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President's Report and Recommendations January 19th, 1977

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Board of Regents Meeting
3:00 p.m., January 19, 1977

1. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Accreditation for an institution of higher learning by its regional accrediting agency is of fundamental significance. In view of this consideration, one of the first actions taken at Texas Eastern University early in the fall of 1972 was that of insuring accredited status by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for the institutional program prior to the time when the first students were registered in January 1973. As a result, the university was essentially accredited at the time when instruction was first initiated. Moreover, the first graduates of Texas Eastern in May 1974 graduated from a fully accredited program.

Although initial accreditation work was, and is, important and the satisfaction which the Board of Regents and professional personnel experienced as a result thereof highly rewarding; accreditation, nevertheless, is on-going and efforts must be exerted continually to maintain the quality level of education called for under the Standards of the College Delegate Assembly of the Southern Association. The on-going process specifies that all institutions be reaffirmed periodically in order to maintain SACS membership. Although the federal government has sought and continues to seek some form of governmental accreditation procedure, accreditation in the United States by one of the six regional accrediting associations is based on the philosophy of voluntary accreditation by professional peers from the higher education community within the region where an institution is located. This is recognized as being the soundest procedure, and any form of federal accreditation should and will continue to be resisted by higher education.

The main elements of reaffirmation are the institutional self-study, the committee visit (educators from SACS member schools outside the state in which institution is located) and the action by the college commission of the Southern Association at the appropriate meeting when reaffirmation is to be considered.

The essential purpose of the SACS institutional self-study program is the improving of educational effectiveness in institutions of higher learning within the region. The procedures of the self-study program are designed to help institutions reassess objectives, measure success in attaining objectives, explore ways and means by which educational efficiency may be improved and prepare for the ever increasing demands by society. The program of institutional self-study
constitutes a process that has proved to be effective. It is one that permits an institution to measure itself qualitatively and to be measured by an evaluating committee of qualified educators through the identification of strengths and weaknesses, challenges or problems and solutions.

As already mentioned, participation in the institutional self-study program is required periodically of all member colleges and universities of the College Delegate Assembly of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The self-study is the process by which accreditation is reaffirmed. Following initial accreditation of an institutional program, reaffirmation must be completed at the annual meeting of the association five years after membership is granted. In the case of Texas Eastern University, this action must come at the December 1979 annual meeting. After the first reaffirmation for a university, each member institution must participate once in each ten year period in the institutional self-study program.

Since formal planning for an institutional self-study should begin some three years in advance of the date when reaffirmation is to be considered, staff efforts have recently been initiated as we look forward to the December 1979 annual meeting of the Southern Association. Pursuant to this planning, a reaffirmation for accreditation general calendar has been established as follows:

I. Organization
   A. Appoint steering committee chairman and director along with full committee membership
   B. Appoint remaining committees

II. Committee Work
   A. Activity by committees
   B. Steering committee review

III. Finalization of Self-Study
   A. Committees complete final preparation
   B. Print self-study

IV. Visitation committee
   A. Chairman visit campus
   B. Committee visit

V. College Delegate Assembly Action
   Official action by the College Delegate Assembly of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

The calendar which has been established will permit sufficient time to thoroughly and adequately develop Texas Eastern's self-study. The Board of Regents should keep in mind that the
visiting committee, which will come after the self-study portion of the reaffirmation procedure is completed, is charged with the responsibility of evaluating the effectiveness of the institutional self-study. I wish to reiterate the following essential characteristics of an effective self-study which will be used as guidelines by the visiting committee in their evaluation:

1. The self-study should be comprehensive, assessing every aspect of an institution's operations.

2. The self-study should have broad involvement of every segment of the university community. It should not be an activity of faculty alone or administration alone.

3. The self-study should be analytic, identifying institutional strengths and weaknesses. (Weaknesses will always be specified and the visiting committee will have comments about institutional weaknesses. This aspect of the process is very significant since it provides a vehicle for improving institutional efforts.)

4. The self-study should present recommendations designed to remedy weaknesses identified by the self-study.

5. The self-study should project the institution into the future, identifying short- and long-range concerns and goals of the institution and ways in which the institution intends to deal with its concerns and reach its goals.

