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Letter from University of Texas System Chancellor Concerning Degree Exchange

University of Texas at Tyler

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June 5, 1979

Dr. James H. Stewart, Jr.
President
Texas Eastern University
3900 University Boulevard
Tyler, Texas 75701

Dear President Stewart:

Your letter requesting degree exchange authority to allow former graduates of Texas Eastern University to receive diplomas from The University of Texas at Tyler after the institution's transfer to The University of Texas System has received careful consideration by my office and the Office of General Counsel. It appears to us that since these graduates received diplomas prior to September 1, 1979, the official date of the transfer, and since their degrees were not awarded under the auspices of The University of Texas Board of Regents, no formal degree exchange authority could legally be granted. I understand that such exchanges have sometimes taken place when an institution undergoes a name change only without transfer of governance to a different governing board, but in Texas Eastern's case the institution has also been transferred to a system governed by a different Board of Regents. The formal degree exchange would therefore be neither legally nor administratively appropriate.

A similar situation was faced by The University of Texas at Arlington (then Arlington State College) in 1965. At that time the institution was transferred by the Legislature from the Texas A&M University System to The University of Texas System. Through an agreement with U.T. Arlington's printer of diploma certificates, a stock of replacement (duplicate) diplomas from Arlington State College was kept on hand for a period of 10 years or so. Perhaps such an arrangement should be considered with your printer.

We are going to explore the possibility of an appropriate certificate of some sort being prepared that would appropriately note that there has been a legal change of the name and official governance of the graduate's alma mater institution from Texas Eastern University to The University of Texas at Tyler. This would not be an official diploma, but could be a companion certificate suitable for framing for those who desired it. We have not worked out the details but shall give it more thought and discuss it with you in the future.
Let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you to provide for Texas Eastern University's smooth transition into The University of Texas System.

Sincerely yours,

E. D. Walker
Chancellor

EDW:llah