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September 29, 1969

Re: Minutes of Meeting of August, 1969

Dr. James Morris
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Doctor Morris:

At the meeting in September, 1969, it appeared to me that the records of the meeting of August, 1969, did not fully reflect some of the questions raised by me at the meeting. At the September meeting, I advised the group that I would simply set forth my concern about Marion State College in a letter and that this letter could be attached to the August Minutes and be made part of the record.

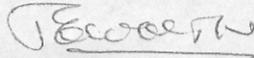
At the August meeting, I raised the question as to whether or not you were not proceeding on the basis and assumption that Marion State College would be primarily a boarding school for the purpose of serving the entire state of South Carolina. Every request to the Commission on Higher Education and our recommendation to the General Assembly contemplated the conversion of the Branch of U. S. C. into a four-year college primarily to serve a region. The statements you have made to the Commission relative to planning for this new college have indicated to me that they are far beyond the needs of the State and not in accordance with the general understanding of the Members of the General Assembly.

Mr. Lumpkin, at the August meeting, also stated that no requests for a brand new state-wide college for the purpose of serving the entire State had ever been made to the Commission and that if the General Assembly so intended, it was not clearly stated.

We can all agree that the enabling legislation contemplates that at some time dormitories will be built. However, this is a secondary proposition and should await more clearly defined need not only in this region but throughout the state of South Carolina. I have yet to talk with a Member of the House or Senate who had the understanding that when they voted for Marion State College, they were voting for a brand new state-wide four-year college "of excellence", to use a phrase which has no meaning and which had no real application to our problems in South Carolina.

It is very clear from my discussions with Members of the General Assembly that the Bill creating Marion State College was passed with the almost general understanding that Charleston would get such a college in the future, that Greenville Spartanburg would get such a college in the future, and that possibly Columbia would get such a college in the future. This being so, the college at Florence should be viewed almost solely from a commuting regional basis. In my judgment, it is a duty and responsibility of the Commission on Higher Education to make an examination of the needs in light of present circumstances and to make a general charting of the course for this College in conjunction with a new President.

Sincerely yours,



T. E. Walsh

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