

Board of Visitors

Enclosure 33

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REPORT OF ESCALATION OF CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT
COLLEGE TO SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

June 11, 1968

Mr. Gordon W. Sweet
Executive Secretary
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
795 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Gordon:

The Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary at its meeting on June 1, 1968, approved the gradual development of Christopher Newport College to a four-year degree-granting institution by the end of the session of 1970-71. The plan now calls for the offering of a full third-year program at Christopher Newport College with concentrations in certain areas during the session of 1969-70. It is planned that the fourth-year course offerings leading to the bachelor's degree will be initiated during the 1970-71 session. I understand that the Commission on Colleges should be notified of this action of the Board of Visitors, and that certain procedures must be followed in order that the escalation to four-year status can be implemented in a manner satisfactory to the Southern Association.

This action by the Board followed a long period of study and consultation by the College with Christopher Newport College and the interested citizens of the Newport News area. I am attaching a series of documents which will provide the background information which resulted in the Board action. I believe you will find this material self-explanatory. As I indicated to you during the visit we had last week, I shall be glad to provide whatever additional information will be necessary.

As you know, the report of the Visitation Committee made in the fall of 1967 on Christopher Newport College as a two-year branch institution will be considered by the Commission on Colleges at the coming annual meeting in Atlanta next December. One of the points emphasized in this report recommended that a liaison officer be appointed as soon as possible to establish a closer relationship and supervision of both Christopher Newport College and Richard Bland College. At the same meeting on June 1, the Board of Visitors approved the establishment of such a position and authorized a committee to determine the scope and responsibilities of the liaison officer. This committee has met and made its report. We

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are now in the process of making an appointment to this position to be effective as soon as possible. One of the duties of the liaison officer will be to work with the Director and the faculty of Christopher Newport College, and to consult with the Curriculum Committee of the College of William and Mary to determine the course offerings and concentration areas leading to the full degree program.

I shall look forward to hearing from you about future procedures in regard to the planned escalation of Christopher Newport. The visit I had with you last week was a very helpful one, and I hope you can plan to make another visit to Williamsburg and the College some time during the summer because there are several matters which will need further discussion.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

W. Melville Jones
Dean of the College

cc: President Paschall
Mr. H. Westcott Cunningham