

Approved by the Board of Visitors
of the College of William and Mary
in Virginia--February 9, 1968.

POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING ESCALATION
OF CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT COLLEGE TO UNDERGRADUATE
DEGREE-GRANTING STATUS

In the belief that the time had come when some directional goal for Christopher Newport College should be established, the Board of Visitors at its meeting on January 6, 1968, adopted a Policy Statement* in the form of a Resolution (copy appended hereto) which expressed the Board's policy view that this institution should and will attain the goal of a four-year, undergraduate, degree-granting institution.

In the further belief that there should be some criteria indicated as a time-guide for escalation of Christopher Newport College to such a four-year level, the Board stated that such escalation would be authorized when enrollment in the second-year (sophomore) class reached a range of 250 to 300 full-time regular day students --this enrollment being regarded as a minimally sound base economically and educationally on which to project selective discipline concentrations and an adequate teacher-student ratio in the advanced undergraduate courses, and when library resources become fully adequate for a four-year program, and a fully qualified faculty has been attained.

The Board, upon the advice of the President of the College of William and Mary, the Dean of the College, and the Director of Christopher Newport College, expressed the further view that the aforementioned criteria could be realized by the biennium 1972-74, but if they could be met earlier, then the Board would consider the escalation for the biennium 1970-72--such escalation in either instance being subject to the approval of the State Council of Higher Education.

Whereas the Board was constrained to believe that its action was not only timely and in the best interest of Christopher Newport College, but that it would enjoy a favorable reaction on the part of the citizenry of Newport News, subsequent developments revealed the desirability of a further clarification of this matter.

*It may be noted for the record that the aforementioned policy statement of January 6, 1968 was not arrived at by the Board hurriedly, but rather that the appropriate Board Committee spent many hours studying and assessing this matter, together with the recent Report of the Visitation Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The contents of this report were known to the entire Board membership, but were, within the bounds of propriety, not publicized because the Report had not been officially presented for approval to the Commission on Colleges, nor to the entire delegate assembly of the Southern Association which meets in November, 1968.

The Board of Visitors has reconsidered the "time-table" for escalation, and deems it appropriate in the interest of the harmonious progress of Christopher Newport College and in the interest of the accreditation responsibilities affecting the parent institution, to clarify its position in the matter as follows:

- ✓ 1. The Board affirms the view, on the basis of a careful study of many factors, that it cannot grant its approval to further escalation of Christopher Newport College for the year 1968-69.
2. The Board, at the time in 1969 when the biennium budget for 1970-72 will be under consideration, will carefully review the possibility of projecting an escalation of Christopher Newport College to the third-year level in 1969-70 and to the fourth-year level in 1970-71, subject to the approval of the State Council of Higher Education.
3. Prior to this study, review, and assessment of the matter in 1969, as explained in item 2 above, the Board of Visitors will seek the advice and guidance of the State Council of Higher Education as to what criteria may be recommended as would assure selected concentration programs that are economically and educationally sound as well as an adequate teacher-student ratio in the advanced undergraduate courses.
4. Prior to this study, review, and assessment of the matter in 1969, as explained in item 2 above, the Board of Visitors will endeavor to ascertain what effect, if any, the opening of Thomas Nelson College in Hampton will have had on the freshman class enrollment of Christopher Newport College for the year 1968-69; how many freshman students in the College transfer program at Thomas Nelson College in 1968-69 would be interested in attending Christopher Newport College as transfer juniors, assuming also a fourth year being offered at Christopher Newport; and how this transfer situation would be regarded from the standpoint of the accreditation status of Thomas Nelson College.
5. Prior to this study, review, and assessment of the matter in 1969, as explained in item 2 above, the Board of Visitors will endeavor to ascertain fully and precisely from the State Council of Higher Education the meaning of the following statement of the future role of Christopher Newport College, which is quoted from the Council's brochure entitled "The Virginia Plan for Higher Education," and which brochure was not received by the Board of Visitors until the week following its action on January 6, 1968:

Christopher Newport College, a two-year branch of The College of William and Mary, is located in one of the rapidly growing metropolitan areas of the state. The College seeks to schedule its offerings so that fully employed students may pursue higher education on a part-time basis. Its part-time enrollment is currently in excess of its full-time enrollment. As the new comprehensive community college in the Hampton area develops, it may be appropriate for Christopher Newport to become a four-year or a two-year upper-level (junior and senior) baccalaureate degree-granting commuting institution. It is impossible at this time to determine the precise pattern of Christopher Newport which will best meet future needs of the area, and it is unlikely that there will be sufficient evidence for several years hence to justify any change in the present role of the College. In the meantime, The College of William and Mary, the parent institution, should continue to guide the development of this institution and consult periodically with the State Council of Higher Education and the State Board of Community Colleges concerning the higher educational developments in the area and the long-range role of Christopher Newport.

6. Prior to this study, review, and assessment of the matter in 1969, as explained in item 2 above, the Board of Visitors requests the Dean of the College who is its Liaison Officer for Branch Colleges, and who is also the Accreditation Officer for the College of William and Mary and its branches, and the Director of Christopher Newport College to meet and confer with the Peninsula Committee on Higher Education and any other committees or citizens of the Peninsula who manifest interest in these developments.