

In semi-annual session

Enrollment projections focus of Trustee meeting

Chowan trustees reelected J. Guy Revelle, Jr. of Murfreesboro as chairman and devoted a major part of their time to hearing and discussing a report on "enrollment situation and projections" presented by Dean of the College B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., during their semi-annual meeting earlier this month in the office of President Bruce E. Whitaker.

Miss Emma Gay Stephenson of Durham was reelected vice chairman and Randy Britton of Ahoskie was reelected chairman of the Executive Committee.

Lowe's report dealt with the decline in the number of college age students and the possible affects on private colleges.

Lowe said that "students of trends in higher education agree

fall 1982-83 for the first time since 1971. Twenty-eight of 38 private colleges in North Carolina reported a decline in enrollment."

Lowe said that from 1970-79, 141 independent colleges closed, including three in North Carolina. He added, "Conditions will likely get considerably worse before they begin to improve."

Best Efforts Required

Lowe stated, however, "that the majority of colleges and universities should be able to survive and to keep essential programs intact. But survival will require sound planning and management. We must be willing to give our best efforts."

Following Lowe's report, Chairman Revelle called on President Whitaker for his response and



Members of the Board of Trustees hear reports concerning the enrollment situation and projections. J. Guy Revelle, Jr., of Murfreesboro, was re-elected chairman of the Board at the semi-annual meeting.

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—Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker

that from now through 1995 there will be a substantial reduction in the number of students available on a nationwide basis."

He said the number of 18-year-olds will drop from about 4.3 million in 1979 to about 3.2 million in 1994.

Lowe commented, "Overall enrollment in independent colleges in the United States declined in the

comments. Whitaker noted, "as a trustee you probably haven't heard anything as important as this report."

He asked trustees to support efforts to have the General Assembly raise support for in-state students attending North Carolina independent colleges from the present amount of \$850 to \$1,200 by 1984.

Whitaker said the state supports

out-of-state undergraduate students in the amount of \$2,450. "On the other hand, the state allocates only \$850 per North

Carolina student enrolled in a private institution."

He said that according to projections in 1994 the number of high school graduates will be down by 25 percent from 1979. "In light of such projections, I am puzzled that the university system is committed to increasing its enrollment by about 1,000 per year. If projections for North Carolina are correct, the university system, if it sticks to its

trustees. Mrs. Ethel K. Smith of Benson said the college should emphasize increasing its endowment to secure more funds for the operating budget and scholarships.

State Sen. Vernon White of Winterville suggested the offering of additional vocational courses including computer courses.

Dean Lowe responded by telling the trustees of plans to implement computer information systems

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—Dean B. Franklin Lowe, Jr.

present position, could absorb all of the North Carolina students currently enrolled in our private institutions."

Dr. Whitaker noted, "This picture we have received is not meant to be alarming but realistic regarding demographics by the mid 1990's as they relate to private colleges and Chowan in particular."

Suggestions Offered

Dr. Whitaker called for the response and suggestions of

curriculum for the 1984-85 academic year. He noted, "we are attempting to keep our curriculum modern and up to date while at the same time maintaining our emphasis on liberal arts. We must train people who can think. We want our graduates to be useful citizens and leaders and not just followers. A computer is not human. Someone must plan the program for the computers."

Revelle said trustees and other

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L. M. Wallace, Jr., and Warren Sexton, professors, talk with their former students, from left, Sam Harahan and Bill Slate, who recently attended their first meeting of the Board of Advisors. Slate and Harahan share the opinion that justice is enhanced by the presence of an informed citizenry who participate in the development of public policy and a justice system sensitive to public views.