

Coeducation Adopted, Parietal Regulations Changed

By Mike Evans

All obstacles to the coeducation of the University were removed last weekend by direction of the Board of Visitors, and, at the same meeting, all parietal rules were turned over to the discretion of the President.

In a statement titled "Resolution on the Admission of Women Adopted by the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia on 15 February 1969," the Board outlines not only the history of the adoption of coeducation, but the requirements for the future admission of women.

Wives of student as staff members will be admitted to the College in the fall semester of 1969 provided that they have completed two years of college previous to enrolling at the University. The report says that full co-education following a plan to be submitted to the Board in October of this year, will begin in the fall of 1970.

After a great deal of student vocalizing on the present parietal rules, the Board of Visitors turned control of all these rules to President Shannon, with the permission of the board to delegate the administration of these rules.

After an eighteen month study of the desirability of coeducation at the University, a report was presented to the Board in December of 1968 encouraging them to adopt coeducation.

Between the two meetings, the President was directed to engage a study of the feasibility which he did through the committee on the Future of the University. That report in essence reads:

WHEREAS the report of the committee on the Future of the University set forth in essence the following proposals for the consideration of the President and the Board:

A. Should the Board act to revise the policy on the admission of women to the College, it should act simply to remove the restrictions on their admission to all undergraduate schools of the University.

B. If the Board proceeds with such action, it adopts a set of general principles as University policy to guide the administrative officers and faculty in planning the enrollment of women.

C. The following general principles are submitted for consideration:

(1) Any change in the University's policy regarding the admission of women and their education should be implemented in a manner consistent with the University's Statement of Institutional Purpose adopted by the Board of Visitors on June 5, 1964.

(2) The admission and enrollment of women in the College and other undergraduate schools should be phased into the projected growth of the University in an orderly fashion.

(3) The ultimate goal should be a program which preserves the traditions of the University and which provides the optimum educational experience for students within this framework. During the initial transition period, however, the enrollment of women must be carefully phased in such a fashion that the following objectives are maintained:

(a) The number of qualified male applicants should not be curtailed as a result of the admission of women.

(b) The faculty and facilities of the University should not be burdened to the extent that the effectiveness of the educational program is impaired. In particular, an adequate lead time must be provided in the recruitment of such additional faculty and staff members as may be required.

(4) The undergraduate coeducational operation which ultimately develops should be one, with the graduate coeducational operation long in effect, under which the existing policy regarding the enrollment of out-of-state students is maintained. During the period of transition, however, it may be necessary to give preference to women who are Virginians or even local residents.

(5) The existing regulations regarding the admission of men to the undergraduate schools shall apply to the admission of women.

The report goes on to state that there are no legislative bonds to prevent coeducation and that states that the President has approved both of these reports, the Resolution reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia:

(1) That the restrictions heretofore placed on the admission of women to the undergraduate schools at Charlottesville be and are hereby removed, subject to the conditions set forth below;

(2) That the Board directs the President to prepare for submission to the Board not later than its meeting on 3 October 1969, such a plan to be formulated generally in accordance with the principles recommended in the Report of the Committee on the Future of the University;

(3) That in the formulation of the plan consideration be given to the impact of the admission of women to the undergraduate divisions at Charlottesville upon other public women's colleges in Virginia and especially upon Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia; and

(4) That the President include in the University's Biennial Budget Request to the Governor and the General Assembly for 1970-72 the funds necessary to implement the plan.

Parietal or Visitation rules were significantly altered after much consultation and input from the President and the Student Council.

The new resolution reads:

RESOLVED, by the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia that all prior action of the Board regarding parietal rules (hereinafter referred to as visitation hours) shall be rescinded at such time as the President may notify the Secretary of the Board that he has assumed the authority over all matters pertaining to visitation; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that upon such notification to the Secretary, the authority over visitation hours shall be thenceforth in the hands of the President. Without limiting this authority, the President can, at his discretion (a) delegate the determination and enforcement of visitation policies to student governments where appropriate student governments exist; and (b) cause visitation hours proposed by student groups to come before the Student Council before becoming effective; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board hereby reserves to the President the unrestricted right to change either prospectively or retroactively all matters pertaining to the visitation as set forth above, as he may from time to time deem appropriate.