

Expanding Clark Accepts New Challenge

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Fall, 1967, is a historic period in the life of Clark College here. As autumn spatters the campus with color, Clark will open classes for its first year as a state institution.

The changeover from Clark as a local to a state institution perhaps has been the single most dramatic development in the local education picture in many a year. It definitely has been one of the most publicized and captivating anyway.

As one of 22 community colleges now under the new state community college system in Washington, Clark likely will move ahead to other key developments, as it has done in the past.

SHOULD GAIN

The maturity of its 34 years since founding in 1933 probably will gain more stature as a state institution. Additional maturation beyond its years also is in the wind for Clark.

The new system, which sees Clark's scope widened in a Southwest Washington district pattern, may bring with it on-campus living — a resident campus situation.

New Clark board member, Clarence Irwin, has suggested this as an aid to those students attending Clark outside commuting range.

Irwin and college officials also have launched initial steps in creating more awareness of Clark in the outlying areas of the district. Visits, potential programs to present college offerings to residents, and other plans already have begun in outer Skamania and a part of Klickitat counties — included with Clark County in the Vancouver college's district.

EYE ADDITIONS

The possibility of new courses, new academic and increasing vocational programs also is a constant wish of the college board, chaired by Sid Craford.



DR. DWIGHT BAIRD

There are those also who would like to see a Clark College football team.

Growth in Clark's Evening and Summer programs loom on the year's horizon, as well as growth in the day offerings. Enrollment, day and evening, is anticipated to be some 3,500 this fall.

Contributing to these potential developments and growth at Clark, and in some instances inspiring them, are the new building complexes ready for fall classes, new faculty members and administrators.

The new engineering - technology building, completed just last spring, and a quarter million dollar octopus-shaped administration building are among the new physical additions and changes on campus ready for the fall insurgence of students.

LINKS PRESCRIBED

The Community College Act of 1967, which separated two-year colleges and technical schools from local districts, prescribes that the new system shall link local communities with the state.

It also outlines the specific and general responsibilities of community colleges, now to function as an arm of the state department of community college education.

"The purpose of this act is to provide for the dramatically increasing number of students requiring high standards of education either as a part of the continuing higher education program or for occupational training. . . is the clear specification of the law itself.

Under the new system, community colleges such as Clark must offer an "open door" policy to citizens regardless of their academic background or experience, place of residence, or other criteria.

Especially specified is that the colleges must offer their programs "at a cost normally within economic means."

At Clark, this means that students from in-state will be paying \$70 per quarter in fees. Non-residents will pay \$170, some \$9 more than last year. The resident fee is an increase of \$5 from last year.

FEES ON PAR

As part of a somewhat standardized state system, Clark's fees and those of the other community colleges will be about on a par.

As a part of a state-wide system, Clark and the other community colleges also will reflect other standardized similarities.

The new board of directors for the state college system is in charge of the coordination between the various community

colleges. John Hagensen, appointed by Gov. Dan Evans, is a member and the elected chairman of that state board, for which he resigned as director of the Vancouver School District board.

Vancouver's board, prior to the new legislation, served as director of Clark College's affairs here in addition to local school affairs.

One of the prime duties of the Hagensen, et al board, according to law, is "to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the development of community college education and training in the state." Minimum standards for programs, admission policies, operations and qualifications for college personnel also are being coordinated at the state level under the new system.

SEPARATION DUE

In addition to Craford and Irwin, other members of the local Clark board are Loyd O. Hinds, Richard Lawton and Mrs. Charles Mage. The new board began meeting for the first time June 26. They have been meet-

ing monthly since.

Among duties the board has been concerned with as opening day of classes nears Sept. 25, have been the separation of property and physical facilities from the Vancouver No. 37 district, as well as the hiring of personnel and the establishing of operating policies and by-laws.

Looking ahead to this fall, Clark's President Dwight C. Baird is one of the many elated about the beginning of the first year under the new state system.

Baird has cited the "pleasant and cooperative relationships between Clark and Vancouver" and yet doesn't suppress the anticipation of Clark's new status — a state status for which he has been one of the leaders in the field.

The new Washington system "could well become a model community college law for the nation," the Clark president said when the new law was signed in the spring.

Clark board president Craford joined Baird in anticipating "the

challenge this (new system brings to us." Craford pledges the hope and concern that "we here . . . might design the best education for (Clark's) district 14 as possible."

In this designing, the change undoubtedly will come, as they have in the past. Clark College will grow both in enrollment and offerings, repeatedly echoed.

FEW LIMITATIONS

The only limitation on the community college horizon that one can see, is the inherent limitation stated in the college act ". . . that community colleges are, for purposes of academic training, two-year institutions and are an independent, unique and vital section of our state's higher education system, separate from both the common school system and other institutions of higher learning, and never to be considered for conversion into four-year liberal arts colleges."

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