

Agnes Scott College

Decatur, Georgia



ANNUAL REPORT
TO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 21, 1926

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1925-1926

The Board of Trustees,

Agnes Scott College.

In submitting my third annual report as President of Agnes Scott College, I am glad that we can feel gratified at the progress of the institution during the session of 1925-1926. There have been no outstanding features but our progress has been marked by several interesting steps which will be noted later.

Educational Items

One of the most important educational events of the current year, or of any year in our history, was the voting of a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa to Agnes Scott last September at the triennial meeting of the Council of United Chapters of this ancient honor society. As there are only about one hundred institutions of the country so recognized, it puts us in a select group. There are only nine colleges distinctly for women on the list.

The installation of the chapter occurred on March 23rd and was an interesting occasion, participated in by representatives of twenty-one institutions of the Phi Beta Kappa Fraternity.

The Faculty have worked even harder than usual in promoting the educational efficiency of the college. The various committees have been studying the curricula of some twenty of the best known institutions of the country and we are trying to adopt the best plans of instruction as they may be developed. Our faculty come from twenty-five dif-

ferent states and represent in their training degrees from thirty-five of the best colleges and universities of the country so that we have an interesting variety of viewpoints and of experience to help us in our planning. While the whole faculty show excellent co-operation, I wish to call attention particularly to the work of Miss Hopkins as Dean and of Mr. Stukes as Registrar. They are most helpful indeed.

In spite of the fact that our salaries are lower than the average, as will be explained later, the faculty are very loyal to Agnes Scott and relatively few changes are made.

One of the most valuable studies that has been made at the college in some years has been conducted this year in an effort to ascertain whether our students are over-worked and whether their health is being endangered. Questionnaires covering all phases of College life and work were sent to all the students. We got a very satisfactory number of replies and the students were evidently most serious and co-operated in their efforts to help us with actual facts. The study made evident the fact that some courses are requiring too much time of the average student, and steps have been taken to adjust this matter. We found that some students are laboring under a sense of strain but we were very much gratified to find that relatively few are so troubled. As far as it exists this strain seems to come from two sources: namely, a feeling at the end of any given period that not all of the work which should be done has been accomplished, and a certain constraint due to the fact that in so large a crowd it is very difficult to have much time to one's self. As to the first cause the faculty had to admit almost unanimously that they, too, have a sense all the time of not ever getting fully caught up on the multitude of things which we would like to do. I imagine that probably some of the Trustees are conscious of the same difficulty. We regard it as not a bad sign for students

to have tasks that cannot be fully accomplished provided they do not allow the matter to worry them unduly.

We found that most of the students who feel that they have unfinished work are doing a great deal in connection with extra-curricula activities. We are undertaking to provide for the students something more in the way of definite recreational opportunities without the students themselves having to provide the amusement. In this way we believe that relaxation can be secured and consequent refreshment.

We have been very much gratified to find that very few of the students are in poorer health than when they entered. In the case of the great majority the health is either as good as when they came, or better. No doubt our Committee of Health will analyze more fully some of the features of this report.

Among the changes which are being made in the teaching staff for next year, the following may be noted:

Professor W. W. Rankin, Jr., the head of the Mathematics Department, has been called to Duke University. To take his place we have secured Professor Henry A. Robinson, who is taking his Ph. D. at Johns Hopkins University. He has had very successful teaching experience and while he is young he is very highly recommended.

Miss Mary E. Campbell has resigned to take a position at Hunter College, New York City. To fill her place we have secured Miss Gladys Freed who has her Ph. D. from the University of Chicago. She will rank as Assistant Professor of Latin and Greek.

Miss Alice Brown who has been an Assistant in Biology has resigned and to fill her place we have gotten Miss Mary Westall, Ph. D., University of Chicago, who will rank as Assistant Professor of Botany.

Miss Catherine Gault who has been Instructor in Spanish is leaving for a position in Chicago and her place will be taken by Miss Roberta Hollingsworth who holds her Bachelor's degree from Goucher College.

Miss Leslie J. Gaylord who has been studying Mathematics at the University of Rome, Italy, will return to continue her teaching in the department next year.

Miss Harriette Haynes has also been on leave of absence on account of illness. She will return to continue teaching in Physical Education.

