

The Hilltop



Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

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A. W. Mellon Foundation grants \$140,000 to MARS HILL COLLEGE

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York City has awarded Mars Hill College \$140,000 for programs to enrich the teaching and learning environment at the Baptist-related school.

According to Dr. Richard L. Hoffman, vice-president for academic affairs, the grant resulted from a request by the Mellon Foundation that Mars Hill submit a proposal.

"That such a prestigious organization as the Mellon Foundation should ask us to submit a grant proposal and then see fit to be so generous in their award is high tribute to the administration, faculty, and students of Mars Hill College," stated Dr. Hoffman.

The A. W. Mellon Foundation is one of the largest philanthropic foundations in the country with assets totaling over \$636 million. The foundation is named for the Pittsburg financier and former Secretary of the Treasury and awards grants to both public and private agencies in the arts and humanities, health, social/welfare as well as educational fields.

Funds from the grant will be applied to projects in two areas, according to Dr. Hoffman. The first area will be the immediate introduction of curriculum development plans. The second area will cover programs which grow out of faculty development concerns.

The first area of the two-part plan will be four curriculum programs which will be implemented during the 1979-80 school year. The first priority will be to develop a science curriculum for non-science majors. This will include three interdisciplinary courses: one in the social sciences, one in the natural sciences, and one that combines elements from both natural and social sciences areas. The science department faculty will also be revitalized under this program.

The second program under curriculum development will be the establishment of a master teacher/scholar-in-residence plan to enrich the teaching and learning environment. It will be designed to attract outstanding scholars to Mars Hill each semester over a three year period to perform a variety of duties including faculty seminars; lectures to the total college community; special topic seminars with

honor students at the junior and senior levels; workshops for the college faculty to improve their skills in teaching, research, assessment, and course design; and evaluating portions of Mars Hill's educational plan.

The third program will be to develop a honors project for gifted and motivated students by utilizing selected faculty members to cultivate special educational experiences in both the general educational field as well as in major studies.

The fourth program will be a series of projects related to the college's historic commitment to the Appalachian Center, primitive artifacts collections, oral history tapings, and books and materials relating to the region housed in the Appalachian Room of Memorial Library.

The second area of the two-part plan will fund four faculty development components. The first of these will be college directed short-term projects designed to tap the creative resources of the faculty and direct them to the solution of a specific college environment issue.

The second component will be faculty initiated projects which will define goals for self-development. Groups consisting of three to five faculty members will be encouraged to submit proposals for self-development projects which the college would provide released time to pursue. The master teacher/scholar mentioned under the curriculum development part of the plan would serve as a major resource to such groups.

The third component will be faculty workshops and seminars directed to specific skill development and an increased understanding of the Appalachian region. The final component will provide for the enlargement of the Social Science Research Center. This center provides a limited number of students with an opportunity to acquire skills in research methods and has worked with a variety of local agencies and businesses in formulating and carrying out research projects.

By utilizing the faculty and curriculum components together," noted Dr. Hoffman, "Mars Hill will be able to support a broader profile of students through the enrichment of the total community and its surrounding environments."

Enrollment: Nationwide Vs MHC

(CPS) — First estimates of fall enrollment in American colleges and universities see an increase of 2.8 percent over last fall's level. The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) expects a total of 11.6 million on campus, 320,000 more than 1977's 11.28 million. If the estimates prove true — the Century won't have final figures until the spring — this will be the second consecutive autumn increase. Many schools, though, are still trying to recover from the fall of 1976, when enrollment in public colleges and universities dropped a precipitous nine percent.

And many administrators are still preparing for drops in the future. Demographers say the nation simply won't be producing enough 18-year-olds in the 1980's to allow schools to maintain their course diversity and physical plant.

Some analysts also think that fewer 18-year-olds will enroll in college in the future because of a predicted slackening of demand for educated workers. Specifically, by 1980 there should be some 4.2 million 18-year-olds who might

go to college. By 1990, that number will fall to 3.4 million. Even fewer 18-year-olds will be available to populate the campuses in the early 1990's.

For the moment, though, the NCES sees enrollment at public colleges and universities hitting 9.1 million, with another 2.5 million at private schools.

Regular student enrollment at Mars Hill College has been slowly decreasing since 1976. The Fall semester figures of 1976, show 1,445 regular students enrolled, Fall semester figures of 1977, show 1,409 students enrolled and Fall semester figures of 1978 show a student decrease of two, the number of regular students enrolled being 1,407. The number of regular male students has decreased, while the number of regular female students has increased.

However, the number of CEP (Continuing Education Program) students has increased. The number of CEP students in Fall 1976 was 311, the number in Fall 1977 was 346, and the current number of CEP students is 401, with a large percentage of them being women.

S.G.A. Senate Report

by Steve Harrell

The second senate meeting of the year was held Wednesday, the 25th of October at seven p.m. in Belk auditorium. In this meeting it was taken note that several members of the senate were missing due to miscommunication. It was agreed that their absences would not be counted against them.

Out of the many topics discussed during the meeting, the most significant were installations of telephones, Richard Heaton's meeting with President Bentley, and washing machine problems.

It was proposed that phones be installed in individual dorm rooms and apartments on campus for private use. Payment, of course, would be up to the individual student. The topic was held over for further discussion in the next meeting.

Richard Heaton then spent some time talking about his meeting with President Bentley. Said Heaton, "I discussed with President Bentley the fact that I thought he could do more as an individual and as president of the college to get out and work with the stu-

dents of this college just in letting us know that he exists. President Bentley then came up with the idea of opening his house once a week for the students. Each senator would be able to select a person on his or her hall to go with them to the president's house to sit around and talk." Heaton went on to say that Bentley needed the senate's approval on this matter.

Following the open-house item, Heaton gave Steve Wilent the floor to comment on the washer and dryer situation. Said Wilent, "Students on campus depend on the washers and dryers belonging to the college. I would say the majority of the students do not have enough money to go to the washer-ette up town and spend three dollars a week for clean clothes. I think the washer and dryer situation is pathetic. First you can't find a washer to wash your clothes and if you find a washer, you can't find a dryer that works." He went on to say, "It upsets me to think that the administration here, at least up to now, has been fickle about the whole

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