

## TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LINDENWOOD FEMALE COLLEGE:

At your annual meeting last autumn I made a report, and Dr. Clarke has asked me to make this report. The report I submitted last fall showed we opened with 452 resident students and 54 non-resident and special students. At that time I reported to you on the Church membership of the student body, and my estimate of the calibre of these young women.

I think I have never seen the campus more beautiful and the buildings in general have been kept up rather well. The health of the students has been good. We had one siege of a light form of influenza, but have had no really serious case of illness the whole year. Our record has remained unbroken -- within the last thirty years we haven't lost a single Lindenwood student on the campus on account of death.

There has been throughout the year evidence of the need of a president, and the faculty and student body are very much pleased that you have chosen Dr. Frank L. McCluer to be our leader; his coming will solve some of the major problem. He has met the faculty and student body -- both groups are very much impressed.

I reported last fall on the campus, buildings and grounds, and the College farm. The Buildings and Grounds Committee have some improvements contemplated on the boiler house, and the farm will end this year with a balance in our favor -- probably around \$1000.00. In this report I want to call your attention to the major problem of Lindenwood:

Lindenwood secured 659 applications for admission the college year 1946-47, of which 287 were students who had been at Lindenwood the previous year. Before College opened last fall we had a cancellation of 104 of the new students and 103 of the returning students, a total of 207 withdrawals, due to the student's change of plans or our refusal to admit on account of of scholarship. During the present college year we lost 41 students, and the second semester we admitted 15 additional students. All in all we have had a fairly good year, considering the above statement.

I recite the above figures so we may make comparison as we look toward the year 1947-48. Probably 10 or 12 of the students here this year will not be asked to return because of low marks or conduct that doesn't meet the Lindenwood standards. We have enrolled so far for 1947-48 616 students, which includes 221 students who have been with us this year. Of the 395 new students we have secured 83 have cancelled; nine old students have asked to withdraw their applications -- a total of 92 cancellations to date. Since we want to open with only 440 resident students the problem of how many applications we should accept confronts us. Last year we had a total enrollment of 659, and of that number 207 did not complete their matriculation. We are not alarmed at all because we do not have as many students enrolled as last year, as we have plenty of time to get more freshmen should we need them. The distressing point is -- and has been for many years -- our inability to have greater numbers of our students return. It is clear to be seen we are able to return only about fifty percent of our students; the major part of that group is in the sophomore class -- of the 221 signed to return next September 32 are of senior rank, 42 of junior rank, and 147 will be classified as sophomores.



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(continued)

A proper explanation of this I am unable to give you but shall be happy to discuss it with you. Seemingly there is a great trend to co-education, but I think perhaps we would miss the mark if we attribute it all to that. Crowded conditions in the dormitories caused some dissatisfaction, and probably some of our loss may be attributed to lack of recreational facilities. Recreational facilities are very different from thirty years ago; the students today seem to want more and they are not very hesitant about telling you. It would help to have the courses for the upper two years enriched and perhaps more courses offered, I think, and it will take very superior teaching in the junior and senior years to hold a greater number of our students.

As you will note, we have 66 less old students enrolled for 1947-48 than we had for 1946-47; we still have to contemplate June 15, which is the date for a payment of \$100.00 on the account. I think there is some feeling on the campus that the advance in rate from \$900. to \$1180.00 has some effect. It seems rather necessary that some substantial scholarships be made available to have superior students return, not on the basis of increasing our total enrollment, simply to encourage good students to remain at Lindenwood. Formerly scholarships were used as bait rather than reward of good scholarship. I feel these larger scholarships to outstanding students is rather common practice in some of our good women's colleges. It may be necessary for us to consider such scholarships, unless Lindenwood is to become known as a school for rich girls. If we are able to increase the number of juniors and seniors, I think it is natural to suppose we shall be able to decrease the number of teaching faculty because the junior and senior classes now are so small. It is well to consider the rate for 1948-49, because the catalog for that year is now in the course of preparation.

I am offering this as our chief problem. The faculty and administration of the College should assume some of the responsibility, though there is the desire of the students to transfer to co-educational institutions. I am quite sure the faculty and administration are ready and willing to cooperate with President McCluer and the Board, and we expect within a few years to correct some of this difficulty.