Under our arrangements recently made to encourage our faculty to go on for further study, we have arranged for the following to be on leave of absence for the next session:

Miss Emma May Laney, Associate Professor of English, will study at Yale University. Her place will be taken for this year by Miss Janef Preston who has been studying this year at Columbia University.

Miss Isabel Randolph, Associate Professor of Physical Education, will study at Teachers College, New York City, and her place will be taken by Miss Llewellyn Wilburn, who was formerly with us and is now teaching at Nashville, Tenn.

Miss Margaret Bland, Instructor in French, will study at Yale University and her place will be supplied by Miss Vivian Little, one of our graduates who studied last year at the Sorbonne in Paris on a scholarship from the French Government.

In this connection I think it worthy of note that each summer we have some twenty or twenty-five members of the faculty either travelling or studying in Europe, or taking advanced work in some of the Universities of this country.

Our average training is increasing quite rapidly and satisfactorily.

One very interesting development during the current session has been the installing of a department of Play Writing in connection with the English Department. Miss Nan B. Stephens, one of our former students, is in charge of this and has done some notable work in teaching the students to express themselves dramatically.

We have had this year the largest enrollment in the history of the college. Our five hundred and fifty-one (551) students taxed the utmost capacity of our dormitories and recitation rooms. We would not have been able to take this number were it not for the fact that we cut up the old Gymnasium into class-rooms and thus made additional space for day students. We have been very much pleased with the quality of our students and feel that there is no finer group studying in any institution. We are giving below certain information about them by classes, by the distribution among the various States, and by their denominational affiliations:

Seniors	80
Junior	101
Sophomore	136
Freshman	196
Third Year Irregular.....	1
Second Year Irregular	2
First Year Irregular	15
Unclassified	8
Special	1
Music or Art only	11
	<hr/>
	551

CHURCHES

Presbyterian	246
Methodist	120
Baptist	72
Episcopal	52
Jew	17
Christian	10
Christian Science	5
Catholic	5
Lutheran	4
Congregational	2
Dutch Reformed	1
Missionary Alliance	1
Unitarian	1
Universalist	1
Greek	1
Not Specified	13
	551

SUMMARY BY STATES

Georgia	301	Texas	2
North Carolina	46	District of Columbus..	1
Alabama	37	Maine	1
Virginia	28	Michigan	1
Florida	29	Missouri	1
Tennessee	23	New Jersey	1
South Carolina	21	New York	1
Mississippi	13	Canada	1
West Virginia	9	China	4
Kentucky	7	Cuba	1
Louisiana	6	India	1
Arkansas	6	Japan	1
Massachusetts	2	Korea	4
Pennsylvania	1		
Ohio	2		551
Resident Students	366		
Non-Resident Students	185		
			551

In connection with our students I wish to bear testimony to the excellence of our Student Government Association. Each year they face some very difficult problems of discipline and they certainly do excellent work solving such problems. In many institutions the Honor System as well as Student Government has been under fire but we are more pleased with both of them as the years pass.

Religious Life

Each member of the Board of Trustees is keenly aware of the various religious crises facing young people during these years. It has been several generations since there were so many questionings in regard to faith and the Bible. We believe that Agnes Scott has never had a finer opportunity than just now to bear testimony to the value of saving faith in Jesus Christ.

As a matter of fact there are a great many encouraging things in regard to our work. The students are not carried off their feet by the conflicting current though they are alive to all that is stirring. Dr. James I. Vance of Nashville, Tennessee, conducted our week of religious services and he was most helpful to the College Community. He was impressed with the girls and their sanity about religious matters and preached a sermon on his experiences at Agnes Scott since he returned to his own church.

The religious activity of the College community largely centers in the Young Women's Christian Association. As organized in our College it is very spiritual in its aims and methods and a very definite effort is made to reach every unsaved girl and to quicken the interest of those who have already made a profession of their faith.

Trustees

Since our last Annual Report the Synod of Florida has requested to have a part in the management of Agnes

Scott and this was ratified at a called meeting of our Board of Trustees. Three strong representatives from this growing Synod will be of great assistance to us and we believe that the College can be a great power for good in connection with the work of the Synod.

Our Board now has its maximum number of twenty-seven (27). Of this number eleven (11) represent the Synods of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, two (2) represent the Alumnae, and one (1) a member ex-officio. The other thirteen (13) are elected without special reference to any organization or geographical location.

