

TO: Mr. Joseph O. Rogers, Jr., Chairman, Task Force on Institutional and Sector Missions

FROM: Hubert D. Osteen, Jr., Chairman, Special Committee to Make Recommendations with respect to the Proposal from Greenville Technical College

At the Task Force meeting on January 18, 1979, you appointed this Special Committee, to be made up of Dr. Wallace E. Anderson, Dr. Robert C. Edwards, Dr. James R. Morris, Jr., and Dr. M. Maceo Nance, Jr., and me. I was elected Chairman by my fellow members. Subsequently, Dr. Edwards notified us that he was not able to attend the first called meeting of the Committee, and you released him from this assignment, asking Dr. Charles B. Vail to take that seat on the Committee. This constitutes the final report of the Committee to the Task Force, and is submitted on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee has held three meetings. At the first, held on February 15, 1979, the Committee heard a presentation by Dr. Thomas E. Barton, Jr., President of Greenville Technical College, describing his plans for the introduction of three baccalaureate degree programs at the College. The Committee held a second meeting on April 4, following which a report of the Committee's conclusions was drafted and circulated to the members for study. The Committee held its third meeting on April 11 to complete this report. The Committee has, in addition to its formal meetings, carefully studied pertinent documents which it requested and which were made available to each member by the Commission staff. These included the following:

- 1) A copy of the original "Feasibility Study," prepared by Greenville Technical College, dated August, 1977.
- 2) A copy of the proposal first submitted to the GHE by Greenville Technical College in February, 1978.
- 3) A copy of the staff analysis and recommendation with respect to item (2) to the Commission, dated February 22, 1978.

- 4) A copy of a letter dated November 15, 1978, from Mr. Dudley to Mr. Swanson with a copy of the resolution adopted by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education.
- 5) A copy of a resolution dated September, 1977, from the State Development Board.
- 6) A copy of a resolution adopted by the South Carolina Advisory Council on Vocational and Technical Education at its regular meeting on November 16, 1977.

The Committee recommends that Greenville Technical College not be authorized to alter its mission and offer baccalaureate degree programs, or to offer upper-division courses. The State system of two-year Technical Colleges and Technical Education Centers has a mission which is approved and supported by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and the Commission, and is included in the legislative acts under which those institutions operate. Changes in that mission therefore ought to be authorized only in the presence of a clear and compelling need.

The proposal offered by Greenville Technical College does not provide evidence of a compelling need to alter the mission of that institution by authorizing the three specific baccalaureate degree programs which are proposed. The proposal is deficient in the following major respects:

- 1) The possible role other senior institutions, both public and independent, in the area might play in meeting whatever unmet needs do exist in the Greenville area was not taken into adequate account.
- 2) The surveys purporting to demonstrate need for the proposed programs were not well designed for the purpose, and, what is perhaps more important, were restricted in the main to potential employers in Greenville and the immediate area only.
- 3) The curriculum design is deficient. Not only is no general education to be provided, but few if any electives are provided in any of the three programs. Graduates of such narrowly-focussed programs would

be at a competitive disadvantage in the job market in competition with graduates of similar programs from more comprehensive institutions. Further, accreditation by either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or by appropriate professional bodies which accredit degree programs, would be expected to be difficult to obtain under these conditions: Accreditation, whatever its faults, is a recognition of at least minimal quality.

- 4) The three programs as proposed would exist within the institution in isolation from each other: one in an engineering technology, one in a science-related area, and one in a business-related area. No interaction among the three is evidently considered necessary by the College. The potential for additional program "needs" to supplement or to augment those now requested is obvious. The possible future directions which the College might take are uncharted.
- 5) The probable impact of the proposed baccalaureate degree programs on the existing, or future, programs at Greenville Technical College leading to associate degrees, diplomas or certificates is inadequately discussed.
- 6) The probable costs of the proposed programs are understated, especially in the major areas of numbers of faculty required (and the levels of compensation necessary to recruit faculty of high quality), in equipment needs and in the area of adequate library resources.

For these major reasons, we consider the proposal by Greenville Technical College to be an inadequate base on which to initiate State-supported baccalaureate degree programs in Greenville--at Greenville Technical College or through some

other mechanism. The Committee also takes note of the public opposition to the proposal expressed by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, The State Development Board, and the Advisory Council for Vocational and Technical Education.

The fact remains that Greenville is a major urban center in which no State-supported programs leading to the baccalaureate degree are now offered. This is the principal message of the Feasibility Study prepared in August, 1977, by the Greenville Technical College staff. But this study does not address many of the substantive questions that must be assessed objectively if a rational decision is to be made concerning the necessity, or lack of necessity, that the State provide such programs in Greenville. For example, an analysis should be made of the projected distribution of the population of the area, both by age and by location within the county. For another, the impact of the two existing public senior institutions already in the area--Clemson University and USC-Spartanburg--needs to be taken into full account.

The Committee therefore recommends that, as a part of its on-going planning process mandated by Act 410 (1978), the Commission undertake such a study of the Greenville area, to determine whether or not State-supported postsecondary education at the baccalaureate level should be provided in Greenville; and if so, how that opportunity might best be offered.