Funds Authorized for $33 Million Campus Expansion

When Brooklyn College moved from rented quarters in downtown Brooklyn to its own 26-acre campus in the residential Flatbush section in 1937, its 5,000 full-time students had four buildings at their disposal. As the demand for higher education increased in the years following World War II, a new library, a new social sciences building, and an auditorium-theater complex were built.

But enrollment was forced up faster than space could be added. As a result, for the past ten years the college has been operating with almost 10,000 full-time day students squeezed into a plant built for 6,000. Another 10,000 evening students—and in recent years 10,000 additional full- and part-time graduate and adult education students—means that almost 30,000 students use the campus between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. This overcrowding has occurred despite the fact that the day division has the highest admission standards of any of the colleges of The City University.

Welcome news came in February that the overcrowding will soon be relieved. The City University Construction Fund Trustees authorized $33.7 million for construction of phase one of a two-phase expansion program. The funds will make possible a new classroom building and a plaza structure, plus additions to Roosevelt Hall (the physical education building) and Ingersoll Hall (the science building). In addition to the city and state appropriations, the college was recommended by the Board of Regents in April for a $2.5 million federal grant under the Higher Educational Facilities Act. The grant would go toward the science building expansion.

"Authorization of the construction funds means," Dean of Studies Abraham S. Goodhart explained, "that architects can now proceed with preparation of final working plans for the new buildings. Plans should be finished by the end of 1967 and construction should be underway by early 1968."

The Dean pointed out that the essential effect of the expansion will be to ease present overcrowded conditions. However, the additions will permit expansion of full-time day enrollment to 12,000—the number to which the college is committed under The City University Master Plan. The School of General Studies (the evening college) and the Graduate Division will also be able to admit some of their rapidly increasing numbers of applicants.

Phase one expansion (see photograph and box below) is expected to be completed by 1970. Phase two, including new facilities for the library, administration, parking, the social sciences and additional new facilities for the sciences, should be completed by 1972.

Units of the Brooklyn College Expansion Program

Phase I expansion, shown in the air view composite below, includes: (1) a new classroom building—to be named William James Hall—that will house the departments of Education, Mathematics, and Psychology. It will have specially designed educational laboratories, psychological research facilities, a demonstration nursery school and an educational clinic. (2) An addition to Ingersoll Hall will provide expanded facilities for the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and the Integrated Science Program. Besides new classrooms, new laboratories, a planetarium, and special lecture halls are also planned. (3) In the Roosevelt Hall expansion, facilities will be doubled for both men and women and also for medical services. (4) The elevated plaza will rise 17 feet above street level and will have two sub-levels for classrooms, faculty offices, lecture halls, an art museum, the college bookstore, a student food service and storage areas. Also shown in the composite are (5) a proposed 12-story academic building; and existing buildings: (6) Boylan Hall, (7) Ingersoll Hall, (8) Whitehead Hall, (9) LaGuardia Hall and the Library, (10) Whitman Auditorium and Gershwin Theater, and (11) The Student Center.