

EXHIBIT A

October 13, 1972

The Honorable John C. West  
Governor of South Carolina  
State House  
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor West:

Reference is made to your comments as reported in the press comparing state appropriations per full-time equivalent student at TEC and at the colleges and universities, with emphasis on TEC appropriations of \$385 per FTE. As reported, your comments would imply that the definition of a full-time equivalent student and the method of allocating appropriations are the same in the two systems. This is not the case; TEC and the Commission are in agreement on this point, and the staffs of the two agencies are jointly studying the problem to determine if it is possible to come up with comparable figures.

The colleges and universities determine FTE enrollments at the time of fall registration based on 15 undergraduate credit hours per FTE. TEC determines FTE enrollments over the period of an entire year based on 540 cumulative contact hours. The appropriation per FTE at the institutions includes the total state appropriation. The appropriation per FTE in TEC cannot be determined directly from the total appropriation, but depends on certain allocations.

The Commission on Higher Education agreed that I should bring these facts to your attention at this time to avoid possible misunderstanding in your budget discussions with the institutions. The Commission staff will continue to work with the TEC staff on this matter, recognizing that while inherent differences between the two systems may preclude any precise comparisons, some basis for comparison should be developed.

Yours sincerely,

R. Cathcart Smith, Chairman

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