

Dr. Pound's Annual Report

May 24, 1934.

Chancellor Philip Weltner,
University System of Georgia,
Room 331, State Capitol,
Atlanta, Georgia.

My dear Chancellor:

Obedient to your request as contained in your letter of May 21st, I am submitting a general report of the operations of the Georgia State Womens College for the year now ending.

As you will recall, I took charge of the institution on July 1, 1933. I had had nothing whatever to do with the organization of the school. Indeed, I had had no chance to express any opinion or wish about it whatever. I did not know personally very many members of the faculty, and those whom I did know I had met only casually from time to time.

Then, too, there was a schism which had been rather bitter among the citizens of the town respecting the college. I did not know, when I came here, just where the division lines lay nor who were the leaders of these factions.

Under the circumstances, I took up my work with a good deal of apprehension, feeling that I was walking blindly into an unknown and possibly dangerous situation. Those apprehensions, however, were baseless, and I have never had a more pleasant or harmonious year's work during my entire career than I have had here. The faculty seems to have been loyal and certainly faithful in every particular, and the wrangling among our citizens seems to have disappeared completely, or at least no echo of it has ever come to me.

This faculty, it seems to me, is as nicely balanced and as well prepared as any in the University System. There are five Doctors of Philosophy in it, and all other teachers of academic subjects, with one exception, have Master's degrees, and that one will be dropped at the end of the session. Most of the Masters have something more than that. All are skilled and experienced teachers; a few of them are very able teachers; and all of them are very earnest teachers; so that on the whole it has been a very happy year for me, and I think, a very prosperous year

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for the school. The greatest drawback has been my own illness during the entire year, preventing me from throwing myself, as I should like to do, into the extra-curricular activities of the students and the social and civic life of the town.

We have enrolled, all told, 346 students in the regular session. We are holding, as you know, no summer session. If we could have had that, I feel sure that the separate enrollments of students for the year would have considerably exceeded four hundred.

By action of the Board of Regents, the Georgia State Woman's College has been declared to be a liberal arts college, putting us squarely in the class of Wesleyan, Agnes Scott, and other institutions of the State of a like character. It will surprise you, probably, to know that the Georgia State Woman's College has enrolled for the year more Georgia girls than any one of these institutions. It is true that several of them have larger enrollments, but those enrollments are made up in great part of students from other states, whom we have never sought.

The enrollment we have taxes our capacity to the utmost,-- in fact, exceeds it,-- a condition that must be remedied before the institution can grow very much more.

I have already stated that I thought this a well balanced faculty. I do not think as much of our course of study, as it seems to me that our science courses are not what they ought to be. For instance, while we offer physics and are preparing to offer home economics with its science implications, we have no adequate equipment for the teaching of these subjects, and only chemistry and biology are fairly well equipped. It may be that the one-sidedness of our science work is due to the fact that our students have not called for physics and other subjects, but if so, I think we ought to make it a part of our duty to turn their minds more generally in that direction.

I do not believe that any school in the System is doing better work in the subjects we are offering or that any teachers have set themselves more earnestly to the task of accomplishing their aims and ideals.

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The conduct of the student body has been exceptionally fine. Only two cases of discipline have been referred to me during the course of the year. The charges against these two students were that they had too many absences, and under our rules were automatically dropped. These were town students, and in one of the cases there was considerable excuse for the absences.

The extra-curricular activities of the school have been carried on very vigorously. This is notably true of the Y. W. C. A. and of the physical education department. The Play Day - May Day performance of the latter is really very admirable and is highly educative in all of its aspects as well as artistic in most of them. It has become quite a tradition of the school and makes a great appeal in this territory.

I feel quite sure that when it is realized that this institution is in competition with practically every other school in the state through the junior college period and with every institution offering liberal arts courses through the senior college period, and that it has enrolled a greater number of Georgia women than any other institution of the same class, it will be seen that it is really achieving its mission in a very fine way.

During the year, the campus has been very greatly improved by clearing out the twenty acre jungle that existed at the southern end and by making a beautiful park of the same. We are at work now on the northern end of the campus, which we hope to make ultimately even prettier than the southern. When this is done, I feel quite sure that there will not be a prettier school property in the State.

As you know, we have made application for Federal aid for additional buildings. A very vital part of that application was ten thousand dollars for "Repairs." This item has apparently been stricken out, but our application for an auditorium and a dining hall was approved. The money we expected to get under the head of repairs is vitally necessary because, without it, we could not occupy the vacant space which would be abandoned in our dormitories, nor fit up the auditorium with proper equipment. Therefore, our earning capacity would not be increased, and it is difficult to see just how the annual payments could be made. This is something well worth our consideration.

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Financially, the school will come to the end of the year on June 30th entirely within its budget. In fact, except for the reduced appropriation from the State for the coming year, we would be in excellent condition with a nice balance to our credit.

In the budget for 1934-35, \$3000.00 (\$1800.00 for salary and \$1200.00 for equipment) are set aside for the establishment of a department of home economics. Twelve hundred dollars will be enough for the equipment for the first year, I think, but I do not believe the eighteen hundred dollar salary will be attractive to the type of teacher we ought to have, nor do I think that one teacher will be able to apply, as we should like to have it, courses in both cooking and sewing. Teachers of home economics specialize in one or the other, and I am quite sure we shall not be able to make much of this course until we have a capable and attractive teacher in each subject, for taste in dress and skill in cookery are two entirely different matters.

My suggestion, therefore, is that, instead of attempting this year to organize the department on the skimpy basis allowed by the budget, we let that amount run through the year without use and organize the department in the following year with the present appropriation added to that which will be allowed for the year 1935-36. In my judgment, it would be better to organize the department in such a way that it would sell itself from the beginning, rather than to have to apologize for it and bolster it up by justifications and explanations throughout the first year or two.

Finally, we are not assured that students of our college will receive aid from the Federal government beyond this quarter. Many of the heads of colleges are writing Mr. Clegg urging that the assistance be continued through the coming year. I trust that this effort to secure this student aid may appeal to you and that you may put behind it all the influence you can command. This help has meant very much to our students, and many of them are anxiously inquiring whether or not they may expect it for the coming year.

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Perhaps I have not interpreted properly your request for a report, but it has seemed to me that you would not want any other "figures" since you have somewhere in your files everything of that kind that we could give you.

Hoping, therefore, that this running commentary upon the work of the school for the year is what you wanted, I submit it.

With highest respect,

President.

JLP:O