

Grads Get Answers on University Problems Straight from the President

Magazines and newspapers are loaded with enrollment predictions. A tidal wave of students, say the writers.

Several grads have asked about the Ottawa slant on this news. So we put several of their questions to President Martin. Here they are and the answers too.

Is it true what experts say about booming college enrollments?

Yes, it is absolutely so. In the next few years enrollments will step up sharply. By 1970 the increase should be 75 per cent of what it is now.

Will every college be overflowing?

If the post World War II enrollments are an indication, yes. By force of sheer numbers we will have to use all higher educational facilities.

Will some colleges fill up with "left-overs"?

Aggressive institutions will always get their share of the cream of the crop. No one type of college is likely to get all the good students.

What is Ottawa doing to insure a selected student body?

We already have a well organized and aggressive student admissions program. Its duty in the future will be to select and get the people we want. Our Ottawa Plan of Education should be attractive to a capable group of students.

We want to stay a small college with the right number of students. There will be no effort on our part to be the "biggest small college."

What is the estimated "right number" of students in the future for O.U?

Probably between 600 and 700 (440 now). We want to preserve values of the small college and we can't do that if we have too many students. The exact number will depend on the nature of our developing program. Definitely there

is a point beyond which we cannot go without greatly increasing faculty and facilities.

What additions to the faculty will be necessary to handle the 600-700 enrollment?

We will probably need a half dozen additional key professors and a number of assistant professors.

What additional buildings are needed?

Residences for 300 people, additional classrooms and laboratories, a chapel, and a stadium.

The housing is in addition to what we already have and are building. Two new residences for men—housing 50 each—are under construction.

We hope to start a new library sometime this year.

Will it always be necessary for the University to appeal for support? Won't funds from tuition, endowment, and Kansas Baptist Convention be enough?

All universities—even state supported schools—seem to find it necessary to appeal to constituencies for some types of aid. Higher education institutions are non-profit concerns, have no opportunity to pile up reserves.

As enrollments at Ottawa go up, pressures from within and without will lead to a constantly improving program of education. And that will take money. It is doubtful that current budgets will ever provide funds for new buildings.

The University is dedicated to aiding brilliant but needy young people gain education. In the current budget this year there is \$35,000 designated for scholarship purposes (in addition to endowed scholarships). This figure will probably increase rather than decrease in the years to come.

Then there are two big appeal areas?

Yes, for current support and for capital funds—endowments, build-

ings, and other permanent developments.

One is as important as the other. If we fail to provide funds for our annual budget, there is no need for buildings and a bright future. Any business man knows that there must be balance between income for current expenses and income for capital developments.

Is there a chance the need for current fund gifts will decrease?

Possible, but doubtful. Demands for constant improvement in program and in faculty will put pressure upon us to provide necessary funds.

How do you propose to finance new buildings?

Through special gifts and occasional capital funds campaigns.

What about "giving" attitudes of alumni, Baptists, and University friends?

People these days apparently have a dynamic interest in supporting enterprises they consider vital. Our particular constituency seems to think our contribution to higher education is one of those vital institutions.

There is a growing feeling, too, that we should support through voluntary channels some of our colleges and universities. People believe that in a nation holding free enterprise in such high respect they should do what they can to insure the support of free enterprise institutions.

This is certainly not a statement against our state supported universities. They have an important task in our educational system and we support them through taxation.

Our support comes through the building of a constituency giving by individual choice to the program of education that is Ottawa University. There is a sense of pride in the common effort of people working together freely and unforced in behalf of a great institution.