

Trustees hear need for new student center

Reports of Chowan College's need for a new and modern student center complex, the further strengthening of the academic program and projections for student enrollment were heard when the Board of Trustees met jointly with the Board of Visitors for their winter meeting on Dec. 8.

Prior to the joint session, held in the President's Dining Room, standing committees

of the two boards met while their spouses were taken on a motor tour to trace the Virginia route of Nat Turner's insurrection in the late 1800s.

The increasing critical need of a new, well-equipped student center to adequately serve a senior college community and the possibility of a major financial campaign beginning in 1995 for its construction was presented to the board.

Bynum R. Brown, chairman of a student

center architect committee appointed by the executive committee, said that six area architectural firms have agreed to provide preliminary drawings of the new facility.

The trustees will give further consideration to the new center in the spring when preliminary drawings will be available for review.

The new student center complex, Brown said, may house a cafeteria, small movie theatre and bowling alley, as well as other facilities to serve the growing student body.

Bob F. Hill, Sr., a former trustee and a local business and civic leader, told the trustees and visitors that the "Chowan and Murfreesboro now enjoy the best 'town and gown' relationship in the past fifty years."

He praised the boards for their interest and efforts to help revitalize the town of Murfreesboro and the cooperative efforts of the college and town to bring a motel and restaurant to the area. He said that negotiations are underway with developers for such facilities on a 25-acre parcel of land owned by the college and fronting the new Murfreesboro bypass.

Mrs. Elaine Myers, the first woman to chair the Board of Trustees, was re-elected for another term. Tom McCrary, of Raleigh, was elected vice-chairman. James C. McGill of Burlington, was elected chairman of the Board of Visitors, with James Eason of Murfreesboro, vice-chairman.

Dr. Jerry F. Jackson, president of the college, reported work is continuing to have Chowan's teacher education program accredited by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. He said that a committee has visited the campus for extensive evaluation of the program and gave favorable preliminary reports.

Jackson also noted that Chowan has made application for certification to offer satellite courses in the State of Virginia. He said courses may be offered in Franklin, VA, through the cooperation of Paul D. Camp Community College and also in the Tidewater area.

Mike Allen, vice president of business affairs, announced three awards for minority students majoring in teacher education and also said Chowan had received an energy grant to install fiber optic cable for energy conservation as well as for computer network systems.

Miss Laurie Bass, newly appointed director of the annual fund and Day for Chowan, was commended when more than \$256,608.47 in gifts and pledges were received in the fifth annual one-day fund raising campaign.

A projected spring enrollment of 680 students was announced and a goal set to enroll 400 new students for the fall of 1995-96.

William Miller of Miller and Cook Associates of Roanoke, VA, told the two boards that student recruitment was becoming more competitive than in past years.

"You are now competing for students who would not have even considered Chowan two years ago," he said, "because you are now able to attract a much better qualified student."

Miller's firm has worked with the Office of Admissions in an advisory capacity during the past several years.

Trustees and visitors completing their terms of service were presented plaques in recognition of their service to the college. New members of the boards were also presented plaques by the chairs of the respective boards.

Myers expressed appreciation in behalf of the trustees to Dr. Jackson and the administration of the college for their "excellent work in administering the work of this institution."

"We are indeed fortunate to have such outstanding leadership at Chowan College and you are to be commended," she said.

Architectural firms now preparing preliminary drawings for consideration

Hill praises boards for excellent "town and gown" relationship

Elaine Myers re-elected chair of Trustees; McGill named chairman of Visitors

Guest Editorial about "Day for Chowan"

A huge success for area landmark

EDITOR'S NOTE—The following editorial appeared in *The Ahoskie News-Herald* on Monday, Dec. 12. It was written by Jack Stephens, news editor.

Officials at Chowan College, from the president, Dr. Jerry Jackson, on down, have every right to be justifiably proud of their success during this year's Day for Chowan fund raiser.

The initial goal of \$200,000 — \$50,000 more than that of last year — was met before the kickoff breakfast. As a result, the campaign organizers — Raymond Benthall, the Murfreesboro banker, and Jane Taylor, the retired home economics agent from Harrellsville — and others suggested that the goal be raised to \$225,000.

Not only was \$225,000 raised by day's end, but so was an additional \$23,408.47.

"I'm most appreciative of the people in the five-county area and the time they gave for Chowan," Jackson said. "The money is important, but I think that the people having enough interest in this institution is just gratifying to me."

The fund raiser was started five years ago as a Hertford County project with a \$50,000 goal. In the meantime, the adjacent three counties in the Roanoke-Chowan are — Bertie, Northampton and Gates — were added.

With almost as many students from Virginia as North Carolina, school officials correctly reasoned last year that Southampton County also should be included.

Since the day was held, an additional \$5,000 has been collected, including a \$500 donation.

"It's very gratifying that our friends in the five counties have supported our transition to four-year status in such a meaningful way," said E. Vincent Tilson, the college's vice president for development.

Laurie Bass, who orchestrated the entire project, did not begin work until September. She deserves much of the credit of organizing the drive in a short time.

In addition to Hertford County's Benthall and Taylor, the drive had chairmen in the other four counties. They included Bedford Brown and Mack Eason of Gates, Bob Spivey and Nathan Copeland of Bertie, C. J. Watson of Northampton, and Edgar Parker, George R. Davis and George O' Bryant of Southampton. More than 300 volunteers raised the money, and the pledges and the contributions that were missed will be collected during December.

"Just to have that many volunteers out for you is overwhelming to me," Jackson said. "It shows the support for this institution. The institution is one of the bright lights in this area. I'm most appreciative and I know our board is."

Jackson is right. Chowan is a beacon in the night helping to light the way in this sometimes-forgotten little corner of the world. It is a definite plus for the five counties.

Success, however, does breed success. In the future, maybe the \$250,000 goal will be only a small percentage of what the supporters can do.

Byrd resigns; Austine Evans named acting vice president for student enrollment

Mary Jo Byrd submitted her resignation as Chowan College's vice president for student enrollment in late October and plans to re-locate in Maine where she has accepted another position outside of education.

Mrs. Austine O. Evans, who currently serves as Director of Freshman Year Experience, Academic Advisement and Retention, has been named acting vice president for student enrollment.

"Mary Jo Byrd's resignation will create a great loss for Chowan College," said Dr. Jackson. "She and her staff deserve much credit in turning the enrollment picture around with fresh ideas and new approaches to student recruiting."

Jackson also noted that Byrd and her staff "have played a major role in raising our academic standards" during the past two years. "Since she assumed the student recruiting position, the average SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) score of new freshmen students has increased by 140 points," he said.

Byrd was appointed to the administrative staff at Chowan in August 1990 as dean of students. She was promoted to vice president for student enrollment in January 1992.

Evans, a native of Martinsburg, W. Va., was awarded her undergraduate degree and the M.A. in Education by Wake Forest University. She also holds a Certificate in Advanced Study from East Carolina University.

She served as Director of Admissions for Peace College in Raleigh for several years prior to joining the Hertford County School System as a counselor in 1984. She accepted an appointment to Chowan's staff in January 1991.

Evans has served three terms on the Board of Trustees at Peace College and one term as a trustee at Wake Forest University. Several years ago she was named an "Outstanding Young Educator of America."

Evans and her husband, Ernest L., Jr., are the parents of two children and reside in Ahoskie.



Austine Evans