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## New Seminary Formula Explained By Committee

NASHVILLE--(EP)--Three leading Baptist educators have worked out a new formula for distributing funds among the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

The new formula should do away with the annual headaches both for seminary presidents and the Convention's budget-making body. Formerly, seminary presidents pleaded individually before the budget-makers, and the budget-makers then had to decide how to share a fixed amount of money on the basis of their pleas.

The new formula, agreed to by each of the six presidents, solves this dilemma. It will continue to be a solution as long as the total funds available for seminary operations are within a necessary minimum, according to the committee of educators.

The men who worked out the formula--which requires algebraic calculations---are R. Crin Cornett of Nashville, who recently resigned as executive secretary of the Convention's Education Commission; Doak S. Campbell of Tallahassee, Fla., past president of Florida State University, and Harold A. Haswell of Dallas, coordinator of the education commission of Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The new formula does more than solve an annual dilemma, however. It encourages seminaries to enrol more graduate students, makes it easier for them to secure additional endowment, requires them to carry a substantial share of the cost for instructing students beyond the 1300 enrolment mark, and rewards them for spending a greater proportion of operating funds for instruction and library needs rather than administration and maintenance. It also guarantees each seminary a basic appropriation of funds regardless of its size, and takes into account the special characteristics and problems of a particular seminary.

The formula likewise can be applied in some future year when Southern Baptists may operate seven or more seminaries, rather than the present six.

Here's how the formula is used as a guide each year by the budget-making body, the finance committee of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

The finance committee determines the total funds necessary and available for operating the seminaries. The formula provides a equation for this. The total necessary is based on the number of full-time students at the seminaries, recognizing that the Convention should pay 80 per cent of the operating costs per full-time student.

The operating costs per full-time student are based on the amount of money being spent for each full-time student at accredited seminaries.

When the total is figured, the finance committee uses a second equation worked out by the committee of educators for their distribution formula. This equation for distributing funds among the seminaries has five key points:

1. Basic appropriation. The basic amount given to each seminary regardless of size is \$150,000. Seminary presidents agreed that the minimum appropriation should be based on 240 full-time students and 12 full-time teachers, but further agreed that the minimum amount should be allocated to each seminary even if some did not have that many students and teachers.

2. Enrolment. Enrolment is "weighted" by the level of academic attainment. This means that the seminary gets more money for students engaged in an expensive graduate program and less for students studying for undergraduate degrees. A unit system is used with candidates for degrees of bachelor of divinity, master of religious education, and master of sacred music counting as one unit each.

Students working toward certificates or degrees with lower academic standing count only as one-half unit. Candidates for the master's of theology count as two units and candidates for the doctor's degrees in theology, religious education, and music are counted as three units each.

3. Endowment. The purpose of this factor is to require an institution to carry a substantial share of the expense of instructing students in excess of 1300. This factor, the committee said, also encourages and makes it easier for a seminary to seek and obtain greater endowment.

This factor in the formula comes into play only when a seminary has more than 1300 students and minimum of \$6667 in endowment. Additional students over the 1300 mark do not result in more operating funds from the Convention unless the seminary has \$6667 in endowment to match each student above 1300. Also, a seminary with the necessary endowment can not qualify for a greater share of operating funds unless it has more than 1300 students.

4. Pattern of expenditure. This factor is not intended to measure the quality of an institution but the extent to which its pattern of expenditures tends to improve its quality. The seminary which spends a larger share of its operating funds on the academic quality of its program---instruction and library ---is rewarded by the new formula.

The norm is 60 per cent for instruction and library, 40 per cent for administration and maintenance of the seminary plant. (A short-term adjustment is made for newer seminaries because of special problems.) The share for a seminary increases as academic expenditures surpass 60 per cent.

5. Special characteristics and problems of a particular seminary. This may be a separate factor from any of the other four, or it may be an adjustment of one of the other factors, as indicated in the section on pattern of expenditures.

Examples: Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C., has a special problem because of a large physical plant and resultant disproportionate expenses for its maintenance. The formula takes this into consideration until the time when Southeastern's enrolment increases to match the size of the campus.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., has the problem of being remote from major centers of Southern Baptist activity. The result is a greater expense in travel and other administrative costs. This is considered in the formula until Golden Gate's enrolment increases sufficiently to offset this problem.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., is new. It is in process of erecting first buildings on its campus. New seminaries face disproportionate expenses for both administration and maintenance, special circumstances which will be considered until the seminary is larger.

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The formula will be first applied to 1960 budgets. It is not likely that any seminary's 1960 operating fund allocation will be less than its 1959 allocation.

The new formula is not applied to capital fund allocations to the seminaries, nor are Carver School of Missions and Social Work and American Baptist Theological Seminary covered by it.

The formula, to give each seminary an equitable share of operating funds, requires an adequate total appropriation from the finances of the Southern Baptist Convention. In the formula-making committee's opinion, if the total appropriation drops more than eight per cent from the amount considered to be adequate, the result will work "a real hardship" on some of the smaller seminaries.