

Board of Advisors Study Current Trends

Under the direction of a new chairman and with two new members present, the Chowan College Board of Advisors participated in an in-depth study of current trends and crises in higher education and assessed their own function as advisors to the college at a semi-annual meeting held Tuesday in the office of President Bruce E. Whitaker.

New members welcomed by James B. Powers, president of Planters National Bank and Trust Company of Rocky Mount, presiding for the first time as advisor chairman, were E. L. Hollowell of Edenton and L. Vincent Lowe, Jr. of Wilson. Hollowell is a former Chowan trustee and Lowe is executive vice president of Branch Banking and Trust Company.

Advisors heard Chowan's academic dean, Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., discuss several issues - enrollment, costs and public image - facing higher education in the United States today.

"Perhaps one of the most vexing problems facing higher education today is that of enrollment," Lowe said. "While declining enrollments have perhaps posed a more serious problem for private higher education, the problem in some degree affects every element of higher education."

Lowe said even though the 18-year-old population has increased, fewer freshmen have enrolled in colleges in the U. S. in the fall of 1972 than in the two preceding years. He said one reason has been the changing draft laws which no longer permit a student asylum from the draft through college attendance.

He called this a "mixed blessing," adding, "It has eliminated from the campus many of those who are not serious about the matter of a college education and who have consequently served as a disruptive element."

Advisors were reminded by Lowe that most colleges are feeling the bind of spiralling costs. "For many, deficits are becoming a way of life. Chowan is indeed fortunate that it has been able to maintain a balanced budget, but this has been extremely difficult and required close planning and budgeting."

Advisors heard Lowe mention what he called "the debate over education versus training. Regardless of one's vocation, a person needs to understand human nature and be able to cope with the complexities of our society. There should be no question of education or training. Rather there should be both, and this Chowan attempts to provide in those vocational programs which it offers."

Members also evaluated their own role as advisors to the college. Among advisors contributing to the discussion were two former college presidents, Dr. R. Kelly White, president emeritus of Belmont College in Nashville, Tenn., and Dr. Deryl Hart, member of the department of surgery and president emeritus of Duke University.

Dr. White of Conway offered the opinion "our main influence should be out on the field getting other people interested in Chowan College." He urged advisors to contact business and professional people and others in

their communities to tell them about Chowan.

Dr. Hart stressed the importance of maintaining a dual system of higher education. He commented that the private college can serve as a stimulator to the state schools. He said he felt the state should aid the student whether he attends a state or private college.

Don Matthews of Hamilton, trustee and chairman of the Mission Possible drive to secure a new, \$1.2 million science-engineering facility for Chowan, discussed the role advisors are assuming in the Mission Possible program. "You have been a source of strength to Chowan, both in your own support and the support you have generated in your communities," Matthews said.

In other action, advisors authorized the organizing of an executive committee. Although responsible to the entire Board of Advisors, the executive committee would be available to meet

on call to discuss a subject or give counsel to the college, Powers explained.

Staff members addressing advisors included Ben Sutton, business manager, who reviewed financial matters. He said the budget for the 1972-73 academic year is "a balanced budget." He explained, "It is a tight budget but Chowan is continuing to operate in the black as it has for the past 15 years under the administration of President Whitaker."

Sutton also reported on repairs to McDowell Columns which he said were the "most extensive in the 122-year history of the facility." He said work was progressing on schedule. He reported workmen had removed both interior walls, replaced one with new brick and were finishing bricking the second wall.

Chowan's 125th anniversary was discussed by Chowan's chaplain, Dr. Hargus Taylor. He noted Chowan was founded on October 11, 1848 and said the

same date in 1973 would be "the exact date of the 125th anniversary." He explained the college is celebrating its 125th year of operation throughout the current academic year.

Chowan's president thanked the advisors for their participation and elaborated on their role. He said among other duties, they serve as interpreters of the college in their communities. "They are the eyes and ears of Chowan. They not only communicate the mission and objectives of the college to the public but also report reactions of the public to the college," Dr. Whitaker explained.

Dr. Whitaker said that despite a heavy demand on their time from their work and other civic and community service, Chowan's advisors find time to devote their interests and energies to Chowan College. He noted they had proven "loyal in their commitment to the cause of Christian higher education."



STUDY PLANS—Chowan's president, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, right, and Ben Sutton, business manager, review the architect's plans for Chowan's new science-engineering facility with Robert E. Lee, left, executive vice president of Tarheel Bank and Trust Company. A recent contribution from the bank will aid the college in financing construction of the building.



RECEPTION AT PRESIDENT'S HOME—Honor roll students were honored at a reception recently at the home of President and Mrs. Bruce E. Whitaker. Top photo shows Dr. Garth Faile, Chairman of the Science Department; Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Whitaker; and Dean B. Franklin Lowe, Jr. The lower photo shows a portion of the receiving line which was made up of the chairman of the various departments. Left to right are, Warren Sexton, Social Science; Herman Gatewood, Graphic Arts; Mrs. Almira Ockerman, Nursing; Carl Simmons, Mathematics; and Dr. Garth Faile, Science. Being greeted by Mrs. Ockerman is Jimmy Moore, a descendant of Chowan's founder.