

UNIVERSITY STATUS

(Board of Trustees Meeting, October 24, 1976)

The Board of Trustees had several times in the past discussed university status, and at its June meeting the Board of Trustees had requested a carefully considered report on this subject from the President of the College. The requested report was presented at this meeting.

The report described the present practice of colleges and universities under the American educational system with regard to changes in title of the institutions involved. The President indicated that large numbers of state colleges on the mainland had within the last 15 years changed from college status to university status, and this change had been accompanied by the change in title.

He indicated that the present practice of American higher education was not to identify the term university only with the largest, most complex universities on the mainland. He indicated that it was no longer necessary for a college to have a medical school, a law school, and other highly complicated professional schools to deserve the title of university. To support this view, he cited many examples from a directory of American colleges and universities which confirmed the present practice of using the term university to cover state institutions of higher education providing graduate work through the master's level.

The President then went on to discuss qualifications of the

College of the Virgin Islands relating to a change of status. He discussed the graduate programs of the College of the Virgin Islands, the existence of two campuses and the College's research stations, the research being conducted through the College, and the land-grant service programs of the institution.

Following discussion of this report, the members of the Board of Trustees adopted the position that it was now timely for the College of the Virgin Islands to become the University of the Virgin Islands.

After reaching agreement, the Board then discussed the steps necessary to fully accomplish this purpose, with the President indicating that the remaining steps involved changing those sections of the Virgin Islands Code which referred to the College of the Virgin Islands. With this in mind, the Board of Trustees authorized the President, working with the Chairman of the Board, to seek this change through legislative action.