Notes for Address to All College Senate, delivered on January 27, 1971

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NOTES FOR ADDRESS TO ALL COLLEGE SENATE

by Arend D. Lubbers, President

on January 27, 1971

I. GVSC Today

A. Image changing in minds of students.
B. Opportunity for growth.
C. GVSC as a group of colleges, schools, and institutes is becoming accepted.
   1. May ask legislature to change name to The Grand Valley State Colleges.
   2. My preference that the College of Arts and Sciences decide on a name within this academic year.

II. William James College

A. Congratulations on the name.
B. View of college development.
   1. Senate action was the approval of the idea of a college for next year.
   2. Specific organization and detailed plans should be submitted to Senate's Committee on Organization and then to the Senate.
   3. Hope that Senate and Task Force can come to agreement.
   4. Will try to find one person to be dean or director if appropriation recommendation appears to be adequate.

III. Finances

A. Budget reductions - possibly more to come.
B. Will try to select least crucial areas for reduction, though we are reaching the point of pain.
C. Some feeling that there is waste in higher education.
   1. Compare to industry -- Chemical plant $12 million, always see problems in other person's area.
   2. Time to reexamine our priorities.
      a. What can we do without in programs we now offer without appreciably lowering the quality?
      b. Are there programs we should abandon? If so, why?
      c. What human dislocations will there be if, in changing priorities, we consider elimination of some programs? Are they justified?
   3. Time to look at our productivity.
      a. Without altering what we do, are there more efficient ways of doing it. Quality of education is a factor in my understanding of efficiency. Students able to get in classes they need and want.
   4. Invite Senate Committee to sit in on college budget planning session.
IV. Administrative Changes

A. Need for economy forces us to reexamine situation.

B. Desire on the part of several administrators to spend more for instruction in relation to administration.
   1. 55% goal - 48% next year, 46% this year, 44% last year

C. Growing interest in and concern for decentralization and academic individuality in the various colleges.
   1. Don't add to central administration, but concentrate more on colleges.

D. Proposals
   1. VanSteeland and Romkema are doing an excellent job in business and plant departments - no need for a V.P. at this time.
      Keep position on the books, but set no deadline for filling it.
   2. Make Art Hills V.P. for Administration and chief academic officer.
      a. Coordinate work of colleges; let deans as strong academic leaders.

V. Quality of Education in the Future - age of analysis

A. What will education be like in the future? What will people want to learn?
   1. Need a think tank on campus.
   2. Planning not its function - have a task force for that.
   3. Discussion after reading and thinking -- let us know what they believe the future holds.

B. Quality of personnel in the future.
   1. Sympathy for academic freedom.
   2. Sympathy for economic security.
   3. Sympathy for average mind - can work wonders if properly motivated and disciplined.
   4. Have problems with lack of professionalism - improve scholarship and teaching ability, keep up in field.
   5. Can't accept lack of concern for students.
   6. Administrative jobs do not carry tenure fortunately; the whole concept of faculty tenure is being questioned in legislative halls, in academia, and by a segment of the public; should we rethink what tenure should mean?
   7. Some people in the wrong position - might be fine doing something else.

VI. Programs for Improving Academic Capabilities

A. Problems in society - discriminate against or discriminate for on basis of race, religion, envy, guilt, or hate.

B. Design program to meet human, consequently societal, needs.

C. Project Make-It - development and success.
VII. ETV Report -- Science Building

VIII. Recommendations

A. that the All College Senate take a careful look at proposals relating to William James College to help secure its successful initiation at the earliest possible time.

B. that the All College Senate, using the resources of the college (computer, systems, finance, accounting, etc.), establish a task force to study academic productivity to see if the college receives the most for dollars spent in instruction.

C. that the All College Senate consider by whatever means it deems advisable what education will be in the future and report to the president and the board of control.

D. that the All College Senate re-examine the concept of tenure as it is now understood to see if it is the best possible concept of tenure for the good of the students, the professional disciplines, and the college as a whole.
FROM PRESIDENT LUBBERS' REMARKS TO THE ALL COLLEGE SENATE

ON JANUARY 27, 1971:

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