As we look forward to the very important institutional endeavor of accreditation reaffirmation, it is important to recognize that the governing board, administration and faculty should lend full support to the effort in order that the institutional program, for the benefit of society, will be assisted thereby to continue to move forward in a positive manner. Basically, this recognition should include the fact that the reaffirmation procedure is a major undertaking, that it is time consuming and that it involves some financial outlay. The reaffirmation for accreditation process, indeed, is a total institutional effort and should broadly and effectively include board members, administration, faculty and students. It will, of course, be integrated into the on-going activities of our organization but will be a highly visible matter during most of the time between now and December 1979.

2. Texas Community and Junior College Scholarships

Texas Eastern University awarded scholarships to twelve students from eight institutions under the Texas Eastern University Educational Foundation, Inc. Community and Junior College Scholarship program for the Fall Semester 1976. Participating colleges and their respective awards, which vary
in amount according to individual course loads, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blinn College</td>
<td>$ 172.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henderson County Junior College</td>
<td>174.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacksonville College (144.50 &amp; 202.50)</td>
<td>347.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilgore College</td>
<td>172.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lon Morris College (144.50 &amp; 172.50)</td>
<td>289.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navarro County Junior College (212.50 &amp; 172.50)</td>
<td>357.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant County Junior College</td>
<td>179.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Junior College (144.50 &amp; 172.50)</td>
<td>317.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2009.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since the State Auditors Office requires the institution to have cash on hand to issuing financial aid such as is provided through the foundation scholarship program, our business office estimated the amount needed for community and junior college scholarships for the Fall Semester 1976 to be $2,760.00 which was requested from the foundation under authority previously established by the Board of Regents.

It is anticipated that $2,700.00 will be required to fund the community and junior scholarships for fifteen recipients during the Spring Semester 1977. Accordingly, $1,949.00 (the estimated $2,700.00 less a $751.00 balance on hand) has been requested from the Texas Eastern University Educational Foundation, Inc. for the semester.

3. Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program

Our institution has received a total of $83,552 for the 1976-77 academic year for the benefit of 130 Texas Eastern University students who have made application to the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant program, the primary student financial aid program of the federal government. This amount represents an increase of $72,894 over our 1975-76 BEOG authorization when eighteen students were assisted through the program. Since this basic grant is an "entitlement" program which insures that any student determined eligible under federal guidelines will be guaranteed funds, there is a possibility that additional authorization of funds may be necessitated after the current amount of $83,552 has been expended.

Established in 1973, the BEOG program was made available to all United States citizens enrolling as undergraduates in an institution of post-secondary education for the first time after May 31, 1973. Effective July 1, 1976, the restriction of initial enrollment after May 31, 1973 was removed; however, the funds remain available only to students at the undergraduate level.

4. Grant Application for Equipment and Materials

Under the grant program extended annually to all Texas institutions of higher learning through the Coordinating
Board, Texas College and University System, and in accordance with guidelines established by the Coordinating Board through the provisions of Title VI-A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Texas Eastern University has filed an application for a $15,000 grant for equipment and materials to improve undergraduate instruction in the science curriculum.

Presently, the university's undergraduate science curriculum does not provide opportunity for students in the study of cell biology. The course has not been introduced because of the need for certain laboratory equipment. Basic equipment is also needed in the support areas of organic chemistry and biochemistry. Adequate laboratory space and appropriately qualified faculty to teach in this academic area are already available. If our application is approved, the assistance provided to the institution for instructional equipment will allow the university to introduce academic work in cell biology and to initiate new laboratory experiments in organic chemistry and biochemistry.

5. Consultation with State Board of Control on Berta Street Facilities

In accordance with the Board of Regents request at the October 20, 1976 meeting, a report will be given as a part of the January 19, 1977 meeting concerning consultation with the State Board of Control relative to Berta Street facilities.

6. Texas Education Agency Reaffirmation of Accreditation Visit

A reaffirmation of accreditation visit pursuant to the Texas Eastern University teacher education program to be conducted by the Texas Education Agency, is scheduled January 31, 1977 through February 3, 1977. Initially approved in the Spring of 1973 for a three year period, the university teacher education program will be examined by a visiting team composed of twelve to fifteen individuals who will evaluate the present program, ascertain progress and make recommendations for program continuation.

