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President's Report and Recommendations March 17th, 1976

University of Texas at Tyler

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1. 1977-79 Biennial Appropriations Request

Our institution has been provided with formulas to be utilized in requesting 1977-79 biennial appropriations by Dr. William A. Webb, acting commissioner of higher education. These formulas (Attachment C) were adopted by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, at their meeting on February 25, 1976 and forwarded to Governor Dolph Briscoe and the Legislative Budget Board as is required by law. We will now begin development of our biennial request, along with all other state institutions, utilizing the formula information developed by the Coordinating Board. As you probably recall, this process will last over a period of several months with the final biennial request due to the governor and legislature in October 1976.

2. Selection of University Mascot

At the beginning of the Fall Semester 1975, I appointed a representative university mascot advisory committee for the purpose of assisting in involving the entire university community in the selection of a mascot which would appropriately relate to our institution. The advisory committee consisted of both graduate and undergraduate students and faculty and staff members. The committee was chaired by Dr. Tom G. Turns, dean of Student Life.

Over a period of approximately five months following their appointment, the committee worked very diligently to offer sound suggestions pursuant to the matter of a university mascot. After receiving 101 nominations during a specified period of time, the committee studied each very thoroughly and narrowed the number of suggested mascots to nine for presentation to the administration, whereupon I requested that the committee, working with the president and vice presidents, attempt to reduce the number to two or three nominations. Following this step, a graphic arts specialist was requested to review the two final suggestions and offer advice concerning ways in which the mascot could be graphically portrayed as well as possibilities of portraying the mascot in living form.

Upon considering the report of the graphic artist and conferring with board chairman, C. Quentin Abernathy, a decision was reached to present the final selection of "Patriots" for approval by the Board of Regents.
The selection committee felt the name "Patriots" would be relatively unique and would avoid duplication of a mascot already used in Texas higher education. Moreover, "Patriots" would provide appeal and recognition both on state and national levels; one which would identify the university in a positive manner. "Patriot" is defined as "one who zealously loves his country and supports its authority and interest." Transferring this basic meaning to Texas Eastern University, the committee felt that this can be interpreted to mean "one who zealously loves his university and supports Texas Eastern in all its worthwhile endeavors, interests and challenges for the improvement of the great American Society and way of life."

The committee also felt that choosing "Patriots" as the university mascot as our nation celebrates its bicentennial year would be excellent both now and for the future.

I feel that the representative institutional committee has performed their task in a highly responsible manner and that the designation of "Patriots" as the Texas Eastern University mascot is very appropriate and will serve the institution well. It is a pleasure, therefore, for me to recommend that the Board of Regents approve the selection of "Patriots" as the official university mascot.

Motion: 

Second: 

BOARD ACTION: That the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the president, approve the name of "Patriots" as the official university mascot.

(approved) (disapproved)