

CHAPTER 9

THE CAMPUS AND BUILDINGS

WHEN the trustees have determined the desirable number of students to be enrolled, they are in a position to estimate their needs for land. An educational institution rarely has too much land for campus and recreation.

Sports and athletics for all students are more and more generally recognized as highly desirable. Well-kept playing fields near the living quarters of the students are great incentives to exercise. As soon as a campus is surrounded by business or residential buildings additional land may easily cost \$10,000 to \$30,000 an acre. Including golf and all out-door sports, a fairly generous area for sports and athletics would require an acre of well-developed sports area for every twenty to fifty students. Unless it were endowed or financed in some special way, a college golf course would not be practical for a small college. For campus proper probably an acre for fifty students would allow generous space; of course, in a city where land sells by the square foot rather than by the acre, much less is ample.

A study by an able landscape architect of the site and buildings together with the location of anticipated future buildings, athletic field, and play grounds, will quickly reveal the land needs. Every effort should be made to provide for these.

Usually any landscape plan has to be modified as time goes on. Changes in size, objectives, alteration in building plans, etc.—all tend to change the campus plans. A revision of the plans from time to time to meet these needs will retain the symmetry of the campus and allow for changing demands.

An annual item in the budget for trees and shrubs will mean

a very great deal for beauty and will provide for trees dying, and removed on account of improvements.

The services of a landscape architect are indispensable in the wise, intelligent, and beautiful development of any campus.

The trustees' responsibility is to see that a competent landscape architect is employed, to see that it is arranged for him to work with the president and the college architect in developing and modifying plans, and to approve or disapprove final plans and changes.

Building Plans

As occasion arises to erect new buildings, the responsibilities of the trustees are to select or approve the selection of an architect, to study and approve the type of architecture proposed, and finally to approve the building plans.

The board will ordinarily have a building committee which will have legal authority to act for the board on detail, approve estimates of contractors, etc. The board as a whole would approve the architect, determine with his advice the type of architecture, approve the plans for a specific building, and approve its location.

One of the common errors in college buildings is to erect buildings so designed that they cannot well be enlarged. Unless the total enrollment is very definitely fixed, it often becomes very necessary to enlarge buildings. If the chemistry building is too small, either it must be enlarged or a new building must be built. Wherever possible some provision for enlargement should be included in the plans.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the department which is to use a building should be fully consulted by the architect, and that the preliminary plans should have the approval of the department before being adopted. Unless this is insisted on, the architect will often hurry the plans to completion, and the resulting building will be much less serviceable than it otherwise could be.

Not only should there be a campus plan worked out by a competent landscape architect in collaboration with the administration until acceptable to the trustees, but building plans should be prepared in advance of needs, or at least in advance of funds for building, that will harmonize with present building and that will allow generously for future growth.

Often when money becomes available, either through a gift or through state appropriations, there is pressure to build quickly, and the preparation and consideration of plans are unduly hastened. College and university buildings, while conforming to certain types, differ greatly in detailed use. Much the best results are obtained if the architect can work at leisure, cooperating with the department involved, in working out floor plans, space needs, plans for the enlargement of the building if such will probably be needed, and the development of a sketch plan of the exterior. If such preliminary plans can be developed in advance of securing the funds necessary for building, to the point of securing the approval of the department, the president, and the trustees, the ultimate satisfaction in the building is largely assured. A competent architect and landscape architect, both sympathetic with the institution and willing to cooperate fully with each other and with the president and department heads to secure what will be most serviceable, and a board of trustees demanding that building needs be largely anticipated, will save many regrets and much waste. A book by C. Z. Klauder on *College Architecture*, and a number of booklets on college buildings, published by the American College Association, may be found of value to trustees of colleges. They aim to cover the needs of colleges rather than those of the great universities.