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Administrative Notes, March 8th, 1976

University of Texas at Tyler

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To: Board of Regents, Texas Eastern University

From: James H. Stewart, Jr.

Subject: Administrative Notes

I. Board of Regents Meeting on March 17, 1976

Wednesday, March 17, 1976 has been confirmed as the date for a special called meeting of the Board of Regents by Chairman C. Quentin Abernathy. Committee meetings will begin at 2:00 p.m. with the board meeting immediately following at 3:00 p.m.

It is anticipated that the Board of Regents will have an opportunity to make a decision on the health and physical education facilities at this meeting. Contingent upon the meeting of the Campus and Building Committee on March 12, 1976, the board meeting also will include a review of Phase II schematics by Preston M. Geren of Geren Associates Architects Engineers Planners.

II. 1977-79 Biennial Appropriations Request

The acting commissioner of higher education, Dr. William A. Webb, has provided me recently with the formulas to be utilized by institutions of higher learning in Texas for requesting 1977-79 biennial appropriations. These formulas were adopted by the Coordinating Board at their meeting of February 25, 1976, and Dr. Webb has forwarded these formulas to Governor 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.

As a part of my President's Report for the March 17, 1976 board meeting, a complete set of formula information will be distributed to each member of the board.
III. Funeral Service for Brother-In-Law of Regent McKenzie

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mr. Jack Gatlin, brother-in-law of Regent H. J. McKenzie. The funeral service was conducted in Houston Wednesday, March 3, 1976 and flowers were sent from the university's board, administration, faculty and staff.

IV. Selection of University Mascot

As you will recall, there has been discussion at various times during the existence of Tyler State College/Texas Eastern University pursuant to the selection of a mascot for the institution. Consistent with these discussions, I mentioned in the late summer of 1975 that the timing for selecting a mascot (name change finalized, sufficient student interest exhibited, etc.) seemed appropriate and that it was my intention to initiate planning for arriving at a mascot recommendation to the Board of Regents.

Accordingly, 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 this effort. The advisory committee consisted of both undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff members. The committee was chaired by dean of student life, Dr. Tom G. Turns.

Over a period of about five months since their appointment, the committee has worked very diligently to offer sound suggestions pursuant to the matter of a university mascot. In the beginning they developed a method of seeking mascot suggestions, then obtained those suggestions and finally narrowed these suggestions to a small number for final consideration. Besides the basic fact that the entire university community was invited to offer nominations, the following criteria developed by the committee are of fundamental significance:

1. The mascot should be relatively unique and particularly should avoid duplication of a mascot already used in Texas higher education.

2. The mascot should provide appeal and recognition both on state and national levels; one which would identify the university in a positive manner. Further, it should fit the institution appropriately as, for example, the university colors do.

3. The mascot should be one that could be depicted in print (on university publications, etc.) without unusual difficulty.

4. The mascot should be one that could be represented either by an animal, etc. or by an individual dressing to fit the part.
Upon seeking suggestions from the university community under well thought-out guidelines, the committee elicited 101 different nominations. It should be noted that many more nominations than this were received since individuals submitted duplications in a great number of cases.

After receiving the 101 nominations during a specified period of time, the committee studied each one very thoroughly and narrowed the number to nine nominations for presentation to me, 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 mascots 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 include the final selection for recommendation of the university mascot at the March 17, 1976 board meeting.

The recommendation will be that the board officially designate "Patriots" as the Texas Eastern University mascot. Besides "Patriots" meeting all the criteria developed for selecting the mascot, it is felt that naming the mascot -- Patriots -- during the bicentennial year will enhance the meaning of the selection, not only presently, but for the future.

Although I have attempted to give a complete report relative to the mascot recommendation, I will appreciate hearing from any board member who has further questions.

V. Information Pertaining to Health and Physical Education Facilities

I have just received from Caudill Rowlett Scott, Inc. today a report relative to rebidding the health and physical education facilities and a copy of the report is enclosed for your information.

Of basic importance, you will note that the cost estimate by CRS amounts to $28,517.00 and their time estimate to award contract for construction is approximately four months from the time the Board of Regents makes a decision on this matter. Additionally, you will observe that CRS estimates fourteen months will be required for construction of health and physical education facilities, making a total of eighteen months for rebidding and construction under the CRS proposal. As you will recall, this time estimate compares with our present contractor's estimate that the facilities could be ready for occupancy within nine months, or by January 1, 1977.

Since this report was just received today, I felt that each member of the board would be interested in having this information to study in advance of the Board of Regents meeting scheduled for next week.
VI. United States Navy Band Program

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the program printed for distribution at the United States Navy Band Bicentennial Concert which is being sponsored by the university on March 13, 1976 in Caldwell Auditorium at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m.

VII. Report from Resident Engineer

Attached is a report from our director of physical plant and resident engineer for the week ending March 5, 1976.

VIII. Expenditures for Period Ending February 29, 1976

Attached is a copy of the expenditures for Texas Eastern University for the period ending February 29, 1976 for your information and files.

JHS:rc

Attachments and Enclosures