

EC, IFC PROPOSE THREE-POINT PLANK FOR LIMITED ATHLETIC AID PROGRAM

Complete Text of EC-IFC Letter

(The following is the complete text of the letter sent by the Executive Committee and the Interfraternity Council to members of the Board of Trustees and President Francis P. Gaines: Editor's Note.)

We the members of the Executive Committee and the Interfraternity Council of Washington and Lee University, representing the Student Body, have undertaken to study and convey to you the attitude of the large majority of the Student Body in regard to the present intercollegiate athletic program.

In making this study, the Student Body, the fraternities, the non-fraternity men, and the President of each of the thirty-seven alumni chapters in the United States were consulted and the following information was compiled for your information:

1. A student body poll conducted during the spring of 1956 which was presented to the open forum in Lee Chapel November 28th by the Vice-President of the Student Body. This poll revealed that of the eighty per cent of the Student Body taking part, eighty-eight per cent of this group voted for some type of athletic scholarships, which would enable us to play our natural rivals. (Schools in our geographical area, of comparable aims, prestige, student body, and athletic policy are considered as our natural rivals. Teams bent on high national athletic recognition are not.)

2. A report on the reactions of the seventeen fraternities and the Campus Club to the proposal which will be outlined below.

3. The sentiments of the alumni expressed in replies to letters sent by W. E. (Tex) Tilson, former President of the General Alumni Association, to the President of each alumni chapter.

We feel that your action in abolishing athletic scholarships was proper and necessary for the welfare of the University at the time. However, as a result, during the three succeeding years there has been evidenced a general weakening in school spirit as well as a loss of enthusiasm in the intercollegiate athletic program of the University. We, therefore, respectfully submit the following proposal as an embodiment of the views of the large majority of the Student Body, in the belief that it will improve our intercollegiate athletic program and will enable us to compete in all intercollegiate athletics with our natural rivals on an equal basis.

1. That there be awarded aid to a limited number of students that show athletic ability. This number shall not exceed fifty and no recipient shall be afforded the slightest special considerations relative to entrance requirements or other scholastic favors.

2. That aid be given only when need is apparent, and that it be administered by a committee composed of representatives of the athletic department and faculty, appointed by the administration.

3. That the fraternities be allowed to assist in this endeavor by affording board to some athletes. Fourteen out

(Continued on page two)

Two Campus Groups Deserve High Praise for Athletic Study

The work of the Executive Committee and the Interfraternity Council in regard to the future athletic policy of Washington and Lee University deserves nothing but the highest praise.

By this statement, we do not mean to present the impression that this edition is in wholehearted agreement with the EC-IFC recommendations, outlined elsewhere on this page.

We do believe that the report, with merit, places the issue of subsidization squarely before the Board of Trustees. The Board now has something substantial to work with—a basis from which to proceed. They may proceed to reinforce the present policy or they may proceed to adopt a completely new, or, at least, a modified policy. But, at any rate, they now must set the future course of Washington and Lee's athletic policy. The time for drifting aimlessly has passed. The reputation and prestige of the school will be lost if no fairly stable policy is pursued.

These proposals have been developed with the idea in mind of contracting and hearing the opinions of every segment of the Washington and Lee community. They seem to represent the solid, fundamental beliefs of this community.

The pains to which the EC and the IFC have gone to gain their information, the time spent in compiling and coordinating this information into something tangible, and the attempt to come out with the most responsible and accurate sentiment of the student body are just a few of the factors which are worthy of praise from each student, regardless of his opinion on the subject.

While this edition will not accept or reject these proposals at this time, it is enough to say, with only time enough to make a cursory examination of them, that they seem to represent the will of the student body—taking into account the thoroughness and efficiency with which the student poll was conducted and the seriousness of purpose behind the study.

Finally, it is evident that such an overwhelming disparity between the expression of the student body and that of the administration is an unhealthy, if not unsound, situation.

—The Editorial Board of the Friday Edition

Looking Back

Controversy Flares Off and On

The following is a brief resume of the controversy over subsidized athletics since the decision of July 23, 1954, when the Board of Trustees suspended intercollegiate athletic scholarships.—Ed. Note.)

