Administrative Notes, April 23rd, 1979

University of Texas at Tyler

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April 23, 1979

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

I. Meeting with Lieutenant Governor William P. Hobby, Jr.

Although Board Chairman Dean W. Turner may have information that he desires to share with you relative to the meeting called by Lieutenant Governor William P. Hobby, Jr. last week (Thursday, April 19, 1979) which Chairman Turner and I attended, I wish to mention basic information about the meeting as well as subsequent action. The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing one topic—that of providing construction funds for institutions not in the University of Texas or Texas A&M University Systems. Essentially, Governor Hobby stated that he felt the ad valorem tax fund presently used to fund construction for certain higher education institutions would have to be replaced in some manner. He further stated that all substitute proposals presently before the legislature are unacceptable and if an acceptable approach for a dedicated construction fund is not developed, the legislature might be required to consider utilizing the appropriations process for institutional construction needs. Governor Hobby also emphasized that it is late in the session and if the higher education community desired to have further input about this matter, it would have to be presented quickly. It was suggested that the Council of Presidents organization work on a plan for presentation to Governor Hobby by Monday, April 23, 1979 (today). Governor Hobby indicated that this would be highly desirable and that he would appreciate deeply such an effort. Immediately following the meeting with Governor Hobby, the Council of Presidents with board chairmen in attendance met to charge our Legislative Committee to begin work on this matter and to call another meeting of the council the next day (Friday, April 20, 1979).

As a result of a great deal of work in a short period of time, the Council of Presidents has developed a resolution
which is enclosed for your information. This resolution is being presented as requested to Governor Hobby today. In addition to the State Higher Education Assistance Fund (SHEAF), you will also note the language pertaining to the Permanent University Fund (PUF) which includes all component institutions of The University of Texas and Texas A&M Systems as participants therein. Of course, this is a very important matter; and hopefully, Governor Hobby and the legislature will find the suggested resolution helpful in resolving the challenge which faces the legislature relative to the funding of higher education construction.

II. Sale of Window Air Conditioning Units

In accordance with authority granted to the administration at the January 10, 1979 Board of Regents meeting, public notice for receipt of bids on the window air conditioning units at the Berta Street Campus was published in the April 1, 1979 Tyler Courier-Times-Telegraph. On April 12, 1979 bids ranging from a low of $1,717 to a high of $12,551 were opened, and the sale was awarded to the high bidder, Dixson Air Conditioning Distributors, Inc., of Tyler. I am pleased to note that the sale price of the units is only $449 less than the $13,000 purchase price paid by the Texas Eastern University Educational Foundation, Inc. in February 1976. As you may recall, the units were installed in January 1973 and leased by the foundation for some three years until the time of purchase. Also, as you likely will recall, the foundation gave the units to the institution at the time of purchase.

III. Remittance of Employee Optional Retirement Deductions

In a continuing effort to keep the Board of Regents informed of occasional operational challenges within the university, I mention that employee and state matching contributions to the seven Optional Retirement Programs insurance carriers were not remitted as scheduled during the months of October, November and December of 1978 and January and February of 1979. Our inability to process these reports in a timely manner was potentially serious because the 84 Texas Eastern University employees who participate in the Optional Retirement Program were exposed to a possible loss of interest income from personal and state contributions to these retirement plans. (This program is limited to faculty and professional employees who may choose this plan in lieu of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.) Since ORP payments are processed by the Texas Eastern University personnel office under the responsibility of the fiscal area, Vice President John R. Sawyer has reported to me that remittances were late due to a combination of conditions including revision of the state accounting system, increased work load
and limited staffing of the personnel office, resignation of the director of personnel services and the unusually slow process of the state vouchering system. However, the problem has been brought under control, and all remittances have been brought up to date through March 1979 under Vice President Sawyer's capable direction. Moreover, appropriate action has been taken to prevent any recurrence of this problem.

IV. University Honors Day

The third annual Honors Day program is being planned for Tuesday, May 1, 1979 at 10:25 a.m. in Room 122 of the Physical and Health Education Building. Board Chairman Dean W. Turner has indicated that he plans to be present; and certainly, it would be a privilege to have all members of the board attend this university event which serves to recognize students who have achieved distinction in various university programs. I trust that you will mark your calendars as a reminder of the Honors Day program and join us in recognizing the achievements of outstanding TEU students.

V. KTBB Editorial

A copy of an editorial aired by Radio Station KTBB on April 20, 1979 concerning the transfer of Texas Eastern University into The University of Texas System, along with a cover letter from KTBB partner and General Manager Don Chaney, is attached for your information. You will note that the letter was written April 16, 1979 and received on April 17, 1979. Of course, I was unaware of Mr. Chaney's editorial until it was received last week.

VI. Talented Youth Seminars

As you may recall, Texas Eastern University has participated in the Talented Youth Seminar program, held in conjunction with the Region VII Educational Service Center in Kilgore, for the past five years. The program for the 1978-79 academic year consisted of 17 seminars conducted on the TEU campus by various members of our faculty on a voluntary basis. Designed to challenge and motivate exceptional high school students with a variety of interesting topics, the 1978-79 programs attracted 358 students to our campus from 13 high schools in 12 East Texas school districts. Not only is a learning experience provided for students by this program, but it also provides valuable exposure of the TEU faculty, programs and campus; and we are delighted that a large number of area high school students once again participated in this significant activity.
Schools represented include:

Alba-Golden High School
Athens High School
Brownsboro High School
Frankston High School
Gladewater High School
Hallsville High School
Hawkins High School
Henderson High School
John Tyler High School
Quitman High School
Robert E. Lee High School
Tatum High School
Whitehouse High School

VII. Report from Resident Engineer

Attached is a report from the director of physical plant and resident engineer for the week ending April 20, 1979.
CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS REPORT
PHASE II
Week Ending: April 20, 1979

SCIENCE/MATH: Building has been substantially completed. A mechanical/electrical punch list has been completed and is being worked by the contractor. An architectural punch list is expected to be started the latter part of next week. Some electrical work and adjustments are still in progress. Some stainless steel casework has not been installed. Miscellaneous cleanup continues.

BUSINESS: Exterior brick and roof work has been completed. Ninety-five percent of exterior window glass is in place. Second floor drywalls have been textured and painted. Application of a texture coat and painting of first floor drywalls is underway in the faculty office complex area. Carpeting of classrooms has started. Installation of fixed seating in tiered classrooms is underway. Ceramic tile work in the four restrooms is over 60 percent complete. The elevator installation is substantially complete. Electrical rough-in work continues throughout the building.

GREENHOUSE: Exterior brick, glazing, and roof work is essentially complete. Space heaters and exhaust fans have been installed in the propagation areas. Casework is underway in the headhouse. Work on the roof mounted headhouse heating system continues.

SITWORK: Exterior light poles are being installed along Campus drive and across the upper dam. Steps leading to Circle Drive are being formed immediately south of the Sciences and Mathematics Building entrance. Some cleanup work was done around the Business Building. No Road "B" work was accomplished due to wet ground conditions.

L. J. Grubbs, P.E.
Director of Physical Plant
and Resident Engineer

cc: Dr. James H. Stewart, Jr.
Mr. John R. Sawyer