4-30-1979

Administrative Notes, April 30th, 1979

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.  State Auditor's Audit for Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 1978

I am sure each of you has received your informational copy of the State Auditor's management letter for the fiscal year ended August 31, 1978 which is dated April 25, 1979 at least by today. Although our usual administrative analysis is being prepared for you and hopefully can be sent within the next two weeks, I make a few basic comments about the auditor's observations and suggestions. Also I mention that it is recognized that the audit review currently being conducted by Squyres Johnson Squyres and Company will utilize this management letter and from such review helpful information will be provided to all of us interested in Texas Eastern University affairs. Although it would be ideal not to have any observations or suggestions made by the State Auditor--an unlikely prospect for any state agency--the staff is pleased that the observations and suggestions for fiscal year 1978 are few in number and are presented by the auditor in the observation and suggestion categories. It is mentioned in the opening paragraph of the auditor's letter that corrective action may already have been initiated. I emphasize that corrective action, indeed, was initiated by the staff immediately upon hearing about these matters when the auditor discussed the audit with us. Moreover, those items which could be corrected instantly by a changed action were so corrected, and others which require a certain amount of time for correction either have been or are being corrected. Certainly, each of the items is considered very important by our staff, and I know that the Board of Regents joins me in my appreciation for the excellent overall work which our fiscal staff performs through their contribution to the institution.

II. House of Representatives Hearing on UT/TEU Bill

Representative Bill Clark has advised that the Higher Education Committee of the Texas House of Representatives will
hear H.B. 1706 this Thursday (May 3, 1979). According to information from Representative Clark, the hearing will be conducted during a Higher Education Committee meeting which will begin at 3:00 p.m., or upon adjournment of the House of Representatives if adjournment is later than 3:00 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTE As you are aware, the Senate Education Committee reported S.B. 906 out of committee last Wednesday (April 25, 1979) by a vote of 7 to 1. Senator William Patman voted opposed and Senator Oscar Mauzy, chairman of the committee, voted "present." Senators O. H. Harris, Bill Meier, H. Tati Santiesteban, W. E. Snelson, Carlos F. Truan, R. L. Vale and Lindon Williams voted for the bill. Senator Grant Jones and Senator Jack Ogg were absent. S.B. 906 is on the intent calendar of the Senate today and may pass the Senate sometime this week.

III. 1979 Annual Commencement Speaker

Although a schedule of events associated with our 1979 Annual Commencement was provided with Administrative Notes for April 16, 1979, I have the pleasure at this time to inform you that Dr. Robert H. Cranford, professor of mathematics and chairman of the TEU Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences, will deliver the commencement address on May 12, 1979. An effective teacher and able department chairman, Dr. Cranford was among the first faculty members to join the institution, beginning employment on June 4, 1973. He received a B.S. degree from Middle Tennessee State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Louisiana State University. Prior to joining our faculty, he served as assistant professor of mathematics and associate chairman of the Department of Mathematics at North Texas State University. During his tenure at Texas Eastern, Dr. Cranford has served in several important faculty positions, including that of Faculty Senate President, and on many university committees involving Academic Freedom, Academic Responsibility and Tenure; Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Self-Study (1974 and 1979); faculty insurance, faculty rank and promotion procedures; curriculum and many other areas. I am pleased to have a representative of our faculty--one who is respected by colleagues and students alike--to deliver remarks to the graduates during this year's annual commencement.

Board Chairman Dean W. Turner will make remarks and introductions and will officiate during the presentation of diplomas. The Reverend Dr. Larry Eugene Whitley, minister of the First Christian Church of Tyler, will give the invocation and the Reverend J. Pittman McGehee, rector of
Christ Episcopal Church of Tyler, will bring the benediction. Other university staff members participating with me will include the vice president for academic affairs, academic deans and various members of the faculty.

It is anticipated that 501 students, including 131 who completed degree requirements during the Summer Terms 1978; 144, during the Fall Semester 1978; and 226, during the Spring Semester 1979; will participate in the commencement program. This will bring our total number of TEU graduates to 1604 with 9 graduates in 1974, 140 in 1975, 222 in 1976, 324 in 1977 and 408 in 1978.

We look forward to another outstanding commencement program in a few days (Saturday, May 12, 1979), and certainly it is hoped that all board members can be present. I refer you to last week's Administrative Notes for the schedule of events beginning with the 11:45 a.m. luncheon at Willow Brook Country Club.

IV. Phase II Open House

Following a discussion with Board Chairman Dean W. Turner relative to planning an open house upon completion of Phase II facilities, it was determined that this activity would afford the general public an opportunity to tour the Phase II Sciences and Mathematics Building and Business Administration Building and also provide another special opportunity for the public to view once again the entire campus. The event is being planned for mid-summer, or shortly thereafter, and will include the dedication of the Walter Carl Roddy Laboratory and the William Zuckerman Laboratory in the Sciences and Mathematics Building. Certainly, I will keep you advised as plans progress.

V. Report from Resident Engineer

Attached is a report from the director of physical plant and resident engineer for the week ending April 27, 1979.

JHS:rc
Attachment

SPECIAL NOTE: Just as Administrative Notes was finalized today, word was received from Senator Peyton McKnight's office at 12:00 noon that S.B. 906 passed the Texas Senate at approximately 11:50 a.m. The vote was 26 to 5 with Senators Roy Blake, Lloyd Doggett, Ray Farabee, Grant Jones and Oscar Mauzy voting opposed.
CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS REPORT
PHASE II
Week Ending: April 27, 1979

SCIENCE/MATH: This building has been substantially completed. An architectural punch list is expected to be started on May 2, 1979, by representatives of the Physical Plant Department, architect, and contractor.

BUSINESS: Primary activities noted during the week were electrical rough-in work, painting, casework installation, carpet laying, and restroom ceramic tile installation. Second floor tiered classrooms have been carpeted and fixed seating is being installed in them. Second floor wood doors have been hung. Wall ceramic tile work in restrooms has been completed, and bookshelves have been hung. A texture coat has been applied to first floor drywalls and some painting has been done in the faculty office complex area. Casework is approximately 75 percent complete.

GREENHOUSE: Plumbing work is nearing completion. Casework continues satisfactorily.

SITEWORK: The steps adjacent to the Sciences and Mathematics Building south entrance have been poured. Most street and parking area light poles have been set. Some Road B drying work was done on Wednesday and Thursday.

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

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