

### BRANCH COLLEGES

At this time, President Paschall presented Dr. John H. Willis, Jr., Assistant Vice President, who serves as Liaison Officer for the Branch Colleges, and the Provosts of the Branch Colleges, Mr. H. Westcott Cunningham of Christopher Newport College, and Colonel James M. Carson of Richard Bland College, were invited to join the meeting.

Before presenting the Resolutions included in the Agenda for the Branch Colleges, Dr. Willis indicated that he would like to express appreciation for the confidence accorded him in his appointment as Liaison Officer, and that this afforded him a cherished opportunity to learn the developmental problems of the two Branch Colleges and, at the same time, to endeavor to relate these institutions to the parent College in a constructive and appropriate manner. He explained that since the time of his appointment he had met on several occasions with the faculty and staff of both Branch Colleges, and had made a personal acquaintance of most of the members. As a result, he said that he had detected a keen desire on the part of the faculties of these institutions to be brought into closer contact with the William and Mary faculty. As a result, he had, with their assistance, scheduled for October 5 a Branch College Day, at which time the faculty and staff of the Branch Colleges would come to William and Mary and meet with their associates in the disciplines represented at William and Mary. This, he indicated, should establish closer professional ties, and provide an informal opportunity for productive communication.

Dr. Willis also reminded the Board of the pending dedication of the Frank Ernst Building at Richard Bland College scheduled for October 27, 1968.

Dr. Willis further explained that his primary duties with Christopher Newport College involved the problems of escalation of that institution to a four-year status, and that he had met on several occasions with the Executive Planning Committee of that institution and discussed matters involving degree requirements, concentrations, and course offerings in the contemplated concentration areas. This, he explained, had progressed very well during the summer, the last meeting with the Executive Planning Committee being on August 15. From these meetings, he indicated that a list of proposed course offerings and concentrations had evolved for the 1969-70 session for the junior year, and for the 1970-71 session, the latter being the senior year.

Dr. Willis discussed the procedures that would be followed whereby he would confer with appropriate persons in an effort to



reach an agreement on these areas from the standpoint of overall strength of faculty, library resources, and facilities, and then asked Mr. Cunningham and his faculty for formal approval preliminary to the same being presented to the Education Committee of the Board which would have an opportunity to discuss the same and arrive at recommendations to be submitted to the entire Board for approval.

He pointed out that the time schedule is important for several reasons: (1) the Provost must have as early notice as practicable in order to recruit faculty and advise students properly; and (2) it would be necessary to have a meeting of the Education Committee in October to permit deliberation and recommendations to be forwarded to the Board of Visitors for consideration at the November meeting, thereby allowing the same to be forwarded thereafter to the State Council of Higher Education for approval of concentrations -- all to be accomplished by or before early December.

He explained that once these approvals had been realized, there would be a visitation of the Southern Association, the regional accrediting agency, through a committee to Christopher Newport College in the fall of 1969, the same to be followed by a visitation in the spring of 1971, the report of said visitation to go to the full membership of the Southern Association at its annual meeting in 1971 as to approval of the escalation by that body of Christopher Newport College to a four-year status. He explained that whereas Christopher Newport College is accredited under the auspices of the College of William and Mary's accreditation, it is important to view its escalation and accreditation as an individual institution and, therefore, it is important to involve the Southern Association in the escalation process.

Mr. Goodrich inquired of Mr. Cunningham if the people in Newport News appeared to be pleased with the developments.

Mr. Cunningham replied that he felt they were, and added one other point of emphasis to the time schedule which Dr. Willis had explained; namely, the necessity to publish a catalogue for 1969-70 which would reflect the areas of concentration, and also reflect the necessity for augmentation of library collections to meet the requirements of the concentrations.

Mr. Cunningham further indicated that Thomas Nelson College, some seven or eight miles distant, had opened the previous week with an enrollment of 1,200 students, including day and evening



students. He indicated that Christopher Newport College had become slightly more selective insofar as freshmen were concerned, and that he suspected that quite a number had gone to Thomas Nelson College upon the advice of Christopher Newport College counseling. He explained further that this development had enabled Christopher Newport College to eliminate non-credit remedial course work, and that after all of these steps, the College had more students enrolled in credit courses than in previous years. He said he felt that the College had "bridged the gap" in reference to the new community college in the vicinity, and with the announcement of actual concentrations, he felt that there would be a substantial increase in enrollment for the 1969-70 session.

In further reference to Mr. Goodrich's inquiry, Mr. Cunningham expressed the view that the atmosphere or climate of opinion in Newport News was now healthy, wholesome, and encouraging, and that the people are developing the feeling that Christopher Newport College and the new Thomas Nelson College need not be in any competitive situation, one to the other, but rather that one would complement the other.

The Rector inquired as to the enrollment, and Mr. Cunningham replied that the enrollment slightly exceeds 1,100 this fall, and indicated that he and his faculty would be able to meet the timetable previously delineated by Dr. Willis.

Dr. Willis made reference to the fact that the enrollment for Richard Bland College had also increased, particularly in the Evening College, which had actually doubled over the preceding year.

Mr. Swanson inquired as to the day enrollment of the two Colleges.

Dr. Willis replied that the day enrollment is 433 at Richard Bland College and approximately 560 at Christopher Newport College.

Colonel Carson indicated that the figure of 510 would be more nearly accurate as of that date.

Dr. Willis explained that these enrollment figures are quite tentative at that stage because the Colleges are still in the process of course changes, late enrollments, and the like.

Mr. Swanson inquired of Colonel Carson if there is a limit on enrollment, and Colonel Carson replied that the College would



not be able to accommodate additional students, particularly without further increase in faculty.

Dr. Willis then proceeded in presenting the Resolutions, the same pertaining to faculty matters at the Branch Colleges.

Mr. James moved adoption of Resolution RB-1, Establishing New Faculty Positions and Appointments, and Resolution RB-2, Approving Appointments of Replacement to Faculty; which motion was seconded by Mr. Gill and approved by vote of the Board.

Mr. James then moved adoption of Resolution CN-1, Appointment of Replacements, New Faculty Member in Distributive Education, and Approval of Stipend for Faculty Member on Leave of Absence; which motion was seconded by Mr. Bowditch and approved by vote of the Board.

Colonel Carson then offered some informal remarks about Richard Bland College in which he indicated his pleasure in noting that despite the nearby Tyler Community College, Richard Bland College had enjoyed a slight increase in enrollment. He explained that they also had eliminated remedial work and that certain students had gone to Tyler Community College rather than to Richard Bland College, upon the counseling of Richard Bland College. He further explained that he felt the influence of Tyler Community College is past in its impact on Richard Bland College, and referred to the deficit experienced the previous year and what was being done in having it projected as a No. 1 priority item in the budget.

He further explained that the faculties of several high schools had visited the College and that this proved a most fruitful experience, and then told the Board about the plans being made for the dedication of the Frank Ernst Building.

The Rector thanked Colonel Carson for his report, and Mr. Cunningham added a word of appreciation for the large representation of Board members who took their time and effort to attend the Commencement in June, at which time President Paschall gave the Commencement address. He said that this had reflected the interest of the Board most favorably to the community.

This concluded actions in reference to the Branch Colleges.

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