

September 4, 1954

Dr. J. Burton Vasche
Associate Superintendent
Chief, Division of State
Colleges & Teacher Education
721 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento 14, California

Dear Dr. Vasche:

As you suggested in our telephone conversation Friday, I have prepared a summary of statutes and other official documents and correspondence related to the college's obligation to provide educational opportunities to "both sexes". The summary also includes references to official action which led to the acceptance of the Master Plan for the San Luis Obispo campus, which is based upon an anticipated enrollment of 2700 men and 900 women.

After all these years of planning and worrying about how the college was to fulfill its obligation to provide education to girls as well as boys, you can well imagine my surprise to learn that Bob Stone had been criticized because Cal Poly's women's P.E. unit was in the final design stage. It is my understanding that the criticism was forthcoming because it was felt that "the institution had never been approved to offer women's curricula or courses."

The ironical part of the present situation is the fact that I have since 1937 been bluffing a whole regiment of girls who have applied for admission. Our Admissions Officer has a tremendous file of correspondence with girls who have wanted to enroll in existing courses, such as animal husbandry, soil science, social science, etc. We have for years been telling them that "enrollment of girls was not permitted."

There are any number of local girls and not a few from other communities who have indicated they would pursue whatever angles they could, including legal action, to gain admission here. We have kept our fingers crossed, expecting at anytime to have one of them carry out her threat.

I have been stalling the girls off with the hope that before too long we would have the bare necessities of a women's P.E. unit, women's dormitory and home economics building. If there is going to be further delay on the basis that we have never been approved to offer women's curricula or courses, it will be an admission that our own Department's procedure for approval of Master Plans leaves something to be desired.

Page 2

Dr. Vasche

September 4, 1954

I hope that the attached summary of actions taken in relation to planning for girls is sufficient to convince all concerned that we have been acting in good faith in our planning for coeducation.

Sincerely yours,

Julian A. McPhee
President

Attachment

cc: Dr. Roy E. Simpson
Dr. Joel Burkman

Wilson
McCorkle
Kennedy