September 17, 1954—President Gaines promises that W&L will have football again... Boyd Williams appointed temporary football coach... Dean Leyburn denies being a leader in faculty movement to abolish football... alumni begin flood of criticism of new policy.

October 8, 1954—Student Advisory Council expresses general support for non-subsidized program—Gaines says Board has no intention of changing policy... W&L jayvee team prepares for first game against Hargrave Military Academy and bows by 7-0 score.

October 19, 1954—Jacksonville, Fla., alumni chapter petitions University to reestablish former athletic policy... New Orleans alumni chapter backs up new university policy... student forcefully argues for unsubsidized.

(Continued on page two)

Two Student Groups Send Suggestions To Trustees, Dr. Gaines

By DICK ANDERSON and KIM WOOD
Friday Editor Sports Editor

Washington and Lee's Executive Committee and Interfraternity Council proposed Saturday that the university return to a limited athletic subsidization program.

In letters sent to members of the Board of Trustees and President Francis P. Gaines, the two campus government organizations proposed a three-point plank:

1. The awarding of athletic scholarships to not more than 50 students, with the provision that these students meet all the University's regular entrance and scholastic requirements.

2. These scholarships will be given only to those who show financial need and the administration of the scholarships will be by a faculty committee.

3. Fraternities will contribute to the financing of the program by affording some of these students on athletic scholarships free board.

The purpose of the program, as outlined in the letter, is to provide for a more well-rounded student program by boosting school spirit and interest in intercollegiate athletics and by raising the quality of General athletic teams so as to enable these teams to make more representative showings against the university's natural rivals.

For the purposes of the study, the two groups considered the school's natural rivals as those schools in this geographical area which had comparable aims, prestige, student bodies, and athletic policies.

Bases of Revised Program

The IFC and the EC justified their revised athletic program on the basis of:

1. Student body sentiment as indicated by the results of last spring's student body athletic poll and by student reaction in the fraternities to a recent IFC proposal.

2. Alumni opinion as expressed by replies to letters sent out by the former president of the W&L Alumni association, W. E. ("Tex") Tilson, to each alumni chapter.

The student body poll, conducted by the EC, showed that 88% of the students polled favored some form of subsidization for football and 85.9% were in favor of a subsidized basketball team.

Fraternity reaction to the recent IFC proposals, which basically set forth the idea of the fraternities

contributing to the financial support of part of any athletic subsidization plan, was almost in unanimous support.

A large majority (75-99%) of the members of 11 fraternities voted for the IFC program. A smaller majority (51-74%) of the members of two fraternities approved the proposal, while three houses unanimously supported the suggestions.

Of the 37 alumni chapters throughout the country, 24 responded to Tilson's letter. All but two of the chapters that replied expressed majority support of the suggested program. Three chapters expressed an opinion on the revised program, but did not indicate their overall sentiments.

Weakening of School Spirit

The EC and IFC said that although the action of the Trustees in abolishing athletic scholarships was "proper and necessary" at the time, there resulted a "general weakening of school spirit" in the succeeding years.

They went on to deplore the "general disinterest" of the students in the intercollegiate athletic program and all university functions. The present athletic system has "affected" the welfare of the university, the letter concluded.

In outlining their recommendations, the EC and the IFC made it clear that they did not have the answers to all the financial aspects of the problem, but went on to suggest financial contribution to the program from the fraternities as one of the key solutions.

