

RESOLUTION*

In a "Resolution for Budget and Control Board's Consideration on TEC Allocation" for 1983-84, adopted by the Board on September 28, 1982, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education was requested to consider, among other things, "reductions and/or elimination of non-critical programs and services, with particular emphasis on college transfer courses in the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees." A copy of that Resolution is attached.

While the Commission on Higher Education endorses continuous review of courses, and curtailment or elimination where appropriate, it urges caution and careful consideration before action is taken to curtail or eliminate college parallel (i.e., college transfer) associate degree programs in the SBTCE institutions that have been authorized to offer such programs.

Seven technical colleges (Chesterfield-Marlboro, Greenville, Midlands, Tri-County, Trident, Williamsburg, and York) are now authorized to offer associate degree programs designed for transfer to senior colleges and universities.

Each of these seven institutions has been separately authorized by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and the Commission on Higher Education to offer these programs. In each case, consideration was given to the question of providing opportunity for, and adequate access to, college programs at the lowest feasible cost to the State and to potential students.

Consultants to the Commission in 1980 strongly recommended that these college parallel associate degree programs in TEC institutions be retained.

*Approved by the Commission on Higher Education, 11/4/82.

At the request of the Commission, the technical colleges and the senior colleges and universities have this year entered into a Statewide agreement which, when fully implemented, will improve the transfer process for students from these programs.

Several recommendations of the Commission to the Budget and Control Board on October 7, 1982, and approved tentatively by the Board on October 15, to meet the Board's requirements for re-allocation of funds for 1983-84 for the senior colleges and universities, would have the effect of limiting access to postsecondary study at some senior institutions. Further limiting access by eliminating or greatly curtailing opportunities which exist in the college parallel associate degree programs in SBTC institutions may not be in the best interests of the State.

In Fall 1981 a total of 4,450 students were enrolled in the seven Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS) two-year degree programs in the TEC system. Of these, 2,077 were enrolled full-time and 2,373 part-time, for an estimated total of 2,870 full time equivalent (FTE) students. State funding for these programs in the TEC system is \$1,250 per FTE. Total State funding through SBTC for these programs is therefore about \$3,585,000.

If these programs were eliminated, the expectation is that many of these students would enroll in senior colleges and universities, where State funding is higher. The lowest cost units of the senior college and university system are the two-year branches of the USC system. State appropriations for 1983-84, at 85% of the 1983-84 Appropriation Formula, using student-driven steps only, would average \$1,469 per FTE for these campuses. Comparable State funding for undergraduates at senior colleges and universities ranges from \$1,900 to \$2,466 per FTE.

For each FTE student in these programs removed as a "saving" from the TEC system, net State funding would increase by at least \$219, and perhaps as much

as \$938 if that full-time equivalent student transferred to a public university. Cost savings within the TEC system would be more than offset by increased State funding in the senior colleges. The result would be an increase rather than a decrease in required State support of postsecondary education as a whole.

RESOLUTION FOR BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD'S
CONSIDERATION ON TEC ALLOCATION

In these tight financial times, the Budget and Control Board requests that when the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education makes its recommendation on funding for 1983-84 for the technical education system, the allocation resulting from the reductions and increases being proposed by recent actions of the Board should be targeted after reviewing the main mission of each institution and program in the entire technical education system. Specifically, to accommodate the decreases the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education should consider enrollment limitations, reductions and/or elimination of non-critical programs and services, with particular emphasis on college transfer courses in the Associate Arts and Associate Science degrees; merger of programs; cutbacks in administrative costs; and reducing non-critical high cost programs. To accommodate the increases the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education should devise a distribution mechanism to target improving programs and services which results in jobs with a future and makes the State more attractive to businesses and industries. At least half of the increase in funding for equipment should be used as a challenge grant perhaps on a 2 (private) to 1 (state) match in order to secure the State funds and involvement of business and industry. The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education should develop a plan to distribute the increases and decreases by October 15 working with the staff of the Budget and Control Board and the Governor's Office and the Commission on Higher Education.

Adopted by Budget and Control Board on September 28, 1982.