

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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ROOM 301, FINANCE BUILDING  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

October 11, 1965

Dr. Robert H. Reid  
Director  
George Mason College  
Fairfax, Virginia

Dear Dr. Reid:

It was nice seeing you at the American Council on Education meeting last Friday. I am writing this as a follow-up to our brief coffee-shop conversation.

I suspect you noted my look of surprise when you inquired about submitting a request in accordance with the "Policy and Procedures with Respect to New Educational Programs" as adopted by the State Council on July 26, 1965, for the establishment of a four-year degree program at George Mason College. Since Dr. Vaughan requested you to check with me on procedures, permit me to outline the basic point involved as I see it.

While it is true that the Council must approve the establishment of all baccalaureate programs for institutions not offering these as of July 1, 1965, in the case of George Mason College a prior legislative decision must be rendered; namely, authorization by the General Assembly for George Mason to change from a two-year college to a four-year degree granting institution.

It is a responsibility of the State Council to advise the General Assembly of desirable changes in the status or mission of existing colleges and to recommend the establishment of additional institutions of higher education as may be needed. In this regard the Council is expecting the comprehensive study to be completed by the Commission on Higher Education within the next six to eight weeks to provide valuable data and guidelines for the planning of future higher educational developments in the Commonwealth. Consequently, I am confident that the State Council will defer the formulation of its recommendations for major changes in institutional classification until it has the benefit of the Commission's report.

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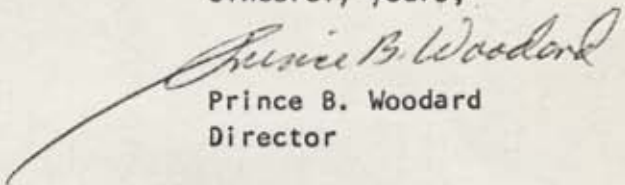
Dr. Reid

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One phase of the Commission's study concerns the two-year post high school offerings in Virginia. Another gives attention to the possible needs for additional degree-granting institutions. I am sure you are well aware of the considerable data the Commission has collected, and the highly competent staff it has working with these data.

I trust this explanation of the Council's position is clear. If you have other questions regarding this matter, please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,



Prince B. Woodard  
Director

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CC: Dr. Edgar F. Shannon, Jr.  
Mr. Sol W. Rawls, Jr.