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Interview Transcript with Dr. Stewart

University of Texas at Tyler

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Dr. Stewart on Academics

1. Would we say the new campus opening is the formal opening of Texas Eastern University?

The one word answer would be "No." I feel that the formal opening would have to be historically Sept. 1, 1972; however, the fact that our regents were appointed in October 1971 needs to be reflected on from the standpoint of history. But it would appear to me that Sept. 1, 1972 would be the formal opening of the institution when it was funded.

Formal opening is the distinguishing element in this question; that is, distinguishing "opening" from "creation." Formal creation would have been earlier than the appointing of the regents and the funding of the institution.

The occupancy of the permanent campus could only be considered what it is--the formal opening of the permanent campus which is different from the formal opening of the institution in the temporary quarters.

2. Are these 7 schools open for enrollment now (now means whenever you move to the campus)?

At the time we move to the campus, there will be only six schools in the institutional organization. An older organizational chart included the Graduate School as a seventh school. The Graduate School is now referred to as Graduate Programs. The answer to the question is six schools.

The six schools were implemented when the institution opened initially. The schools were not full blown when the institution first opened nor will they be full blown at the time of the move to the new campus.

Nevertheless, the schools have been a part of the organizational structure of the institution from the beginning and have been in a state of continual development since that time. They will, of course, continue to be developed according to need and our abilities to meet the various needs.

Below are the six schools with their latest changes:
School of Business changed to School of Business Administration
School of Education and Psychology - no changes
School of Fine and Performing Arts - no changes
School of Humanities and Social Sciences - no changes
School of Sciences and Mathematics - no changes
School of Technology and Applied Studies changed to School of Applied Studies

3. How many schools when first opened in January of 1973? How and when were others added?

Seven schools were approved in the institutional organizational structure at the time the institution opened in January 1973. Since that time no schools have been added, in fact, one school, the Graduate School, has been eliminated as a separate school within the organization.

The other six schools have had some changes of various kinds, including minor changes in school names and changes in departmental organization and structure.

If you need to elaborate from a historical perspective to identify exactly what those changes are, you can work with Dr. Stewart and obtain whatever you need.
4. How do the 6 rate as offerings for an upper-level university?

The six schools contained in the university organization plus the Graduate Program for the institution have a great deal of similarity with the various other upper-level institutions in the United States. Programs at TEU have been and will continue to be developed fundamentally on the basis of need as that need is determined in relationship to the higher education plan of coordination in the state of Texas. Therefore, there will of necessity be some variances in offerings among upper-level institutions even in Texas and certainly in our program and those of other upper-level institutions in the United States.

I think that the similarity in programs among upper-level institutions as well as all institutions of higher education today is that of basically attempting to meet needs that exist in various areas which particular institutions have been created to serve.

5. Which school is leading in enrollment? (I'll understand if you can't supply figures and don't necessarily want figures--prefer percentages)

Question 5 will be answered by Mr. Whitfield.

6. Any other schools in the foreseeable or non foreseeable future?

I could answer generally by stating that an attempt will continually be made to meet the goal of keeping our organizational structure responsive to the contemporary higher education needs that confront the university. This is the general way of stating that if additional schools are need, they will be implemented.

An example of this that might be utilized (consider before putting into print or before too widespread) would be the possibility of a School of Nursing evolving. I can see this transpiring because of needs that probably will continue to grow in the health care field.

Closely associated with this, and maybe a different approach rather than another school, might be in addition to the School of Nursing, depending on our development patterns and growth situation, we may find that a School of Health Sciences might include the Department of Nursing as well as other departments in the health area such as medical technology, respiratory therapy.

In other words, it's my feelings presently that the general area of education in health science areas is very important to the institution and that this need will continue to be a significant area for the institution.

As to having which school, this all depends on growth and development. There may be other possibilities that are too long ranged at this time to even discuss privately.

The fundamental answer is that the institutional organizational structure will always be responsive to the needs of society. This goal will be ever before us.

7. Any class or lab facilities you want to point out in any department? (Not interested in generalities such as the latest or most modern). You might want to pass this question on to deans of schools or chairman or chairpersons of departments.

Question 7 will be answered by Mr. Whitfield.
8. I'm fascinated with your life-sports program.

1) Can anyone enroll in one of these courses and not take anything else?
2) What indoor sports will you immediately offer?
3) What outdoor sports?
4) What about the foreseeable future?
5) Beyond that?

Dr. Stewart is answering generally and can come back to him if you need more complete answers.

As far as courses are concerned in Health and Physical Education, anyone can enroll in these courses who is otherwise eligible for admission to the university, that is, who has the required prerequisites for entrance and then the required prerequisites for entrance into a given course. The HPE courses would be no different in that respect than any other indoor sports that will be offered immediately. I think by my definition of immediately, I would assume when we open, then based on that assumption, I would have to say we do not plan to offer any indoor sports within that time frame.

As far as sports are concerned, generally it is my concept that most any sport activity could be offered at TEU with the exception of football. This exception is noted because of the uniqueness of our organizational structure, that is, only having the last two years, and therefore, it would be difficult to find competition of equal status for a football program. Another point relative to football is that there are more schools eliminating football currently than there are adding because of the great expense associated with this sport.

I state these two reasons for football not being feasible because and follow that by saying neither I nor any one associated with the institution as far as I know is opposed to football per say, and in fact, I personally like football, and our reason for not having it has nothing to do with personal interest.

Of course, other than football, all other sports might be feasible and possible for implementation at some point. Basketball is a possibility. Individual sports such as tennis, golf, swimming are certainly possibilities.

It is my hope that we can engage in intercollegiate activities as soon as we can identify what might be workable, feasible and practical for the institution and certainly, it is our hope that through our Student Life Program, intramural activities can be implemented in various areas such as basketball, tennis, maybe soccer, flag football, etc. These are the kinds of activities I think we would like to encourage people to become involved with—that is, the life time sports concept so that individuals can carry something with them throughout their lives that will relate very definitely to health through his or her life.

The development of intercollegiate sports relates very definitely to the spirit of the institution, and I feel strongly that some intercollegiate sports programs should become a part of the university's program at the earliest feasible time. We will be looking at this area of concern as soon as possible. We do, of course, have to consider certain priorities and it is mandatory that we look at some facilities for our academic programs first, but these other things are recognized as being very important to a well-rounded university program or well-rounded program of higher education and will be considered and dealt with appropriately.