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Haverford College

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NEWS

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY (distributed, Saturday, December 11, 1976)

(BOARD)

The Haverford College Board of Managers decided yesterday (FRI., DEC. 10, 1976) that the college will admit women transfer students into the upper three class-years, beginning in the fall of 1977.

Until now, Haverford has not admitted women directly but has sought a coeducational environment through cooperation with nearby Bryn Mawr College, a women's institution.

The Haverford board also proposed a joint council formed by Haverford managers and trustees of Bryn Mawr. The council will meet regularly to further develop the "unique relationship that exists between the two colleges."

(MORE)

At the start of its meeting, the Haverford board received the report of a special committee which it had appointed to study possible changes in Haverford's admissions policy. The board asked that this report be distributed to all members of the Haverford and Bryn Mawr College communities, both for informational purposes and as a basis for further discussion.

In addition, the Haverford board recommended formation of a joint committee consisting of students, faculty members and administrators from both colleges. The committee will study the issues raised by the report.

The report recommended that Haverford "pursue the interrelated actions of prudent budgeting, modest enrollment growth, energetic recruiting, the opening of enrollment to women on a limited basis with due regard for the character of the Two-College Community, commit itself to joining in a confederation with Bryn Mawr and working to strengthen a unique educational opportunity for both men and women...."

The report contained specific suggestions for achieving these objectives, and those suggestions will now be considered by the new committee.

Following the meeting, Haverford's board chairman, John C. Whitehead, said: "Today's decisions represent significant progress in coeducation at Haverford. They also reaffirm and intensify Haverford's commitment to our valued cooperative relationship with Bryn Mawr."

Haverford first committed itself to the concept of coeducation more than two years ago. In January, 1974, the college's board of managers affirmed that "coeducational classrooms offer a richer and broader range of viewpoints and a more normal environment for learning" than the atmosphere of a single-sex institution.

(MORE)

At that time, the board decided that rather than admit women students, Haverford would seek a "fuller coeducational environment" on its campus by increasing already substantial cooperative programs with Bryn Mawr, which admits only women to its undergraduate school.

When it endorsed coeducation, the board also decided to expand enrollment from 750 to 1,000 students as one step in assuring Haverford's future financial stability. It called for constant monitoring of both the effects of expansion on Haverford's educational programs as well as the coeducational progress made by cooperation with Bryn Mawr.

Last May, the Haverford board reviewed the 1974 decision to expand and reaffirmed its plan to enlarge the student body. At the same time, the board also began its review of the decision on the admission of women.

The board's recent decision followed eight months of campus-wide discussion about admitting women. Most decision-making at Haverford is by the Quaker method of consensus. Thus, before its December 10th meeting, the board sought a wide range of input from: faculty members; students; administrators; the college's ownership body which is the Corporation of Haverford College; representatives of Bryn Mawr; individual alumni; parents of students and other friends of the college.

The faculty appointed a student-faculty committee to study the matter. The administration asked outside consultants for their evaluation. Haverford's student government organized a full-day discussion so students could express their views.

The governing boards of Haverford and Bryn Mawr met jointly last month for the first time in history to discuss the future relationship of the two schools.

(MORE)

Cooperation between Haverford and Bryn Mawr is considered by many to be a unique arrangement in American higher education.

While the two institutions embrace individually distinctive missions, their academic programs are coordinated to offer a wider variety of courses to students at both colleges than either school could offer alone. Students at either school can register for classes at the other without extra cost or red tape. There are more than 2,700 such cross-registrations annually.

About 150 Haverford students reside at Bryn Mawr, and an equal number of Bryn Mawr students live at Haverford. A free bus service connects the two campuses, which are only 1.5 miles apart.

The students' extracurricular activities -- a weekly newspaper, drama club, radio station, orchestra, intramural sports and others -- operate jointly.

Located on a 229-acre campus on Philadelphia's Main Line, Haverford generally is considered among the nation's small group of leading, academically excellent, liberal arts colleges. Its current enrollment is around 840 students, and its full-time faculty numbers 70.

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EDITORS: for Haverford Board reaction, please contact: John C. Whitehead;
(201) 226-6326; only between 11:30 a.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday,
December 11, 1976.