


1978

Achievements & Initiatives

Society for Values in Higher Education

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THE SOCIETY FOR VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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In recent years, the Society for Values in Higher Education has:

- initiated a four-stage program to improve the undergraduate teaching of religion through campus visitation, consultations at Wingspread, Racine, Wisconsin, and panel presentations at regional meetings of the professional associations of religion teachers; funded by the Lilly Endowment
- sponsored three summer institutes for cross-disciplinary teaching and research and cross-disciplinary exploration on such topics as "Death and Human Experience", "Accountability in the Professions", "Technology and Values", "The Changing Concept of the Person", "The Scope and Limits of the Law", "Merit and Equality in a Just Society"; funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Exxon Educational Foundation, and Rockefeller Foundation
- sponsored seven regional conferences for college teachers on "New Styles of Teaching and Learning", funded by the Hazen Foundation and Danforth Foundation
- sponsored seventeen area colloquies to bring together graduate students and faculty from various disciplines for extended consideration of value questions, e.g. "The Ethical Crisis in Higher Education" (Minnesota), "The Impact of Scarcity on Cultural Attitudes and Character" (New York), "Determinism, Free Will, and Responsibility in Higher Education" (Stanford), "The Liberal Arts in an Age of Professionalism" (Philadelphia), "The World Resources Crisis and Changing Attitudes Toward American International Responsibility" (Washington, DC), "Ethical Frontiers in the Disciplines and Professions" (North Carolina), funded by the Charles Merrill Trust and Cleveland Dodge Foundation
- conducted the campus visitation of fourteen church-related colleges as part of the National Council of Churches' study of perceptions of church-relatedness, funded by the Ford Foundation
- conducted an evaluation of institutional renewal in six colleges and published a report on "Renewing Liberal Arts Colleges", for the Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education
- sponsored a federally-funded three year Project on Institutional Renewal through the Improvement of Teaching, working with sixteen colleges and universities, which has produced a variety of materials including a Resource Notebook (soon to be republished by Change magazine), a quarterly Newsletter, and a report volume, published in 1978 by Jossey-Bass, in the New Directions for Higher Education Series
- planned a Rockefeller Foundation conference on "The Search for a Value Consensus" (proceedings published, September, 1978)

CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY include:

- a three-year project on General Education. Teams of teachers, administrators and students from 14 institutions, including community colleges, public and private colleges and universities, and a technical school, are working to develop innovative general education curricula appropriate for various types of schools with differing needs and resources. The project is supported by grants of \$220,000 from the Exxon Educational Foundation and \$240,000 from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education
- Summer Institute on Ethical Issues in the Management of Public and Private Institutions, held in conjunction with the Yale University School of Organization and Management. Institute participants are developing new, more effective methods for teaching ethics to future business and public sector managers. The Institute is funded by grants of approximately \$150,000 from Allied Chemical, Cummins Engine, Ford, General Telephone and Electronics, Levi Strauss, Rockefeller, and Scovill foundations
- publication of the cross-disciplinary quarterly journal, SOUNDINGS (in co-sponsorship with Vanderbilt University), to encourage interdisciplinary publication and demonstrate new models of research and scholarship on human value questions
- a colloquy on Ethical Issues in Higher Education involving twenty leading ethicists and other faculty and administrators from Duke University and the University of North Carolina
- an annual five-day Fellows' meeting for interdisciplinary discussion and sharing of common concerns
- a major external evaluation study of the learning environment of Oakes College, the University of California at Santa Cruz. Oakes is an experimental college with a high percentage of minority students.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

As the above description of Society activities indicates, we rely upon grants from foundations and government agencies for support of our various projects. The central operating costs are met in part by annual contributions of our members. However, our most pressing need is for central operating support and capital funds.

For many years the Society enjoyed regular support from the Danforth Foundation for operating expenses. When this support was terminated in 1976, we undertook intensive efforts to become more self-sufficient. We are currently at the mid-point of a three-year Capital Funds Program in which we seek to raise \$600,000, the interest from which (along with regular members' contributions) will meet our annual need. Often pledging to the very limit of their ability, 600 of our members have contributed \$150,000 to the campaign. Gifts from friends and foundations bring the total to \$220,000. In addition, a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities is assisting us with current operating costs by matching every \$3 in gifts with \$1, up to a total of \$200,000.