

PRESENTATION OF NEEDS OF  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, NAIROBI

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Perhaps it is necessary to begin with a very brief background of the historical development of the College, which, by the mere telling, will, I am sure, provide some answers to some of the questions in all our minds.

This College started in 1956 as a technical college, known as the Royal Technical College, with about eighteen acres of land in the centre of the city. It was intended to be a small non-residential College, catering for middle-level technicians. About the same time, the Asian community of East Africa were collecting funds for the establishment of a commercial institution, and decided to join forces with the Royal Technical College by incorporating their institution, The Gandhi Memorial Academy, into the College, and in so doing making available certain sums of money for the development of the College. In 1961 - barely five years after - it was decided to change the course of development of the College from that of a technical institute to a university college, to become the second such institution in East Africa after Makerere in Uganda. Towards this end, the Technical was dropped from its title and it became the Royal College simply.

The full implementation of this, however, was overtaken by events. In 1962, a university College was established in Dar es Salaam and, in 1963, three Colleges - University College, Makerere, The University College, Dar es Salaam and The Royal College, Nairobi, all in different stages of growth - were brought together to form the University of East Africa. In 1964, the name of the Royal College was changed to University College, Nairobi.

Our work in the first triennium of planned and co-ordinated development as part of the University of East Africa has been in the areas of Arts, Science, Engineering, Veterinary Science, Architecture and Commerce. But such has been the pace of development in Kenya and in East Africa during this period - both in terms of the unexpected increase in student numbers and in needs, that substantial additions to programmes were authorised by the University Council and Senate during the triennium. These we have attempted to summarise on pages 1 to 3 of our College document "Capital Requirements 1967/8 to 1969/70". The most important of these are the new Department of Education, the new Institute for Development Studies, and the integration of our Extra-mural Department and the College of Social Studies at Kikuyu into our Institute of Adult Studies which has responsibility for a new Correspondence Course Unit.

All these developments have been undertaken in full consultation with the Government of Kenya and with the support of the University. National and regional requirements, rather than the principles of unfettered academic freedom, have determined our development programme in the last three years and will continue to influence and guide our development in this triennium.

Some of the factors which have influenced our decision whether or not to start a new subject or discipline in any given year include

- (a) staffing requirements for such a course and their availability;
- (b) anticipated number of students;
- (c) manpower requirements;
- (d) expense factor;
- (e) the overall needs.

We aim to be a service institution fully responsive, within the limits of the above factors and our capacities, to the needs of Kenya and East Africa. Our basic evaluative criterias are relevance and excellence.

This, then, is our approach to our needs for this second triennium, and they can be divided into two parts: our capital requirements as set out in the document "University College, Nairobi, Capital Requirements 1967/68 to 1969/70" already referred to, and "University College, Nairobi, Recurrent Costs Requirements".

The Chairman's Foreword (in the former document) emphasises our determination to plan future buildings with a bias towards the utilitarian and in keeping with the needs and resources of Kenya and East Africa. The proposed capital projects as set out on pages (iii) and (iv) (Roman) represent the views of the Kenya Government on the total sum to be put into our capital development plan, and, to some extent, the order of priority they would wish to see. It will be noted that our own programme shewn on pages 5 and 6 (Arabic) reflects complete harmony with the Kenya Government. We speak with one voice on our needs, and the total of £6,097,000 is the same as the two figures in the Kenya Government Plan of £1,615,000 under current projects, all of which are in the pipeline or for which there are firm commitments, and the £4½ million of future projects which, it will be noted, is only a little in excess of the World Bank figure of £4.1 million.

Our main thrusts have been spelt out in our Development Plan and in the papers we have presented to the Conference. In the Faculty of Arts we have tried to strengthen one of our weakest areas, viz. the social sciences, with the inclusion of Sociology as one of the course options, mainly to broaden the range of choice and to give our students that essential training and orientation necessary for work in any aspect of development.

Our future projects begin with the need to house and feed our students, and this only has a slight priority over the need to house our faculty. The need for the latter has been commented on by the University Grants Committee.

One of the greatest areas of expansion in the College has been in student numbers. In Nairobi, the increase has been from 635 to 1179 or 86%. Numbers envisaged for the new triennium rise to <sup>1491</sup>~~2296~~ in the last year.

