Threshold to the Future -- 1964-1970

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Howard R. Bowen, then President of Grinnell College, was elected to head the University of Iowa in 1964 and resigned in 1969 to go to Claremont College in California. He had received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Iowa and had served on the College of Commerce staff.

During his administration enrollment had increased from 14,700 to 18,700. Changes in administrative and teaching personnel brought the appointment of ten deans. The caliber of students rose steadily due to higher academic credentials of incoming freshmen and changing standards of admission to the various colleges. Staff and faculty salaries were increased.

New academic units established included a School of Library Science and a School of Urban and Regional Planning. A long-range plan of buildings and campus beautification became the responsibility of a new office of campus planning. Under this program the Fine Arts Museum, a gift of alumni and friends, and other Fine Arts units have been built; the University Library is being doubled in size; and a Recreational Sports Building was erected near the Stadium. A new College of Dentistry Building, a new College of Nursing
home, a Basic Science Building, and the College of Medicine Library are under construction on the west campus. A new footbridge across the Iowa River will connect the new Music Building and Hancher Auditorium with the east campus.

Willard L. Boyd, Executive Vice President, succeeded Howard R. Bowen in 1969. Under his administration student enrollment continues to grow—20,604 in the fall of 1970. President Boyd inherited the student unrest begun earlier, mostly in protest to the Vietnam War and the killing of four Kent State students. Attempts to hinder the R.O.T.C. program, to halt campus recruiting by certain agencies, and to protest authority by smashing downtown store windows were methods used by a minority of students to express their opposition. By the fall of 1970 campus unrest, for the most part, seems to have quieted down.

What of the future? Predictions are that student enrollment will level off; the need for additional housing will be curtailed; enrollment in the College of Medicine will increase to meet the need for more doctors in Iowa; and the University will continue to emphasize leadership in the humanities and the professions.

With a fine student body, able administrators and a distinguished faculty working together in an efficient plant located in a beautiful setting the University of Iowa will continue to serve the state, the nation, and the world.