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TEXAS EASTERN UNIVERSITY

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 13, 1978

To: Board of Regents, Texas Eastern University
From: James H. Stewart, Jr.
Subject: Administrative Notes

I. March 8, 1978 Board of Regents Meeting

Although a quorum was not present for the Board of Regents meeting last week, the board members who were present heard a very informative schematic design report by Geren Associates Architects Engineers Planners on the library facilities project. Of course, without a quorum present no official action could be taken. Nevertheless, the general concepts pertaining to the manner in which Part A and Part B of the library are schematically related did not generate serious objections from the board members in attendance. I emphasize, as I did during the unofficial board meeting last week, that the interior functional aspects of the library project had been solved extremely well through our staff work with the architects.

Another matter which I discussed informally with board members last Wednesday pertains to our Berta Street facilities. The staff has given thought in recent weeks to projecting when our use of the Berta Street building might be terminated. This has been possible because we are now able to project generally the occupancy of Phase II buildings and how our institutional requirements will likely fit into a schedule of operation without the Roberts school. My goal is to have a recommendation for the Board of Regents to consider at the April 12, 1978 meeting. At the present time it appears that it will be possible to phase out our use of the Roberts building by January 1979. Between now and that time, it also seems appropriate to recommend that the institutional requests to the state for monthly compensation to the foundation be reduced with such reduction based on the square footage actually utilized by the institution. A preliminary appraisal of this situation indicates that no more than 10,000 to 12,000 square feet would be required for institutional use. This is an unofficial estimate, and it is very possible that less space will be

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required. Whatever the number of square feet required for our needs, I plan to recommend that this reduced footage be the basis for making payment to the foundation. An arrangement of this nature, i.e., reducing the monthly expenditures from funds appropriated to Texas Eastern University for the purpose of leasing Roberts school, is permissible by the state through the Board of Control. Also, it is clear that such action would be received positively by the State Auditor. In summary, my recommendation will be for the university to pay the foundation on a pro rata basis for the square footage actually utilized between April 1978 and January 1979 and to tentatively project vacating the Roberts building at that time (January 1979). The only variable which needs determining prior to finalizing my recommendation is the square footage which will be needed by the university between April and next January. Hopefully, I will have this information within the next week or two.

II. Coordinating Board Enrollment Projections

Last Thursday and Friday, March 9 and 10, 1978, the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System considered and took action on 1977 through 1987 enrollment projections for Texas universities. An attachment indicating the enrollment projections approved by the Coordinating Board is included for your information. The only variations from the attachment are minor adjustments made for Lamar University and Texas Southern University. The action taken on this matter relates to the report I made to you on February 6, 1978. Following the initial enrollment projections report, which I received in early February, I was successful in achieving slight modification to the projections for Texas Eastern University, but as you will note from the attachment, the final decision by the Coordinating Board projecting our enrollment to be 2768 in the fall of 1987 is considerably different from our 4800 projection. I presented testimony to the Coordinating Board last week at the meeting attempting to have our projections modified further. Also, Coordinating Board Member Ralph Spence spoke to this issue. Even though several other board members were inclined to change Texas Eastern's projections, they were reluctant to do so since the projections for all institutions in Texas are interrelated under the methodology which was used in calculating these projections.

The only fact which I would add to my February 6, 1978 discussion of this matter is that the Coordinating Board does not consider their projections as ceilings or as imposing inhibitive forces on institutions. In other words, the Texas Eastern University produced projections which range from 2100 in the fall of 1978 to 4800 in the fall of 1987

are not superceded by Coordinating Board data. Therefore we must continue to work hard, as we have in the past, to reach the projections which we have determined to be more valid than the Coordinating Board projections. The Coordinating Board data will be used primarily for the purpose of distributing ad valorem tax bonds to institutions that participate in the ad valorem funding. As you are aware, Texas Eastern is not included in the institutions that are allocated funds under this constitutional provision.

III. Desegregation of Higher Education

On July 18, 1977 I provided you copies of Criteria Specifying the Ingredients of Acceptable Plans to Desegregate State Systems of Public Higher Education issued by United States District Court for the District of Columbia in the Civil Action of Kenneth Adams, et al., v. Joseph A. Califano, Jr., Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, et al. As you may recall, this court decision established guidelines and goals which at that time affected only the states of Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Virginia. Presently Texas is among eight other states scheduled for review of compliance with established criteria. Attached for your information are copies of HEW Secretary Califano's February 2, 1978 statement describing three actions arising from the U. S. District Court order (Adams v. Califano) and the Office of Civil Rights' efforts to secure state compliance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for desegregation of higher education. Also attached are criteria for review and summaries of the state plans accepted from Arkansas, Florida and Oklahoma.

IV. Report from Resident Engineer

Attached is a report from the director of physical plant and resident engineer for the week ending March 10, 1978.

JHS:rc
Attachments