One-third of the visiting team will be composed of college/university teacher education personnel; one-third, public school teachers and instructional support personnel; and one-third, Board of Examiners members, school administrators, Texas Education Agency personnel and at least one teacher education student.

In preparation for this reaffirmation visit, the TEU School of Education and Psychology has completed a self-study report for use by the Texas Education Agency. It is the opinion of the staff that this self evaluation, together with the evaluation and recommendations of the visiting team, will serve to strengthen our teacher education program.

7. University Insurance Program

A change in the university's group medical and life insurance
carrier was effected as of January 1, 1977. This action was the result of notice of a substantial rate increase by the university's insurance carrier. Open and competitive bids were sought pursuant to the university's group medical and life insurance program and considerable interest was generated among the major group medical and life insurance carriers.

The best bid was received from Group Hospital Service, Inc. and Group Life and Health Insurance Company (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas) carrying basic rates of $14.73 for employee medical and $28.02 for dependent medical along with rates of 23¢ per thousand for life insurance and 6¢ per thousand for accidental death and dismemberment. These rates not only provide for improved benefits over our current coverage, but are guaranteed for two years.

Even though each employee of Texas Eastern University will be required to bear the increased premium costs dictated by the new rates, this program, of course, is recognized not only as important but mandatory within the organization.

8. Scholarships and Awards for TEU Students

Three new scholarships are presently available to students at Texas Eastern University. The Harvey E. Wessel Scholarship of $200, awarded annually by members of the Temple Beth El congregation in honor of Rabbi Harvey E. Wessel, was presented for the first time during the Fall Semester 1976. The Sales and Marketing Executives of Tyler Scholarship of $200 annually and the Tyler Men's Garden Club Scholarship of $150 will be utilized by students for the first time during the Spring Semester 1977. Although the garden club scholarship is presently a one-time award, members of the organization have indicated interest in establishing this as an annual scholarship.

Other continuing awards and scholarships presently available at the university include the following:

1. Mike Harvey Scholarship (5 at $400 each) $2,000.
2. Watson W. Wise Incentive Award 500.
5. Edwin Morgan Smyrl Scholarship 100.
6. Texas Eastern University (amount varies)
7. Purchasing Management Scholarship (2 at $500 each) 1,000.
8. Pilot Club of Tyler Scholarship 150.
9. T. C. Roddy, Sr. Memorial Biology Scholarship 100.
10. Women's Symphony League Award 200.
11. Junior Symphony League Scholarship 100.

Groups and organizations providing financial assistance to TEU students on a one-time basis (either active or inactive) include the following:
9. Faculty Research Projects

As members of the board are aware, a total of $5,000 was budgeted for the current fiscal year to support organized research by members of the university faculty. Although TEU is primarily a teaching institution, the research effort is important in helping faculty members to stay up-to-date in their fields and in providing appropriate experiences for students, especially at the graduate level. Research grants from budgeted funds are made to individual faculty members on the basis of detailed written proposals which are reviewed by a Faculty Research Committee and submitted for final approval by the administration. Pursuant to this process, it is a pleasure to announce the following faculty research grants for the Fall and Spring Semesters 1976-77.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TITLE OF PROJECT</th>
<th>FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Barry Green</td>
<td>An Evaluation Instrument for the Teaching/Learning Transaction</td>
<td>$1,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Don W. Killebrew</td>
<td>Genetic Variability in an East Texas Population of Musca Domestica L. (Muscidae: Diptera)</td>
<td>787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. David C. Riddle</td>
<td>Study of Heavy Metal Concentration in Sediments of the Houston Ship Channel</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Carl Roddy</td>
<td>(Previously funded project reported to Board of Regents on June 2, 1976)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,642</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The awarding of these grants leaves a balance of $2,358 in the budget to cover summer research projects.
10. Academic Program Projections

In order to facilitate the planning and development of new academic programs, Texas Eastern University operates from a set of five-year program projections which are up-dated annually based on changing needs and institutional resources. The vice president for academic affairs, assisted by the various deans and department chairmen, has recently completed an up-dated report on the five-year program projections for 1977-82. This report will be presented to the Board of Regents during the January 19, 1977 meeting.

11. Surplus property at intersection of Univ. Blvd. and Callaway

12. Enrollment Report continues through Jan 26