

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Commission believes that a state system of higher education should consist of a wisely distributed system of comprehensive junior colleges and technical or vocational centers, a system of four-year colleges, and should include institutions for graduate and professional education and research of the highest quality. This system must include both its publicly and privately supported elements, in proper proportion. The Commission accepts as its primary responsibility the coordination of all the state's institutions of higher learning, to the end that quality education and training beyond the high school may be made reasonably available to every citizen who desires and can be expected to profit from it. The goals of such a system should be to provide every individual with opportunity for maximum development of his abilities; to produce citizens responsive to the social, economic and political needs of their time; to achieve excellence in teaching, scholarship and research; and to accelerate the economic and cultural progress of the state and the nation through education and research.

The Commission recognizes and encourages the spirit of educational adventure in our institutions of higher learning, but recognizes as well that their individual ambitions must fit into a rational system of higher education that the state can support.

Because all of the parts of such a system are, or should be, closely dependent upon all of the others, the Commission believes that its first objective should be completion of a series of studies on which intelligent planning for the future may be based. These should include:

- 1) A study of population distributions and trends, economic conditions and trends, and the needs and aspirations of each section of the state and of the state as a whole.
- 2) A study of probable college-level enrollments of the future, based on high school enrollments and taking into account current and projected admissions standards at various institutions, and a study of past student performance at all the institutions.
- 3) A thorough appraisal of the performance, plans, resources and needs of all existing institutions in the state, both public and private.

Only after such basic data have been assembled can intelligent recommendations be made as to the immediate and the long-range educational needs of the state. Only then can recommendations be made as to the planning of new institutions and new facilities -- what they should be, where they should be located, when they will be needed, and what they will cost. Only after such data have been assembled can reasoned recommendations be made as to major changes in any of the existing institutions. The Commission realizes that completion of such initial studies will require some months. In the meantime, it proposes to act on such necessary matters as the Commission judges to be in the best interests of the state.

It is proposed that the Research Council, with the assistance of the Executive Director, be requested to gather these data and to form recommendations for consideration by the Commission. It is believed that, although this task may require many months, it is an essential first step in the work of this Commission.