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ROGER WILLIAMS JUNIOR COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT

TO MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

Annual Meeting, January 21, 1964

By action of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Ralph E. Gauvey was elected to the office of President of the College effective September 1, 1963. This report concerns primarily the fiscal year ending August 31, 1963, and was prepared by Mr. Harold W. Schaughency, Dean of the College.

ENROLLMENT

In the academic year 1961-62, we had a full-time day enrollment of 309 students. In the evening we had a registration of 164 for a total of 473. In the academic year 1962-63, for which this is the annual report, we registered 36 more day students for a total of 345. In the evening we had a continuation of the loss of registration with 17 less registrations than in 1961-62, dropping to 147. This gave us a net gain of 19 students for a total of 492 registered in the 1962-63 academic year, fall semester.

In last year's annual report it was shown that from 1961 the pool of graduates from all Rhode Island public high schools, catholic high schools, and independent high schools is not radically increasing. For example, it was shown that there was a pool of 8,347 graduates in 1961 and only an increase to 8,587 graduates in 1963. This was the basis of Dean James Eastwood's report that there are more places for qualified applicants than there are qualified applicants. It is also an explanation for the fact that total applications have remained practically stationary between the 1961-62 year and the 1962-63 year. In fact, we registered 27 less new full-time day students in 1962-63 than we did in 1961-62, 206 as against 233. On the other hand, as a sign of our consolidation and increased holding power, we registered 139 full-time day students in 1962-63 who were second-year students as against only 75 full-time day, second-year students in 1961-62. Our net gain of 36 day students was therefore due to the return of old students. This gave us a better distribution which is always a financial gain.

Of course, it is expected that the pool of graduates from which we draw our clientele will rapidly increase in the next few years. However, we must watch our enrollment data carefully in the light of state determination for the establishment of a competing institution. For example, it became evident during the latter part of the period upon which we are reporting, that while the pool of graduates for 1963 had not significantly increased, more of these graduates were beginning to apply for college admission. This meant that probably more of the less qualified were applying and entrance tests indicated that this assumption was correct. Applications jumped from 414 in 1962, to 488 in 1963, and there was an increase in day registration in the fall of 1963 of 47 students to a total of 392. However, a breakdown of these figures indicates that second-year students held up to almost the identical figure as the year before; also engineering and management first-year students are almost identical. The increase for this year came in the unclassified and special student category which is made up of those not quite qualified for our regular programs.

As the established junior college of Rhode Island, it would seem that the conclusion drawn in our last year's report is substantiated. We must seize the opportunity to strengthen our program in quality. From the holding power of our program, it would seem that we are operating in the right area. We should therefore improve services to the students who come to us and retain a greater number for the second year. With a campus of our own, our quality program would draw students from a larger area, as well as retain the local students better qualified for what we offer. The marginal students will go wherever they may obtain admission, and we will get our share of applications because it is better for them to have attended an established institution.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Our engineering program remains the stabilizing factor in our offering. In fact, if it were not for our engineering offering, our evening classes would be closed out entirely. In spite of the drop in engineering registrations all over the country, our engineering program increased in enrollment to a peak of 92 students in 1960-61. In the following year (1961-62) it dropped to 63, but a factor in this was the opening of a large new engineering center with accommodations for 700 additional students at the University of R. I.

Nevertheless, the record is as follows:

| | <u>Day Engineering Registration</u> | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <u>1961-62</u> | <u>1962-63</u> | <u>1963-64</u> |
| First Year | 40 | 42 | 62 |
| Second Year | <u>23</u> | <u>23</u> | <u>23</u> |
| Total | 63 | 65 | 85 |

Our best second-year registration is in engineering. Consequently, the preponderance of our graduates are currently in engineering. Both locally and throughout the country the demand for engineering technicians and for the vocational education technicians is increasing. This was predicted in last year's report. In a study presented during the past year to the Governor of Rhode Island, Roger Williams Junior College was recognized in a paragraph (without naming the college) as the only source for the kind of quality technicians that should be turned out. The comment was that we did not have enough graduates to fill the need.

Since our offering in engineering is good for us and good for the community, until some other institution can do the job better, the recommendation of expanding to a two-level program, neither of which is strictly terminal, or strictly transfer, is indicated in planning the development of the College. Since the need is not confined to Rhode Island industry, and since there are few institutions in the country that have yet to develop this rounded-out concept, this is an area in which we can find students far beyond our immediate community.

In spite of the fact that Bryant College has been offering a bachelor's degree program as a specialized school in business administration, accounting and other management areas, and in spite of the fact that both the University of Rhode Island

and its Extension have expanded offerings toward a bachelor's degree of business, our management enrollment in the day has been steadily growing. In the years just preceding our becoming Roger Williams Junior College we had an annual day registration of about 10 students in management. In the academic year 1962-63 we had a registration of 67, of which 49 were first-year students and 18 were second-year. It has been found by our graduates and the employers of our graduates that in our management program we give a solid basis of academic education along with sufficient basic vocational training that makes the graduate employable but adaptable to the requirements of his job and the larger requirements of a developing business concern. It is no longer profitable to spend too much time on specific business or industrial techniques which may become obsolete soon after the individual has completed his training.

