



WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY
NEWS OFFICE

Lexington, Virginia 24450
(703) 463-9111 (Ext. 317)
(703) 463-9121 (After hours)

PERTINENT FACTS ABOUT COEDUCATION AND W&L

The current study of coeducation in W&L's undergraduate divisions is the third in the past 15 years. The question was addressed at least as early as 1896 when a professor named Addison Hogue proposed in a faculty meeting that the University admit women students. The faculty defeated that proposal by a 7-3 vote.

Another vote on the question was taken in 1902 when the faculty defeated the motion 9-1.

In the summers of 1942 and 1943, women attended Washington and Lee during summer session although they were not degree candidates.

In 1969, then President Robert E. R. Huntley appointed an ad hoc faculty/administration/student committee to consider coeducation. It made its report to the board of trustees in January 1971. The board did not take any action.

In 1972 the School of Law began accepting women in its degree program.

The board of trustees began a "fact-finding" study of coeducation in 1974. That report was presented to the board in October, 1975. In January, 1976, the board announced its decision to remain all-male.

In October, 1983, the trustees directed President John D. Wilson to reexamine the question of coeducation and other measures in the face of a projected decline of 25 percent in the college age population between now and 1995.

In January, 1984, the trustees began the most comprehensive study of coeducation in the school's history with various standing committees of the trustees charged with gathering information on such areas as the curriculum, student life, institutional size, admissions, intercollegiate athletics, residential facilities, physical plant, and the "intangibles" of the W&L experience. As part of its study the board asked for a survey of the alumni.

In May, 1984, the trustees received the reports generated by the standing committees as well as surveys on opinion of alumni, students, faculty, and high school guidance counselors. A special meeting was set for July 13 and 14 to consider the question.