It is of interest to note that we are very nearly a Presbyterian College in the technical sense of that word. We meet all of the requirements of the General Assembly except in the number of Trustees ratified by the various Synods. We have at present eleven (11) so ratified as mentioned above, and it would be necessary for eighteen (18) to have the official endorsement of the Synods in order for Agnes Scott to be fully recognized as a Presbyterian college.

The terms of the following members will expire at this meeting of the board: Dr. J. S. Lyons, Mrs. C. E. Harman, Dr. R. O. Flinn, Dr. B. R. Lacy, Jr., Mr. J. J. Scott, Mr. W. A. Bellingrath, Mrs. Harold B. Wey. It is a pleasure to testify to the helpfulness of each one of these in the work of the college.

Physical Developments

The most noteworthy development on the campus since the last annual meeting was the completion of the Bucher Scott Gymnasium Auditorium. Its net cost was one hundred fifty-four thousand three hundred twelve dollars and eighty-six cents (\$154,312.86). This does not include any of the furnishings, nor does it include such matters as the

moving of the Infirmary, the changing of the street car line, or any other auxiliary activities. We are more than pleased with this building. It has been a delight to the whole college community and a source of favorable comment to all who have been on the campus. We do not see how we could have gotten along without it. The furnishings of the building to date have cost about \$5,000.00. It will probably cost twice as much more to put the building into first-class permanent shape. We can get along for the present without suffering, however.

To provide for future development we have purchased the Chambers House on South McDonough Street, a lot of vacant property from the George W. Scott Investment Company at the Corner of Dougherty Street and College Place, and the residuary interest in the Sturges House on South Candler Street which is only effective after the life interest of Miss Sturges has been satisfied.

After considerable delay on account of weather conditions we have succeeded in paving Dougherty Street from South Candler to McDonough Street. This was in accordance with our agreement with the City of Decatur when they closed Ansley Street for us.

We have completed the grading of a splendid Athletic Field and are trying very hard to get a good growth of grass on it. This will add very much not only to the physical development of the girls but to the general appearance of the south side of the college grounds.

We have put out several hundred dollars worth of shrubs around our buildings and are working on a definite program for further development as soon as funds are available. We engaged Mr. Warren Manning of Boston to make the survey of our grounds and to give suggestions regarding our drives and walks. Some definite plan in re-

gard to these is very desirable and I hope that we may be able to proceed with the work before very long.

It will be necessary for us to spend a good deal of money next summer on the general up-keep of our buildings. Most of them will need painting and some rather expensive repairs may be necessary in some of the wooden structures.

Finances

It is pleasing to report that we were able this spring to settle in full with the General Education Board and they have paid their balance on their third pledge to us. The assistance of this Board has been invaluable to the College. In 1909 they offered one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars on condition that we would raise two hundred fifty thousand (\$250,000.00) additional. In 1919 they offered one hundred seventy-five thousand (\$175,000.00) dollars if we would raise three hundred twenty-five thousand (\$325,000.00) dollars. In 1920 they offered one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00 if we would raise one hundred and fifty thousand (\$150,000.00) dollars. Without these challenging offers it would have been hard to stimulate our local and Southern friends, but as a matter of fact we have had splendid cooperation, and I am grateful to be able to report that our endowed funds now amount to about a million (\$1,000,000.00) dollars. While this is very far from meeting our needs it is of splendid help to us every year.

Of these endowed funds, approximately seventy-five thousand (\$75,000.00) dollars is in scholarships so that the income is not immediately available for ordinary college expenses. We would like to get to the point where no scholarship funds would be counted at all in our endowment. Another item in the endowed funds is one of nineteen thousand (\$19,000.00) dollars for houses occupied by some of the officers. While the General Education Board approved the counting of this as endowment when the settlement was being made about 1913, we really ought to replace this item

with actual cash and count the houses as a part of our buildings and grounds. With these two adjustments made our endowment would be in most excellent shape as the accompanying report of the Treasurer will show.

We have transferred all of our Endowment Funds that have been held by Mr. Cunningham as Campaign Treasurer to Mr. Tart as the actual College Treasurer. Mr. Cunningham will continue to collect the subscriptions outstanding but will from time to time turn them over to Mr. Tart to be expended as the Board may direct. In this connection, I wish to express my heartiest appreciation of the fine work of these officers. They very considerably lighten the burden of the President's office.

