

WILLIAMS COLLEGE
WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

January 28, 1963

Fellow Alumni:

Following the January meeting of the Board we are pleased to report to you on the progress that has been made by the Board of Trustees and the Administration in the furtherance of plans for the broad development of the College in the coming decade.

These plans deal with many different aspects of the future of Williams — the academic program, admissions, finances, endowment and building needs, campus organization and many others. Our objective is to increase the distinctive strengths of Williams as a liberal arts college to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The Board expects to have a comprehensive program ready for presentation and discussion during the current year.

Meanwhile, we have been moving forward on the new residential plan, an area which is of immediate interest to many alumni and students. Our policy is governed by the basic decision taken last June that the provision of housing, eating, and social accommodations for the student body is properly a responsibility of the College. This decision, as you know, was the result of long study and thought. The Board is mindful of the apparent failure in some quarters of its efforts to present the extensive background of a complex transition which has its roots in many conditions and causes, and regrets any misunderstandings which have resulted. We are confident, however, that the step taken is the right one and we are developing plans accordingly.

The Board has approved the conversion of Berkshire Hall and the new dormitory into two residential units to be ready for occupancy next fall. An attractive dining-lounge building will be constructed on the southeast corner of the Berkshire Quadrangle and Berkshire Hall will be renovated to provide rooms for recreation and study. The Board is ready to include in the new residential plans any fraternity properties which may become available as the centers of additional residential and dining units, or which might lend themselves for use as language, honors, public affairs or other educational centers. It is recognized that many students will continue to be living in fraternities during the coming academic year, subject through their alumni and undergraduate officers to the standards prescribed for the College as a whole.

Because of the many ways in which a change in residential arrangements relates to wider plans for the College, and in order to encourage alumni and undergraduate participation, the Board will welcome and continue to seek the cooperation of all Williams fraternities through negotiations with the Standing Committee to work out the most effective procedure for the change-over to College facilities. At the same time the Committee will continue its discussions with those Williams men who may wish to sustain purely fraternal groups within the limits of established policy.

We wish again to express our gratitude for the generous and helpful response and support we have received in a difficult task.

For the Board of Trustees,
HENRY N. FLYNT '16
Chairman of the Executive Committee