This increase has ramifications in almost every field, particularly in the area of expansion of the physical plant. Without this expansion, as the University Grants Committee (1967) has pointed, "there will not be enough room for the additional staff and students to live or work" (para. 12). A recent World Bank Economic Mission has shown that, even with the present level of student intake, there is a shortage of teaching and office accommodation generally, and of hostel accommodation.

We have undertaken two space utilisation surveys, one on our teaching and academic facilities, financed by the Ford Foundation, and the other on our catering and residential facilities, financed this time by the U.S.A.I.D. Both confirm the need for additional accommodation, and suggest both the scale of requirement and the type of structure that will best meet our needs.

In 1965 we established, with the full approval of the University Council and Senate, a Department of Education. This Department had been budgetted for in the triennial plan, but we were able to establish it from funds we had from the Carnegie Corporation and from support from the Kenya Government. In June this year, our application for support from United Nations Development Programme for this Department was approved. But the Department is still homeless, and there is one obvious need to provide a building where it can develop.

A primary consideration for the establishment of the Department was our concern that Kenya should produce its own graduate school teachers. Further, if Kenya should achieve a rate of literacy comparable to the developed areas, there must be at its institution of higher learning a vigorous and dynamic Department of Education able to give the guidance and leadership required. Thus, we would like to bring together in one physical complex all the major organisations which together can create a power house for the advancement of teaching in Kenya. But our first and more urgent consideration is to house the new Department, hence the request for a phased building which can be built in stages if necessary.

The other major faculty developments are in Medicine and Agriculture. By decision of the University and the Kenya Government, a Faculty of Medicine was established in July this year. It is expected that the Faculty will help meet the need to produce a minimum of eighty

doctors annually for Kenya, if the target of one doctor to every fifteen thousand people is to be attained. It is vitally important that the Faculty should be integrated with the Teaching Hospital which the Government of Kenya plans to build; and the intention is to house part of the Faculty at the Hospital building and part at Choromo where the pre-clinical departments will be housed in proximity and in co-operation with our Veterinary and biological sciences.

Earlier this year, the Government of Kenya set up a Commission to consider the status and needs of Agricultural Education in the country. The report will be published on Wednesday, and one of its recommendations I believe will be the establishment of a Faculty of Agriculture at the College. We have, in anticipation of this Report, made an estimate for this development in our list of requirements, which will be refined when more detailed information and Government's and University's reactions are known.

There are a number of other capital requirements included in this list. I do not, however, propose to deal with them all. Explanations of each are given in some detail in our booklet already circulated. The three graphs set out at the end of our document will, I hope, illustrate the point that we are a flourishing, successful and dynamic organisation worthy of every support. The first and second graphs show the increase in student and staff numbers respectively, and these are as provided for the College by the University Grants Committee.

We wish to make it clear that the College accepts the recommendations of that Committee. The third graph deals with the estimated cost per student. This is well below the figure suggested by the World Bank Economic Mission and, we hope, further illustrates and justifies our earlier contention that we want to be an institution with links with life and responsible to the realities of a developing region.

I will now ask you to look at the other document which we have circulated, which deals with programmes on which we have depended, and will continue to depend on a measure of external support.

These include our Institute for Development Studies, our programme for Housing Research in the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development, our projected new offerings in the Faculty of Arts in Sociology and Modern Languages, our contemplated work in the area of Project Design, our needs in the area of computer service, and general financial and other logistic support for our research programmes and staff supplementation. In addition to these, all recent consultations in the College have stressed the need (with which we are in full agreement) for a long term planning of the College, both in terms of its academic development and its physical growth and layout.

Research projects may roughly be of two kinds: there are those that are mainly concerned with the training of the mind of the researcher. I think of the Ph.D. thesis on the "Use of the Comma in



Icelandic Literature in the Middle Ages", or the other one on "The Incidence of Brass Door Knockers in the State of Oklahoma". But there is the second kind of research which must have a direct relevance to the cultural and economic needs of the region. I think a glance at our research projects as enumerated on pp. 71 and 72 of the Background Information paper will quickly show that our endeavours in the research field are in this second category, while at the same time helping to train the minds of the researchers.

We are pleased and excited with the possibilities of our Institute for Development Studies, and have every expectation for the research work in our Faculty of Veterinary Science. With further external support and strengthening of these and the other areas, our College will be playing its part as fully as it ought, and successes in these crucial areas will not only establish the institution as a centre but will relieve the current burden of dependence on outside financial support.