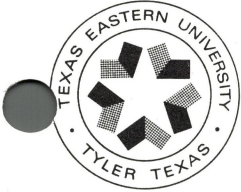


2-6-1978

Administrative Notes, February 6th, 1978


University of Texas at Tyler



TEXAS EASTERN UNIVERSITY
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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 6, 1978

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

I. Coordinating Board Enrollment Projections Report

Last week I received a report from Dr. Kenneth H. Ashworth, commissioner of Texas Higher Education, relative to enrollment projections for Texas Eastern University for each fall semester from 1978 through 1987, and a copy of this material is attached for your information. Although I was aware, of course, that the Coordinating Board was updating their data on institutional enrollments for the next decade through the assistance of a consulting firm, I had no preliminary information.

There are several items that seem appropriate to mention pursuant to the Coordinating Board report. A fundamental question pertains to its significance for our institution. And basically, it is my opinion that the projections made by the consulting firm for our institution--which are lower than the projections that we have made--likely can do no harm to our program. In fact, the projections may be helpful, especially if we meet the TEU produced projections for next fall which roughly approximate the Coordinating Board's 1984 projections. It is obvious that by exceeding the Coordinating Board projection to that extent next fall, our situation would be very positive when measured against the standards of the Coordinating Board.

Another thought that should be kept in mind is that the enrollment projection business is a very precarious enterprise. We have all had experience with this over several years now, and we have found that continual adjustment is required. Enrollment projection for an upper level institution has proved to be particularly difficult because we lack a substantial data base from which to make inferences. But I hasten to add that enrollment projections for traditional institutions likewise have been challenging. Projecting enrollments is especially difficult now because of problems which are existent such as the stabilizing college age population, the shift in job opportunities for college graduates, older students returning to school, etc.

In spite of the problems that exist presently relative to enrollments, I am still confident that our most recent enrollment projections (included on page 23 in our campus plan material with a copy attached for your convenience in comparing our projections with those of the Coordinating Board) are reasonable and more accurate than the projections produced by the Coordinating Board consulting firm. I certainly state unequivocally that I do not think we should accept such a limited challenge as is presented by the enrollment levels projected by the Coordinating Board as we continue to develop TEU. Although quantity does not necessarily have anything to do with quality, we do have certain goals in terms of numbers, and it is my opinion that everyone should continue to work toward those goals.

There is, however, one very troubling thought about this entire situation. That thought is the possibility that our institution could be circumscribed by powers outside our control in such a manner that the state enrollment projections could be accurate as a result. This circumscription could come through Coordinating Board program control for our institution, a state enrollment ceiling for our institution and/or control of our ability to expand enrollment through non-appropriation of construction funds by the legislature.

In light of our institutional planning, I should point out that I am returning the Coordinating Board form as requested by Dr. Ashworth indicating that Texas Eastern University has developed enrollment projections which differ from those developed by the Coordinating Board staff. Moreover, I should point out that our response was given to the Coordinating Board on this subject when it was requested through Dr. Ashworth's November 9, 1977 memorandum (referred to in the attached January 27, 1978 Ashworth memorandum), although I question the statement included in Dr. Ashworth's attached January 27, 1978 memorandum that "careful consideration was given to the material." I hasten to point out, however, that the Coordinating Board staff is still in the process of attempting to arrive at final enrollment projections for all state institutions and their request for additional information from us is certainly indicative of this fact. Nevertheless, the overall importance of the subject of enrollments causes me to pass on to you the Coordinating Board report along with brief observations about the subject at this time.

II. Spring Semester 1978 Enrollment Report

Unofficial head-count enrollment for the Spring Semester 1978 presently stands at 1,838, a 11.2 percent increase over the 1,653 head-count enrollment of one year ago and a 2.4 percent increase over the Fall Semester 1977 head-count enrollment of 1,795. Latest tabulation of semester credit hours reveals a total of 15,448 which is a 10.2 percent increase over the Spring Semester 1977 total of 14,014 and a 2.0 percent decrease from the Fall Semester 1977 total of 15,753. The present unofficial 1,838 enrollment figure, which is based on twelfth class day enrollment, is still being verified and is subject to change. As soon as official figures are available, the cumulative enrollment reports

along with the Small Class Report and Teaching Load Report will be provided to you. It is interesting to note that our present, though unofficial, head-count enrollment for the Spring Semester 1978 exceeds the projection made by the Coordinating Board for the Fall Semester 1978 in the previously discussed report.

III. Report from Resident Engineer

Attached is a report from the director of physical plant and resident engineer for the week ending February 3, 1978.

IV. Expenditures for Period Beginning January 1, 1978

Attached is a copy of the expenditures for Texas Eastern University for the period beginning January 1, 1978 for your information and files.

JHS:nc
Attachments