

January 5, 1987

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Anderson

FROM: Wendell Barbour, Director, John Smith Library

RE: Clarifications of statements made by
President (Emeritus) Paschall

A copy of the letter and enclosure received from President (Emeritus) Davis Y. Paschall has been attached to each copy of the College's 25th Anniversary publication of "Voices".

WAB/bjl



Christopher Newport College

50 Shoe Lane
Newport News, Virginia 23606-2988

MEMORANDUM

December 19, 1986

TO: Mr. Wendell Barbour, Director, John Smith Library
FROM: President Anderson

In accordance with the request received from President (Emeritus) Davis Y. Paschall please retain the attached letter and enclosure in the archives.

These pertain to clarifications to statements made in the College's 25th Anniversary publication "Voices."


JEA

JEA:ms

FILE 32785

cc: President Paschall
L.B.Wood



THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY IN VIRGINIA
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23185

Davis Y. Paschall
President *Emeritus*

201 Indian Springs Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
December 15, 1986

Dr. John E. Anderson
President, Christopher Newport College
50 Shoe Lane
Newport News, Virginia 23606

Dear President Anderson:

As the 25th Anniversary of Christopher Newport College concludes, I congratulate you and your Associates for the impressive commemorative ceremonies and events conducted during the year. I am humbly grateful for the honor accorded me on September 19, 1986, and the gracious hospitality extended me and my family on that occasion.

I commend the achievements during your Presidency, and wish you the joy attendant to your return to the classroom as I understand you plan to do.

The very interesting literary publication, "Voices, Christopher Newport College," depicts in a graphic manner the highlights of the College's history, and will no doubt serve as a valuable resource to some future historian. With that eventuality in mind, I fear that, without some clarifying correction, the statements on page 18 may convey an erroneous impression of my view and that of the Board of Visitors toward the status of Christopher Newport College at the time of the "dramatic meeting" described. I am, therefore, offering a correctional supplement as an enclosure to this letter, and will appreciate it if you will have the letter and enclosure placed in the archives for future reference.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Davis Y. Paschall

Enclosure

P.S. I enclose several additional copies for such distribution as you may deem appropriate.

Enclosure to Letter of December 15, 1986 from Davis Y. Paschall, President Emeritus of the College of William and Mary, to Dr. John E. Anderson, President of Christopher Newport College.

Corrections Pertinent to Page 18 of "Voices, Christopher Newport College."

Quotes from page 18:

Perhaps the highest drama of Cunningham's career occurred when the College came into conflict with its mother school over its proposed status as a four-year college. Pressure from the community, the student body and the faculty forced Cunningham to confront the William and Mary Board and the President, Davis Paschall.

A Voice

They said to Scotty, "This thing just won't fly. Those towns can't support a four-year college." So he said he just couldn't tell the citizens that all they have is a two-year school. "You set up a press conference" Paschall said, and I'll tell them." Well Scotty set up the conference for a room that held 125 people. When Paschall walked in, prominent citizens and faculty sat in every chair. King Meehan said, "This argument of yours is like the arguments in the General Assembly against the James River Bridge. There can't be any traffic across a bridge that isn't built. Put a four-year college here, and the support will be forthcoming." When Paschall saw all those folks and perceived their feelings, he gave over.

Corrections:

1. The first paragraph quoted above is a misrepresentation of fact. There never existed any conflict between the President of William and Mary and the Board of Visitors, on one hand, and Christopher Newport College on the other. The impression conveyed by the quote is that the "alleged" conflict resulted from opposition by the President and the Board of Visitors to a four-year status for Christopher Newport College. There is no evidence whatever to support such an impression.

To the contrary, officials of the College of William and Mary undertook with diligence their stewardship responsibility, as charged by the General Assembly in 1960, for the development of Christopher Newport College and Richard Bland College. In the instance of Christopher Newport College, they shared Mr. Lewis McMurrin's view from the outset that (1), the Peninsula community needed and would support such a college, and (2), it would relieve considerable pressure on William and Mary for admission of Peninsula students, thereby allowing the College to admit more students statewide and nationally.

