

## Co-Education for Lafayette?

### A Background Paper

On a national level, colleges and universities which are not co-educational are exploring the pros and cons of establishing co-educational or coordinate institutions. The Faculty of Lafayette College has appointed a Committee to study the implications of establishing a coordinate women's college to implement the educational aims of Lafayette. There are many facets which must be considered in making such a decision. Following is an outline which tries to objectively cover the problems and questions which can arise if women were to become candidates for a baccalaureate degree at Lafayette College.

#### I. EDUCATION

##### A. Facilities

1. The buildings on campus could be used more advantageously.
  - a. A number of students now leave campus for the weekends.
    - 1). They go to other colleges, either co-ed or women's or home to date.
    - a). If students stayed on campus, greater use would be made of extra-curricular facilities as well as the library and other academic facilities.
  - b. Certain classrooms in fine arts, music, philosophy and language now receive limited use because men are less likely to take these courses.
    - 1). Facilities would receive greater use from women taking courses in these areas.

##### B. Faculty

1. At present certain departments teach many introductory courses (English, foreign language, philosophy, etc.) Competent scholars in these areas want to teach advanced courses, not just introductory and elementary courses.
  - a. The College would be able to attract and retain highly able teachers in departments by giving the professor more opportunity to teach advanced courses. This is most true in the liberal arts and humanities.

2. The student to faculty ratio would be increased.

a. There would be more students per faculty member in total but with a better distribution over all the courses.

1). Those courses which have a low student to faculty ratio will attract more students.

#### C. Students

1. The academic ability level of the student body would be higher with the enrollment of women.

a. Lafayette can not expect to increase the percentage of extremely well-qualified young men above its present level.

1). The College faces competition from the Ivy League, etc.

2). Lafayette cannot afford the scholarships that would be needed to attract students away from those institutions.

b. There are fewer good schools for well-qualified women.

1). The competition is therefore stiffer for admissions.

a) Lafayette could attract these capable women.

2. The small college atmosphere will still be retained.

a. Women and men will not compete for identity and status in all areas of endeavor.

#### D. Curriculum

1. The College would remain an undergraduate liberal arts school.

a. The curriculum would have a university-scope, encompassing the arts, sciences and engineering.

b. There would be a greater demand for the non-technological side of the curriculum.

1). The course structures would be more uniformly balanced.

## II. SOCIAL

A. There is a socialability drive on the individual level.

1. Young people feel a need to establish close associations and friendships with members of the opposite sex.



2. Young people are more "socially conscious" today than ever before. The "single-sex" campus may become unpopular for social reasons.
  3. There could be an improvement in the personal habits of dress, manners and speech if both sexes were in constant contact with one another.
- B. In society as a whole there is a need for communication between the sexes.
1. More women will enter the working force as career employees.
    - a. There is and will be a definite need in business and professions to have a rapport with the opposite sex other than on the courtship and marriage level.
      - 1). Contact with each other brings an appreciation of each's capabilities, motivations and desires.

### III. FINANCES

#### A. Initial investment

1. The land necessary to enlarge the campus is available or can be made available from several sources.
  - a. There is land which the College acquired several years ago in Forks Township.
  - b. The College owns land close to the campus which is not currently being used for academic purposes.
  - c. The College can acquire more land close to campus if it would be necessary.

#### B. Building needs

1. 600 women would require 9-10 million dollars.
2. 1000 women would require 16 million dollars.
  - a. This money would be needed for residence halls, an auditorium-fine arts building, physical education, administrative and heating facilities and land development and utilities.

#### C. Operations

1. The per capita cost of educating the students would decrease with an increased enrollment.

- a. There would be a broader income base and through better distribution the College could utilize existing facilities and professors more profitably.
- D. Endowment - Additional endowment needed to maintain present level of endowment per student.
  - 1. 600 women - \$9 million
  - 2. 1000 women - \$15 million
- E. Total cost - Buildings plus endowment.
  - 1. 600 women - \$20 million
  - 1000 women - \$30-35 million.
- F. Fund raising
  - 1. The College is presently not able to meet its expenses through tuition or endowment income. Annual fund-raising is required.
  - 2. The needs for funds will grow proportionately with the rise in costs and with the rise in the number of students.
  - 3. It is very difficult to obtain money for women.
    - a. Initial enthusiasm may bring in a rash of contributions.
    - b. Women in the future will be more able to contribute to their alma maters.
      - 1). More women will be earning money and have independent means.
    - c. Married couples generally support husband's college.
  - 4. Charitable contributions in future years may not keep pace with increasing costs.

The preceeding outline points out that the addition of women on the Lafayette campus would increase the student enrollment and the operating budget and endowment necessities of the school. But it is also evident that the quality level of the school will be raised and more widespread use of existing facilities and faculty will fully round-out the educational aims of the school.

The establishment of a co-educational or coordinate women's college at Lafayette merits careful consideration. The alternatives must also be reviewed and inspected, either to remain all male or to look into the possibilities of a future cooperative or coordinate ventures with all or several existing women's colleges.