



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

RUTLEDGE BUILDING  
1429 SENATE STREET  
COLUMBIA, S. C. 29201

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HOWARD R. BOOZER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE  
803/758-2407

TO: Members, Commission on Higher Education

FROM: Frank *F EK* Kinard, Alan S. *AK* Krech, James R. *JRM* Michael

This is a report from the Commission staff members appointed to the Committee to study two-year post-secondary education in the Sumter area.

In May, 1973, the Sumter County Commission on Higher Education announced its decision to transfer responsibility for the Sumter Center from Clemson University to the University of South Carolina. On July 12, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education approved a motion that the transfer be accomplished by Fall, 1973; that USC operate the Center for one year; that the two Commissions on Higher Education sponsor a study of "all aspects of post high school education in the Sumter County area" to be submitted to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education which would make a "determination as to how best to continue the operation of post high school education in the Sumter County area." All of these proposals had previously been accepted by the Sumter Commission. A proviso adopted by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education that the Sumter Commission and USC agree to accept the determination of the State Commission was not acceptable to the Sumter Commission.

It was subsequently agreed that the study would be conducted by representatives appointed by the two Commissions -- Frank Kinard, Alan Krech, and James Michael from the State Commission, and Dr. H. W. Davis, Vice President for Regional Campuses, USC; Charles R. Propst, M. D., Chairman, Sumter School District #17; and Jack C. Anderson, Director, Sumter Regional Campus. The Committee's study to date has been conducted through several meetings for thorough discussion of the issues and through preparation of draft position papers by both groups of Committee members. This report summarizes those papers, all of which are available if desired.

The Committee unanimously agreed that there is a definite need for continuation of two-year public post-secondary educational opportunities in the Sumter area. This conclusion is based on examination of the enrollment trends at the Sumter Center and the Sumter Technical College and demographic data including population

and high school graduates.

The State Commission delegation presented a recommendation that negotiations be initiated which would bring about a full merger of the Sumter Center and the Sumter Technical College. Such a comprehensive institution could provide students greater flexibility in determining career goals, more efficient student services, and probably lower cost. A comprehensive institution would save taxpayers money by eliminating unnecessary duplication in courses, staff and facilities.

The Sumter delegation to the Committee presented a recommendation that the Sumter Center and the Sumter Technical College continue to be operated independently. The two were established to provide two different types of educational training. Both are growing as they fulfill the objectives for which they were established. The appropriate bodies authorized the establishment of the two schools and the citizens of Sumter have accepted the indebtedness for their facilities. The people of Sumter desire both institutions, and their desires should be honored.

As an alternative, the State Commission delegation proposed that the two institutions maintain separate identity but take certain measures which would assure increasing cooperation and minimize unnecessary duplication in the future. These measures include a merger of the Libraries; merger of student personnel services; development of written agreements to provide executive leadership to ensure that cooperation is a reality; and development of written agreements to maximize transfer of credits, minimize course duplication, exploit the sharing of faculty and encourage coordinated facilities planning and management. The Sumter delegation has responded positively, accepting the principle of cooperation but pointing out specifics which must be considered. They "expect to negotiate seriously and in good faith." Copies of these last two papers are attached.

It is recommended that the Commission on Higher Education approve the operation of the Sumter Center by the University of South Carolina; that the staffs of the Commission on Higher Education and the University of South Carolina, including the Sumter branch, continue to develop plans to assure cooperation between the Sumter Branch and the Sumter Area Technical College while minimizing duplication; and that the staff of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and of Sumter Area TEC be invited to fully participate in such joint planning.

Attachments

Position Paper on Two-Year  
Postsecondary Education in the Sumter Area

The staff representatives of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on the Joint Committee to Study Two-Year Postsecondary Education in the Sumter Area, having prepared a set of recommendations for the Committee, and having reviewed the counter-recommendations of the representatives of the Sumter Area Higher Education Commission, now see two possible directions in which to proceed. First, the Joint Committee can present the two positions to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education with a report that no agreement can be reached within the study committee. Second, the Joint Committee can attempt to agree to recommend a compromise position which maintains the identity of two separate institutions while assuring increased cooperation and minimal unnecessary duplication in the future. In the hope of accomplishing this latter alternative, we submit the following position for your consideration:

- 1) The Commission on Higher Education will continue to accept the operation of the Sumter Regional Campus of the University of South Carolina and the Sumter Area Technical College as two separate institutions under the governance of the University of South Carolina and the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, respectively. The Regional Campus will not offer any programs other than those designed specifically for college transfer, and the Technical College will not offer any programs designed specifically for college transfer. Neither institution will expand beyond the first two years of postsecondary offerings.
- 2) Student Personnel Services, including admissions, guidance and counseling, financial aid and other supporting-services will be combined in one student personnel center under a single staff administered jointly by the two institutions, with a unified objective to guide and direct the individual student into the career pattern best for him regardless of institutional affiliation. Negotiations to accomplish this administrative arrangement shall commence at once, and the single center will be fully implemented by January 1, 1975.
- 3) To provide the strongest possible library, the existing two libraries shall be combined in one location as a joint facility with one staff by September 1, 1975. Considering the proximity of the two institutions and sizes of the two libraries (25,000 and 8,000 volumes), continued separate operations are not justified.
- 4) Coordinated operations will be ensured through the development of written agreements in the following areas:
  - a) Executive Direction - If cooperation is going to be significant, it will require leadership from senior officials. Senior administrative officials from the central staffs and both institutions should jointly set goals and, through appropriate checks and reports, ensure that cooperation is a reality.

b) Transfer of credits - The academic administrators should maximize the interinstitutional transferability of academic credits. This is essential to achieve the objective of directing students into appropriate career patterns.

c) Course Duplication - Courses similar in content should be taught in both institutions only when student demand justifies duplication. In preparing student programs, courses available in both institutions should be considered, including awarding of full credit for appropriate courses successfully completed at either institution. Consolidation of similar courses should be considered when one or both are under-enrolled.

d) Sharing Faculty - When similar courses are required, the possibility of utilizing the same instructor should be investigated. Sharing of faculty is also appropriate to enrich the curriculum and to offset unexpected teaching loads.

e) Sharing Facilities - Coordinated facilities management should have as a main objective the full utilization of the combined physical plants. Capital planning should be coordinated to avoid unnecessary duplication in future construction.

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