

VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES NO. 9

LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD

December 4, 1967

The Local Advisory Board of Virginia Western Community College met on December 4, 1967 at 8:00 p. m. in the Board Room of the Shenandoah Life Insurance Company.

Mr. William S. Russell, Chairman of the Advisory Board, presided. Board members in attendance were: Mrs. Hunter Painter, Messrs. Barton Morris, S. Colston Snead, Jr., Henry E. Thomas, Paul R. Thomson, W. D. Vinyard, Basil Watkins, and Dr. F. B. Wolfe. College administrators, President McKenzie and Dean Scrafford, were also present.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were approved as recorded.

Dr. McKenzie told the group of the status of the building program at the college. The contract was signed on December 1, 1967 by Dr. Dana B. Hamel, Director, Virginia Department of Community Colleges, and Waggoner Construction Company, Salisbury, North Carolina. There is a 365-day clause in the contract, but Dr. McKenzie noted that frequently emergencies do occur to prevent completion in that period of time.

Dr. McKenzie told the Board of the college's overcrowded condition due to the lack of classroom facilities. He said that we shall need additional space next fall unless we seriously restrict enrollment. He expressed his reluctance to deny any qualified student admittance into the college if space can possibly be made available. He offered the tentative suggestion of portable classrooms and told that there is no capital money for buildings during the next two years. These classrooms very likely will be all we can obtain for the next five or six years. Mr. Russell asked Dr. McKenzie to present details on portable classroom proposal at the next board meeting.

An account of the incidents which prompted the recent adverse publicity about Virginia Western students was prepared for Dr. Hamel, and copies of this account have been distributed to all board members. Dr. McKenzie told the Board about the upheaval and outlined his actions. He further stated his concern regarding this incident and said that he believes that the allegations will be proven false. Mr. Russell indicated that he had discussed this with Vice Chairman Henry Thomas and they believe that a letter of commendation should be sent to the Student Body as an evidence of their support for the actions taken by that group. The Board agreed that such a letter was in order, and Mr. Russell will write this letter.

The election of a chairman of the Local Advisory Board followed. Mr. Henry Thomas, Vice Chairman, presided. Mrs. Painter nominated Mr. W. S. Russell; Mr. Snead seconded the nomination; and Mr. Russell was unanimously elected. Chairman Russell then called for nominations for

vice chairman of the Board. Mr. Vinyard nominated Mr. Henry Thomas; Mrs. Painter seconded the nomination; and Mr. Thomas was unanimously elected.

A committee comprised of Mr. S. Colston Snead, Jr., Mr. Barton Morris, and Dr. Travis McKenzie was named at the September 11 meeting to study the financial feasibility and procedures of implementing a faculty housing project. Mr. Snead, Chairman, reported that a meeting of this group was held. He then was requested to ask questions of appropriate agencies as to whether funds are available for financing such a project. He has been in touch with Congressman Poff's office and has transmitted the data which were provided to him by Dr. McKenzie. Mr. Snead expects to hear from Congressman Poff regarding the appropriate agency with which we may deal. He expects to be able to report his findings to the Board at the next meeting.

A report on matching funds for National Defense Education Act money was given as follows: Lions Club in Craig County - \$100 (Mr. Watkins); Lions Club of Vinton - \$50 (Mr. Vinyard); Franklin County Chamber of Commerce - \$25 (Dr. Wolfe); Rocky Mount Lions Club - \$25 (Dr. Wolfe); Eastern Star, Botetourt Chapter - \$25 (Mrs. Painter); Chi Omega Alumnae Association - \$25 (Mrs. Painter); and Mr. George Ed. Honts, III - \$25 (Mrs. Painter). Total received to date \$275. Other members of the Board were invited to participate in this attempt to raise money to be matched by federal money nine times. A report on the number of these loans will be given at the next meeting.

The college has been accepted into candidacy by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. McKenzie and Dean Scrafford appeared before the Committee on Admission to Membership for Junior Colleges on Monday November 27, 1967 at the Baker Hotel in Dallas, Texas. This meeting was the final step before a final decision on our application was made. Dr. McKenzie explained that the first step toward receiving accreditation is to establish correspondence; this was done on July 13, 1966. The second step is to achieve candidacy which involves several contacts, a status study report, and the above-mentioned presentation. We may, if we choose, ask that an appointed committee make a visit to our campus and make recommendations to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It is Dr. McKenzie's thinking that we shall wait until the spring of 1969 to ask a committee to make such a visit.

The possibility of having a Ground-breaking Ceremony was discussed. It was believed by some of the members that this is hardly significant enough to invite certain local or state key persons to attend. We shall look into the possibility of having, instead, a Cornerstone Ceremony of some consequence. Mr. Snead moved that this matter be left to the chairman of the board and the president to work out details and to decide whether to have a Ground-breaking Ceremony. Mr. Vinyard seconded this motion; it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p. m.