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December 5, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pat Hitt
FROM: Rose Mary Woods

After our conversation concerning the Nixon Chair, etc., I had a call from Don Kendall saying that they had asked him to go on the Board of Whittier College. I did find a chance to ask the President about it and he suggested if Don could do this it would be great because he would have imagination and drive, etc. Don is going to accept.

Also, I thought you might like to have a copy of the letter Tom Bewley sent to the President concerning the Trustees Meeting they had just recently.

When I talked with Tom - as the President suggested - concerning whether the Chair was actually under the direction of the Board because he wanted to have Don go on if that were the case but did not want to have do so if it had no control.

If you find this is not the case, let me know and I will see what else we can find out.
TO: ROSE MARY WOODS
FROM: TOD HULLIN

Attached is a letter to the President from Thomas W. Bewley, President of the Board of Trustees of Whittier College, in which he brings the President up to date on the latest Trustees meeting.

John feels that this may require a personal acknowledgement from the President.

Would you please handle as you deem appropriate?
My dear Mr. President:

This is a brief report on Whittier College. We had probably the finest Trustees' meeting last Monday that we have ever had and took the following action:

1. Don Graham, President of Smith, Industries (son-in-law of H. C. Smith), Bob Elkington, of the Philadelphia Quaker Silicon Company, and Jessamyn West were elected Members of the Board of Trustees and all have accepted.

2. The Board reorganized with myself as President again and committees were appointed with new members, and a general shaking up of the committees.

3. The Presidential Selection Committee now has two hundred forty (240) nominations for the new president, there are forty (40) actively seeking the position, and last Saturday four of us reduced eighteen (18) outstanding applications to eleven (11). The eleven are from colleges and universities in the United States with a standing equal to Whittier or better. You would be surprised at some of the fine men who are now seeking the position. Our big problem is to eliminate and pick a final candidate. We will bring the top five (5) candidates and their wives to the campus to meet with the Trustees and go over the financial and physical parts of the college. We expect a new president by March.

We are offering $35,000.00-$40,000.00 salary, which is an inducement.

4. The annual audit was presented showing we netted over $800,000.00 last year in income over expenses. All debts are paid, except our long-term bonds for dormitories and we have $75,000.00 in the sinking fund for that this year.

5. We have 2247 students enrolled, the largest student body ever. We adopted a Resolution holding enrollment to no more than that figure next year. We haven't the space and faculty for more students.
6. The Trustees enlarged the policy on student activism and increased the penalties. I am now drawing a set of procedures to be followed providing for dismissal of students in certain events after regular charges and hearings.

7. We have hired two (2) new men on the Public Relations staff with a minimum of $15,000.00 per year salary.

8. We have hired a Chief of Security, with additional help, a communication system therefor is now being installed, and the entire security program revamped.

9. Faculty salaries were increased in all cases to our minimum and, in some special cases additional salaries granted.

10. We fixed sixty-five (65) as the age of retirement for all employees, including faculty.

11. We provided a Pension System for employees and faculty.

12. We adopted an insurance plan where the college is paying a portion of the health and accident insurance costs and increased the benefits. Heretofore the college has had no insurance plan or pension plan.

13. We considered tenure for some eight (8) professors and denied tenure to four (4) with instructions requesting their resignation as they are not up to our standard as professors.

14. All assets of the Nixon Chair were transferred to the Nixon Institution for Human Relations.

15. I asked three (3) members of the faculty and the President of the Student Body to attend the Board Meeting and speak to the Board on some vital issue, with the Board having the right to question them on any matter. This was indeed a great hour as the Trustees asked some important questions and got some straightforward answers. They loved it.

16. The Quaker Campus editor was asked to give a statement of his policies, his paper was criticized as of last year and he was well complimented for the different type of paper this year. He is Howard Seelye's son and was very pleased that the Board gave him time to explain the Quaker Campus.

As you well know, this took a great deal of planning and maneuvering long prior to the Trustee's Meeting. The Trustees were in total agreement on almost every one of these subjects and
were unusually happy about the type of meeting we had and the business conducted.

Jessamyn West was tremendous. She took an active part in the meeting, told some interesting stories and handled the President of the Student Body as only she could have done.

We are off on a new era at the college and we have no apologies for anything. Some of the applicants for president have told us how good we are and I think some of us have tended to underrate Whittier College and are now finding out that it has a fine reputation, an excellent faculty and a great campus.

Any suggestions or criticisms you have will be welcome and we all appreciate your interest in your Alma Mater.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Thomas W. Bevley
President, Board of Trustees
of Whittier College

TWB/tdj

President Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D. C.