The bulk of our registration is in the general program and the unclassified group. In 1962-63, 136 first-year day students were in the general program and 61 additional were unclassified. The group of general students are primarily one-year students. When they find they can handle college level work, they want to go to a campus college, and the campus college is glad to get them because they have proved themselves. A majority of the unclassified fall by the wayside, but those who do prove themselves are often accepted by four-year colleges in freshman status without transfer credit. Of 177 general and unclassified students registered for their first year in 1961-62, only 16 of these became second-year general students. This is a weakness that probably will be overcome to a large extent when we have our own campus so that the pull of a campus college is weakened.

Of course the subjects in any general program must be as transferable as possible. Few students these days think in terms of two-year terminal education. No matter what the curriculum but especially the general curriculum, should supply more than a dead end. Whether the student will continue his education beyond two years right away or not, the probability is that he will want to continue some formal education some time in the future.

Granting all this, it is not necessary that the general program be strictly university-parallel. If the state institutes a junior college, the university-parallel nature of its program probably will be its greatest selling point. Hence, maintaining a transferability of our courses, as a private college, we should maintain our position a step ahead of what a public junior college can offer. Our general program at present is primarily pre-professional and exploratory. Four-year colleges and universities are increasingly looking for upper division candidates who know what they want and how to get it to fill their small junior and senior classes. It would appear therefore that we are on the right track with the preprofessional and exploratory nature of our general program. This does not mean that it should not be studied continuously for changes of emphasis and to make it more efficient. We should promote the nature of the general offering. Our faculty should better understand that we are not merely providing units of transfer, but orienting the whole individual toward his educational objective. As stated last year, our general program is beginning to be understood by high school counselors as something distinctive and not just the usual program of courses for credits. With an increased quality of facilities and a campus of our own, there is no reason why our general program should not approach the stability and growth of our engineering and management offering.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

During the academic year 1962-63 the faculty continued the study of curriculum. The English faculty set forth their objectives in the various subjects, studied the progression from the non-credit deficiency courses to the second-year English offering, and standardized approach and content in courses with several sections under different instructors.

Other subjects were in continuous review but most discussion centered on the mathematics offering. The mathematics faculty made several recommendations for upgrading the mathematics content. These were reviewed by the Administrative Committee. It was decided that in the engineering mathematics sequence there should be more trigonometry and less geometry, and that we should work toward upgrading the first course in engineering mathematics until it was primarily analytical geometry and calculus.

Within the requirements of the general curriculum, patterns of course offerings were revised. The counselors feel that this revision gives the general students a better opportunity to select electives toward their objective.

In the management program, the most important development was in the mathematics offering. It was felt that the type of business mathematics heretofore in the program was becoming obsolete because of the automation of the business office procedures. It was felt that both general and management students more and more would be required to interpret the statistical output of such business machines. Hence the mathematics now offered to both general and management students lays a foundation for the understanding of probability and statistics.

Curriculum development never ceases. Faculty committees have been appointed to continue this study, an important part of which should be the evaluation of changes incorporated during the period of this report.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The last several reports have pointed to the need for considerable library expansion. We have indeed accomplished marvels in the efficient use of the space available. Faculty and student use of the library has been steadily increasing. To assist our inadequate library staff in processing acquisitions, we have retained an outside service. We have indeed gone as far as we can go in our present location.

There is no leeway in our classroom space. To accommodate the late registration of unclassified and special students, we had to put in additional sections in the late afternoon and schedule certain students late afternoon and evening. By adding one or two additional full-time faculty, we may be able to utilize some space available during the lunch period, combined with late afternoon. Then the problem would be to find desk space for the new faculty. We can take very few additional new students. The best that we can hope for is an expansion of our second-year registration.

It has been reported that our laboratories are crowded. An expansion this year in the enrollment in biology could only be accommodated by closing out some chemistry sections and consolidating the registration.

The graphic science room which was furnished in the 1961-62 year was filled to

capacity this year and six more drafting tables had to be crowded into the room.

It is therefore extremely urgent that plans for adequate facilities be pushed.

FACULTY COMPENSATION

The Personnel Committee made a study of faculty salaries and reviewed personnel policy. It was found that some of the older faculty men were out of line because there had been two increases in scale and there had not been sufficient funds in the personnel budget to bring them up in comparison with the new hires that had to be made at the higher scale. Consequently, the Personnel Committee recommended and the Trustees approved another step up in scale along with an increased increment to the older faculty members to put them nearer in line. This process should be repeated again in the near future.

REGIONAL ACCREDITATION

The New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools has adopted new qualitative standards for membership. The examining committee are not becoming less lenient in their requirements. This is all the more reason we should speed our relocation and the attempt to obtain adequate facilities and personnel.

RELOCATION

Last year's report told of a feasibility study that was being made on relocating the College within Providence. As a result of this study, the Trustees have been intensifying their search for a location outside of the city of Providence.
