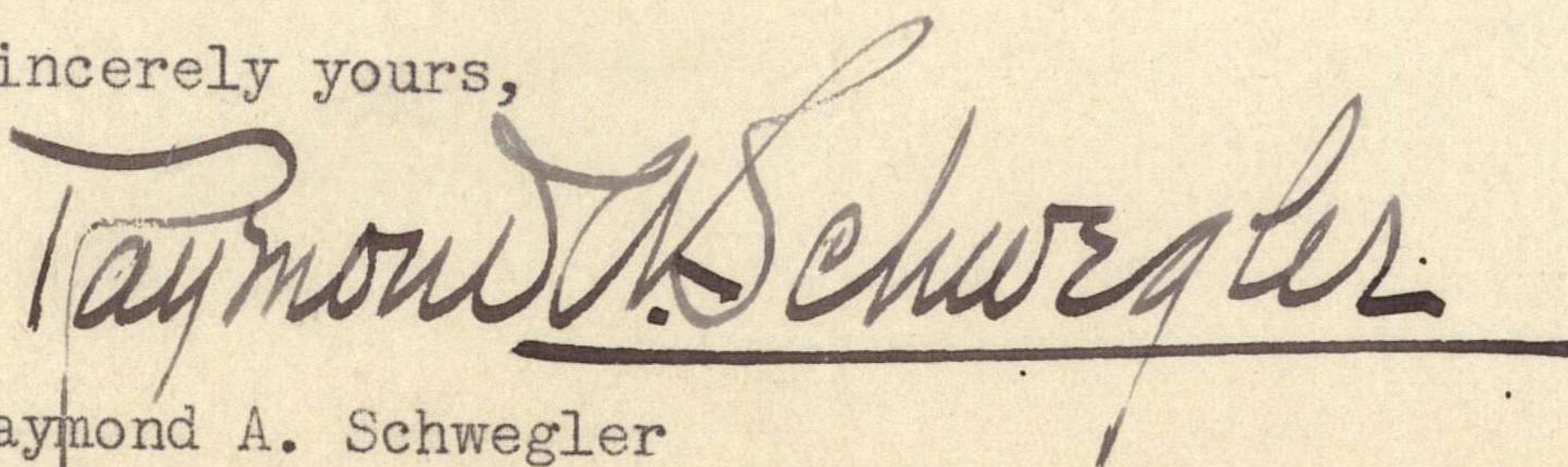
As a friend of yourself and of your department, I most earnestly urge that the staff proceed at the earliest possible moment to the development of a type of testing which will actually measure fundamental fitness rather than the specific fitnesses which we now use as the measure of effectiveness.

I think that the department has an almost providential opportunity for moving forward from the near medieval type of procedure which has been traditional in physical education to something which would be really sound and scientifically defensible.

I am submitting these conclusions and suggestions with full recognition of the limitations which are imposed upon you by circumstances beyond your control, but I do believe that we will get nowhere in our effort to make education really functional and scientifically sound by easy continuation of practices that look unsound and indefensible.

With very best wishes for continued success, I beg to remain

Sincerely yours,



Raymond A. Schwegler  
Professor of Education

RAS:c