To imply from the first paragraph quoted above that "pressure" forced Mr. Cunningham to resort to confrontation with the William and Mary Board and the President does him a professional disservice. He was well aware of the fact that the Board always had one or more able members from Newport News -- Mr. J. B. Woodward, former President of Newport News Shipbuilding, and Rector of the Board, being an example. These members conveyed to the entire Board the "pulse beat" of the Newport News community. Furthermore, Mr. Cunningham appeared regularly at meetings of the Board of Visitors, and had every opportunity, as well as responsibility, to inform the Board on any and all matters of importance to Christopher Newport College without any necessity for resorting to "confrontational tactics."

1. A Voice -- They said to Scotty, "This thing just won't fly. Those towns can't support a four-year college. So he (Cunningham) said he just couldn't tell the citizens that all they have is a two-year school." Paschall: "You set up a press conference, and I'll tell them." Well Scotty set up the conference for a room....

Neither I, as President of William and Mary, nor any member of the Board of Visitors, ever said there was opposition to a four-year status for Christopher Newport College.

The assertion that I told Mr. Cunningham to "set up a press conference", and "I'll tell them" is untrue. I never called for a press conference in my life, and I certainly did not tell Mr. Cunningham to do so.

As for, "...and I'll tell them" not only suggests an arrogance contrary to my known way of working with people, but it also suggests that I would tell "them" that a "two-year college was it." It is obvious that I, as President, had no authority whatever to state such a policy future for Christopher Newport College, and to do so would have been an unprofessional usurpation of authority of the Board of Visitors.

3. Quote: "When Paschall saw all those folks and perceived their feelings, he gave over."

Correction: This quote implies that I, as President of the College of William and Mary, had come to the meeting opposed to a four-year status for Christopher Newport College, but had been won "over" to a different stance, or view, as a result of the pressures of the meeting. Nothing could be further from the truth. As explained above, neither I nor the Board of Visitors had, at any time, expressed or manifested opposition to a four-year status for Christopher Newport College.

What Did Happen?

Mr. Cunningham explained to me by telephone that some faculty and students as well as some citizens were interested in knowing about William and Mary's developmental process and procedures involving Christopher Newport College, and that some had the feeling that these should be accelerated.

I explained that if he would arrange a meeting of the group, I would be glad to attend and inform them fully, and answer questions, and that I would bring the Chief Academic Officer, Dr. W. Melville Jones, to supplement my explanation. Dr. Jones did accompany me to the meeting.

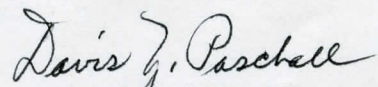
Our purpose was to explain that the accreditation of Christopher Newport College was assured under the "umbrella" of William and Mary's accreditation; that any academic deficiencies of Christopher Newport College would jeopardize William and Mary's accreditation; and, therefore, proposed appointments of faculty and curricular offerings had to undergo approval by the chief academic officials -- the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Harold L. Fowler, and the Chief Academic Officer, Dr. W. Melville Jones, who, in turn made recommendations to the President and Board of Visitors.

Before we could get far in attempting this explanation, Dr. Jones and I realized that the audience was under the impression or belief that William and Mary was opposed to a four-year status for Christopher Newport College. This was first evidenced by Mr. King Meehan's statement quoted on page 18, which drew considerable applause.

I was shocked when he referred to my explanation as "this argument of yours" as being comparable to those of the General Assembly in not building the James River Bridge. I hastened to explain that neither I nor the Board of Visitors were opposed to a four-year status for Christopher Newport College, and that my statements were intended to interpret the process involved in the orderly building of an academic institution such as Christopher Newport College, the same being quite different from building a bridge.

Suffice it to say that the local staging of that meeting on the false assumption of William and Mary officials keeping Christopher Newport College in a two-year status resulted in sensitive institutional relationships that continued until Dr. James Windsor became President.

It would be a serious professional mistake for any future historian to conclude that the meeting described on page 18 resulted in reversing the "opposition" of the Board of Visitors and the President of William and Mary to a four-year status for Christopher Newport College. As clearly explained above, there never was any such opposition to be reversed.



Davis Y. Paschall
President Emeritus of The
College of William and Mary
December 15, 1986