During the last few years there has been considerable increase in the scale of salaries paid in Southern institutions of our class. The average scale for full professors in the best colleges of this section is about thirty-six hundred (\$3,600.00) dollars, and other positions on the faculty in proportion. Our scale averages some six hundred (\$600.00) dollars less. In order to get and to hold strong members of our faculty who are really the heart of the college, I feel that it will be necessary to make some increases another year. Our finances will not justify making these increases unless we at the same time advance our rates for either tuition or board, or for both. I am giving below some information in regard to rates charged by leading colleges for women.

Institution	Tuition	Board
Agnes Scott	\$185	\$400
Bryn Mawr	300	700
Goucher	250	510
Mt. Holyoke	350	550
Radcliffe	350	500
Smith	400	500
Vassar	400	600
Wellesley	400	600

I doubt whether our clientele would be able to stand such charges as many of these institutions make. I do believe that the average of our students would be able to pay one hundred (\$100.00) dollars more than we now charge without its being a burden to most of them. The last time we made an increase in prices the Trustees allowed the President to create a Special Scholarship Fund to prevent worthy students from having to drop out of college on account of the increase. Such provision should certainly be made if we decide on an increase at this time. If we make the advanced prices, for the present there would probably be some margin between our income and the actual operating expenses. If there is such a margin it could be used for development purposes as we find so very necessary at the present. Before very long we would find that the mounting cost of education would absorb the whole increase which we may make.

Agnes Scott Needs

Lest we should feel that Agnes Scott has already attained the growth and development which it needs, I am giving some figures for other institutions for women with whom we are in direct competition at all times for teachers and for the cream of the young women in the United States who wish the best education.

COMPARATIVE DATA FOR LEADING COLLEGES FOR WOMEN

Name.	Students.	Faculty.	Endowment.	Other Assets.
Agnes Scott	550	50	\$ 999,690	\$ 950,000
Bryn Mawr	504	75	6,381,505	2,120,019
Goucher	1,100	76	1,300,000	2,370,000
Mt. Holyoke	1,024	112	3,178,587	2,589,254
Radcliffe	987	177	3,340,000	1,487,000
Smith	2,072	276	4,241,620	5,602,562
Vassar	1,150	150	7,347,102	4,913,917
Wellesley	1,548	150	3,053,000	4,250,000

In comparison Agnes Scott seems very small and insignificant. However, it is worth considering that no one of these colleges in the last five years has made as rapid progress as we have. There is no institution that has naturally so great a field for service as have we. We are located in the heart of the section where the need is remarkable. The homes from which we draw are largely Scotch-Irish or Anglo-Saxon and they are the steady, conservative people who make the backbone of our country religiously. We must realize that Agnes Scott is destined to have an opportunity to be the great college where earnest, simple faith and high scholarship meet and both are recognized.

There is no question but what we have a very big task ahead of us to realize this goal and it will take the whole-hearted support of not only our Trustees but our whole constituency. It is evident that we cannot take all the steps needed at one time, but I think it is obvious also that we ought to take some definite forward movement every year. It seems to me that our first duty is to advance our physical equipment to a higher state of efficiency.

Before we can develop further we must have a new Steam Plant, Power House and Laundry. We should certainly make an effort to have this begun within a year. I hope our Committee on Buildings and Grounds may have some recommendations to present at this meeting of the Board with regard to this matter.

Other very pressing needs are for an Administration Building where we can have adequate teaching facilities, for a Chapel, for a complete system of walks, drives and other campus improvements, and for adequate quarters for the day students.

One of the weaknesses of our college has been that we have had relatively few wills made in our favor. The splen-

did legacy of Miss Jennie Inman is of course a striking exception. So far as I am aware we have received only three other legacies for relatively small amounts, two of them from former professors. We have been working on this matter and we know of at least five wills which have been made in our favor for the future, but we do need the help of every Trustee in getting disseminated the idea of remembering Agnes Scott. It is not always necessary that a large amount of money be left for a will to be of great value. A minister who leaves his library, or even a valuable set of books, to the institution may make an impression on some member of his congregation who can do vastly more. It is the cumulative effect of expressing affection for the institution and confidence in its future that we need to have disseminated among our people.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. McCAIN,

President.