

WHEATON  
COLLEGE

NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02766

September 30, 1988

To: Members of the Commission on Coeducation

From: Alice F. Emerson *ick*

Re: October 27 & 28 Meeting

Enclosed you will find a schedule and background materials for the third meeting of the Commission on Coeducation. Our meetings will overlap with those of the Wheaton Board of Trustees which is looking forward to a report from the Commission on Coeducation. You may recall that at our last meeting we promised you that this session would be a working one for Commission members and that continues to be our expectation.

The draft of the planning report is enclosed and it is that document, which has been widely distributed and discussed on campus this fall, that will be the principal focus of our attention. I hope you will read it with a critical eye and come prepared to share with us your assessment as to how the implementation of the six broad strategies it describes is likely to be perceived by the wider world beyond the campus and how effective they seem to you in working toward our aim of repositioning Wheaton as a coeducational college. We will ask each of you to participate in a discussion group that examines in depth one of the six strategies and to indicate which group you prefer on the enclosed response form.

In addition to the draft planning report, we have included two retrospective reports, one from Williams and one from Vassar, on their progress in becoming coeducational. I hope they will help to sharpen for you, as they have for us, the different challenges and aspirations before us, as well as the lessons we can learn from our peers. I was recently a guest speaker at Dartmouth's celebration of fifteen years of coeducation. And while I said at the time that it was very reassuring to an institution in its infancy of coeducation to see how robust one in its adolescence could be, I also came away with a sense of what a very special opportunity we have at Wheaton. Fifteen years ago the insights which the Wheaton faculty has into the ways that gender influences teaching and learning, personal choices and life ambitions would not have been possible. Fifteen years ago the



questions we are asking ourselves about how to create a learning community that challenges and encourages both women and men equally would have been unthinkable. One of the exercises we hope you will help us with is to imagine what a retrospective report on coeducation at Wheaton five years from now might include. What outcomes should we realistically expect? How will Wheaton be different in five years? How the same?

We have now completed one month of coeducation on campus. Since you will all have an opportunity to meet and talk with students and faculty when you are here, I will not attempt to convey the dynamics of change that are all about us. And though our experience to date is short indeed, it is already clear that the reality of coeducation will be a powerful teacher and influence during the transition years. We must somehow combine a clear sense of direction and institutional goals with the flexibility to adjust and respond to the unfolding reality of an increasingly coeducational student body and image. And we must resist an entirely egocentric view of our evolving institution. As always my colleagues and I look forward to the fresh and thoughtful perspective you will bring to our efforts to shape the future of this College.



WHEATON COLLEGE  
Norton, Massachusetts

Commission on Coeducation  
Schedule of Activities  
October 27, 28, 1988

Thursday, October 27, 28, 1988

3:00-4:00 p.m.	Registration for Commissioners	Alumnae Affairs Mary Lyon
<i>optimal</i> 4:00-5:00 p.m.	A Snapshot of Coeducation -- a panel featuring students, faculty, administrators	Media Center Balfour-Hood
5:00-6:00 p.m.	The Six Strategies for a Successful Transition to Coeducation -- A Briefing Session	Media Center Balfour-Hood
6:00-8:00 p.m.	Cocktails and Dinner -- Commissioners and other Guests	Faculty Lounge and Dining Room Emerson
<i>n</i> 8:00-9:30	The Six Strategies for a Successful Transition to Coeducation -- Discussion Groups	Emerson and Mary Lyon

Friday, October 28, 1988

<i>n</i> 7:30-9:00 a.m.	The Six Strategies for a Successful Transition to Coeducation -- Discussion Groups Continue Over Breakfast (as needed)	Faculty Dining Room Emerson
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Commission on Coeducation -- A Plenary Session	Holman Room Mary Lyon
<i>awc</i> <i>?</i> 10:30-12:00 noon	Commission on Coeducation -- Report to Board of Trustees	Holman Room Mary Lyon
12:30	Commission Luncheon	May Room Mary Lyon

SMH  
9/27/88



WHEATON COLLEGE  
Norton, Massachusetts

Commission on Coeducation  
Reservation/Preference Form: Oct. 27-28, 1988

Please complete the form below and return to the Office of Alumnae Affairs by Monday, October 10, 1988 in the envelope provided. Thank you very much.

Travel and Accommodations:

I/We plan to arrive at the College on: Date \_\_\_\_\_; Time \_\_\_\_\_.

My spouse will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ accompany me to the College.

Please reserve overnight accommodations for me/us at the Regency Hotel for Thursday, October 27: \_\_\_\_\_.

Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Non-smoking \_\_\_\_\_.

I am unable to attend the final meeting of the Commission on Coeducation \_\_\_\_\_.

Meetings:

I/We will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ attend a Snapshot on Coeducation Thursday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

I/We will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ attend the briefing session on the six strategies for a successful transition to coeducation on Thursday afternoon at 5:00 p.m.

I/We will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ attend the discussion groups on the six strategies after dinner on Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m.

I/We will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ attend the breakfast meeting on Friday morning at 7:30 a.m.

I/We will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ attend the Commission Plenary Session on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m.

I/We will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ attend the Commission Meeting with the Board of Trustees on Friday at 10:30 a.m.

OVER PLEASE



Meals:

I/We plan to have the following meals on campus:

Cocktails and Dinner, Thursday, October 27 \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast, Friday, October 28 \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch, Friday, October 28 \_\_\_\_\_

Six Strategies:

I/We wish to join the following small group discussion after dinner on Thursday, October 27. Please indicate a first, second, and third choice. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7 Develop A New Model of Coeducation

\_\_\_\_\_ Create A Seven-Day Wheaton Campus

\_\_\_\_\_ Create A Coeducational Athletic Program

\_\_\_\_\_ Strengthen Resources That Promote Academic Quality

\_\_\_\_\_ Develop Facilities Necessary for Growth

\_\_\_\_\_ Increase Size, Diversity and Quality of Applicant Pool

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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9/27/88



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