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Memorandum Concerning the Recreation-Athletics-Sports Study Committee

University of Texas at Tyler

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MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Tom G. Turns, Chairman
Dr. Joyce E. Ballard
Mrs. Barbara A. Carder
Mr. David F. Covnet
Dr. Robert H. Cranford
Mr. A. Wayne Criswell

From: James H. Stewart, Jr.

Subject: Recreation-Athletics-Sports Study Committee

January 20, 1977

Early institutional planning for Texas Eastern University included recognition of the area of university life that might be broadly categorized within the parameters of recreation, athletics and/or sports. Moreover, during early planning it was anticipated that at an appropriate time when this segment of university programming moved up the priority list to a point to command study and examination, attention would be directed thereto. With the university occupying permanent campus facilities in recent months, the board of regents awarding a contract during 1976 which includes initial recreation-athletics-sports fields and students being involved in various limited intramural and extramural student life programs during the past four years, it now appears that this matter has moved to a proper level of priority to warrant careful study.

In order to accomplish such a study in an optimal manner, involvement of a representative group from the university community is required. With this basic consideration in mind, it is therefore a pleasure for me to hereby appoint and respectfully request each of you to serve on a committee which is designated as the Recreation-Athletics-Sports Study Committee. As you will note, the committee is composed of students and university professional personnel. Each of you has been selected for this important institutional assignment because of your ability to objectively view the area of recreation, athletics and sports with the best interest of the total TEU organization in mind. Also, I am very happy to advise you that the chairman of our board of regents, the Honorable Robert G. Schleier of Kilgore, Texas, has appointed
Regent Jeff Austin, Jr. of Jacksonville, Texas and Regent Neal E. Velvin of Athens, Texas to work with and be a part of the committee during the course of its deliberations. Since final decision making pursuant to the topic you are to consider rests with the board of regents, governing board representation on the committee throughout the study will, unquestionably, prove to be both efficient and effective.

Generally, the charge of the committee is to make a feasibility study pursuant to recreation, athletics and/or sports for Texas Eastern University. This assignment should include an analysis of activities ranging from individual life-time sports for leisure to an organized athletic program. Specifically, examples of issues that might be involved in committee study (but not limited to) are: program objectives and philosophy; student body interest; fiscal considerations, including costs and sources of funds; facilities; staffing; range or scope of programs; equipment and supplies and external involvement, especially as the dimension of intercollegiate athletics is concerned.

It seems to me, thoughtful reflection reveals that this committee assignment offers a significant opportunity for creative effort as the challenge of developing meaningful recommendations for consideration within the university is pursued. This is emphasized when attention is given to the fundamental fact that a new recreation-athletics-sports program is being considered for a relatively new type of institution -- the upper level university.

Since the total student life program is under the dean of student life in our organizational structure, Dean of Student Life Tom G. Turns will assume the chairmanship role of the committee; and personnel within his office will provide administrative support for the committee throughout the study. Dr. Turns, of course, will be working with everyone involved in the committee study to arrange the first meeting and other committee activity. I will be deeply interested in your work as it progresses. And certainly, I invite you to call on me at any time it is felt that I might be of assistance.

In addition to expressing sincere gratitude to each of you for agreeing to assume responsibility for membership on the Recreation-Athletics-Sports Study Committee, I wish to make the final observation that committee work should accentuate quality just as this concept has permeated and continues to permeate all our work within the Texas Eastern University program. Each of us has had a part in establishing this general goal for the institution and we must continue to stress performing whatever we perform as a part of the TEU program with the thought of value and excellence in mind.

JHS:rc

xc: All Members of the Board of Regents
Administrative Council Members