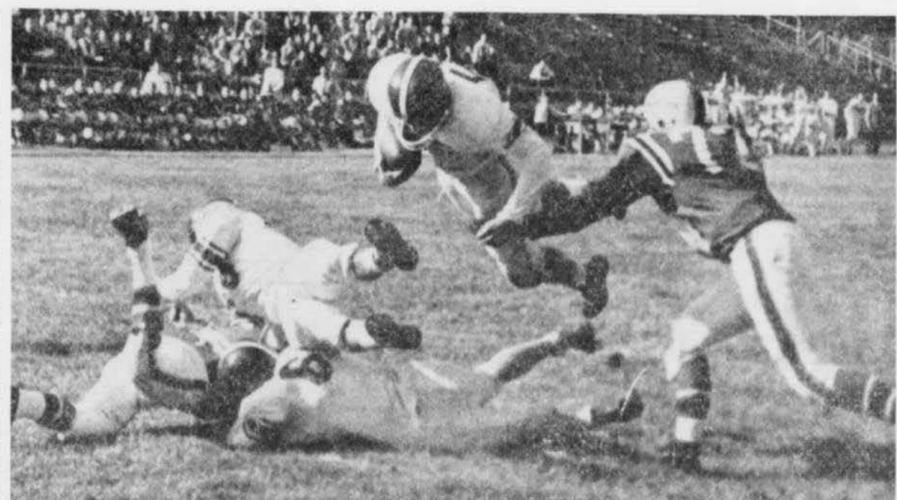
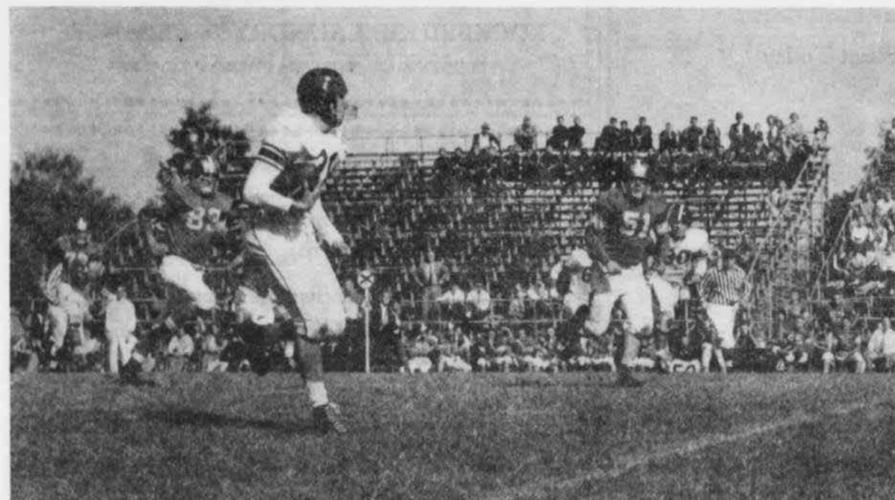
The letters, signed by Rob Peebles, president of the student body, and Don Luria, president of IFC, were sent to the 14 members of the Board of Trustees and to President Gaines Saturday. Original copies of replies to the alumni poll were also sent to Mr. James R. Caskie, rector of the Board.

It is expected that the proposals will be considered at the Trustees' annual January meeting at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington.

Unsubsidized . . . ?

. . . or . . .

Subsidized . . . ?



UNSUBSIDIZED GENERALS TAKE IT ON THE CHIN from Centre College 24-7 in home opener here last year. Alex Platt's 64-yard TD jaunt (shown here) was only bright spot in otherwise disappointing game. This loss was followed by six more defeats. SUBSIDIZED GENERALS TAKE IT ON THE CHIN from one of the school's former opponents in game played several years ago on Wilson Field. Players and game in this picture are unidentifiable. Which system do you prefer?

The Ring-tum Phi

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Complete Text of EC-IFC Letter Published

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 of seventeen fraternities have offered board or the equivalent, to one athlete per year.
 (In submitting this item as the only specific proposal to finances, we recognize our inability to deal adequately with this phase of the problem, and, therefore, hesitate to make suggestions to the Board on matters which you are far better equipped to deal with.)

We therefore conclude that it is the consensus of student opinion that the welfare of the University has been affected as exhibited by the lack of school spirit and a general disinterest in our athletic program and university functions on the part of the stu-

dents. And further, that by meeting our natural rivals on a more equal basis in all sports and raising to a higher level the contributions of athletics, Washington and Lee will afford its students a more well-rounded program. For these reasons we sincerely hope that you will carefully consider this report.

By Robert I. Peoples and Don Luria

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Subsidization Controversy

(Continued from page one)
 subsidized athletics.
 October 29, 1954—Sport magazine condemns W&L athletic policy and Friday Edition editorial replies... Augusta-Rockingham alumni chapter opposes program.
 December 9, 1955—Football coach Chipley blames fraternities for athletic trouble... says they create false loyalty.
 January 6, 1956—Robertson meeting indicates no change in athletic policies of Big Six colleges.
 April 24, 1956—88% of W&L stu-

dents favor some form of subsidization as "fact finding" board releases information.

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