

12/29/76

Semi-Annual Progress Report on Cooperative Institutional
Arrangements in Sumter and in the Spartanburg Area

I. Cooperative Arrangements in the Sumter Area

The third semi-annual report from USC-Sumter and Sumter Area Technical College, dated November 18, 1976, is attached. In part because this report includes a request that the institutions be relieved of the responsibility of reporting semi-annually in the future, a meeting was convened in Columbia on December 22 to discuss the progress being made in developing cooperative arrangements. Present were Dr. J. W. Anderson, Director, USC-Sumter; Dr. J. R. Morris, President, Sumter Area Technical College; Mr. William Dudley, Executive Director, State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education; Dr. H. Willard Davis, Vice President for Regional Campuses, Continuing Education, and Research, and Dr. John J. Duffy, Associate Vice President for Regional Campuses, USC; Dr. Boozer and other members of the Commission on Higher Education staff.

It was the consensus of this meeting that while cooperative arrangements have been made--for example, the new program leading to an associate degree in criminal justice at the Sumter Area Technical College utilizes some courses provided by USC-Sumter--the establishment of a standing committee on cooperation would be desirable to assure that other possible cooperative arrangements are examined and possibly developed. The proposed committee would be made up of appropriate members of the administration and faculty of each of the institutions, named by their respective chief executive officers, and would be required to meet regularly to explore mutual problems. Those present also agreed that, following the next semi-annual report on progress to be submitted in May, 1977, that an annual report of progress to the Commission would be desirable rather than a cessation of such reporting requirements altogether.

II. Cooperative Arrangements in the Spartanburg Area

The third semi-annual report on cooperative arrangements in Spartanburg, submitted on November 19 by Dr. Olin Sansbury, Vice President, USC-Spartanburg, on behalf of his colleagues, is attached.

On December 20, I met in Spartanburg to discuss this report with Dr. Sansbury and Presidents Joe Gault, of Spartanburg Technical College; Jack W. Early, of Limestone College; Joab W. Lesesne, of Wofford College; and George B. Fields, of Spartanburg Methodist College. President Coleman of Converse could not be present at that meeting because of a prior commitment.

In May, 1975, the Spartanburg-area institutions had proposed that "contracts for services" be drawn up to be used in making joint faculty appointments or for other kinds of sharing of faculty; and to be used

in permitting student access to unusual courses not available on their home campuses. As this and prior semi-annual reports have indicated, faculty sharing on a limited basis has continued without the benefit of such formal "contracts"; and a limited number of students have been exchanged on a one-for-one swap basis without the necessity for entering into a more formal contract arrangement. The institutional presidents are convinced that limited sharing of the type now being accomplished does not require the drawing up of standardized contracts, and propose to continue these limited sharing agreements without benefit of the contractual arrangements which they originally envisioned. Each arrangement now being utilized for sharing either faculty or students is accompanied by an ad hoc agreement covering the particular case.

The Spartanburg-area presidents believe that their present mode of cooperation is beneficial to them and to the students in the area, and are anxious that it be continued. At the present time, however, they do not foresee the formation of a formal consortium similar to that which exists in the Charleston area. Although the Spartanburg-area presidents have not requested that they be relieved of the semi-annual reporting requirement, they also endorse the recommendation that an annual report, to be submitted in May of each year, would be sufficient.