In 1899, Dr. Smith returned to the institution. Under his presidency, the school grew from three rooms in a small frame structure to a physical plant of ten buildings on a fifty-acre tract of land. In order to pay for the land, Dr. Smith, with the aid of Dr. Williams, E. H. Williams, E. D. Smith and Dr. H. M. Matter, embarked on a $10,000.00 campaign which amounted to several times and eventually paid by Dr. Smith. He later deeded the land to the State. Dr. Smith retired in 1933 at the age of 60 with more than 40 years of service to the institution.

In 1969, the institution acquired its present name, “Fayetteville State University,” and Dr. Charles Willis B. McLeod, a 1964 graduate of Fayetteville State University, was appointed Chancellor on January 1, 1969. During his tenure, the curriculum was expanded to include majors in secondary education and programs leading to degrees outside the teaching field. The name of the school was changed to Fayetteville State College in 1962. Also, under Dr. McLeod’s leadership, six additions were made to the physical plant to accommodate a rapidly expanding enrollment.

In 1996, the institution changed its present name “Fayetteville State University” and Dr. Charles D. Johnson, Executive Vice President of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was selected as Interim Chancellor. During his tenure, FSU’s first doctoral program in Educational Leadership was established, and baccalaureate program offerings were expanded to include 60 degrees in the arts and sciences, business and economics, and education. The addition for the ultra-modern Business and Economics building and the new Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex under scored Dr. McLeod’s commitment to FSU’s continued expansion and growth. Chancellor Hackley also initiated a comprehensive five-year program that included significantly increased enrollments. FSU’s first doctoral program was established during Dr. Hackley’s tenure and FSU was poised to dispose of some of its outdated student dormitories. For this 236-day period ending December 31, 1994, Dr. Hackley left his post as FSU’s Chancellor. He was President of the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges, the first African American to lead the state’s community college system.

Dr. Joanne A. Benson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was elected Chancellor effective July 1, 2003. Her predecessor, Dr. Lynda G. Jenkins, was appointed interim Chancellor from January 1, 1995 to November 14, 1995.

Dr. Williams, E. H. (1867-1910), E. E. Smith, Principal (1895-1898), and the Rev. L. E. Fairley, Principal (1898-1933), were chief educational leaders of the school during its first ten years. It was designated a teacher training institution, and its name was changed to the Howard School. The name of the school was changed to Fayetteville State College in 1962. Also, under Dr. McLeod’s leadership, six additions were made to the physical plant to accommodate a rapidly expanding enrollment.

The general academic structure took its present configuration in 1965 when the University became a Comprehensive Institution. In addition to expanding program offerings and services, six buildings were added to the physical plant during this period to accommodate the degree of the Dr. Charles D. Johnson.

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