

SOUTH CAROLINA
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PLANNING COMMISSION

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December 4, 1975

Progress Report on Planning Studies

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PROGRESS REPORT ON PLANNING STUDIES

December 4, 1975

a. Advisory Council on Community Colleges

As reported at the September 4 meeting of the Commission, the Advisory Council on Community Colleges will have two subcommittees to focus on access to and the financing of two-year postsecondary education. At the direction of the Advisory Council, staff of the Commission, in consultation with staff members of the U.S.C. Regional Campus System and the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, have developed a suggested listing of specific questions on these subjects (Attachment A) for consideration by members of the subcommittees. The Advisory Council will next meet in January.

b. Committee on Occupational Education

The Committee on Occupational Education met on October 1 and heard presentations by representatives of the public and proprietary sectors relating to their interests in postsecondary occupational education. The Committee met again on October 29 to discuss presentations received thus far and to determine future actions. Reports from subcommittees on needs and resources will be completed and presented for full Committee consideration. An ad hoc subcommittee will evaluate suggestions made by the Committee and recommend further actions. The date of the next meeting has not yet been established. Minutes of the October 1 and October 29 meetings are attached (Attachment B).

c. Goals and Missions Survey

Since the September meeting of this Commission, the proposed material for the survey has been printed and the list of more than 1,200 addressees refined and completed. The aim is to reach a good cross-section of the citizens of the State, including political leaders, educators, other leadership groups, and the general public. The mailing should be completed by mid-December and the responses returned by early January. The responses should provide a good perspective on the direction the people of South Carolina wish postsecondary education to take in the years ahead. A copy of the survey is attached for your information (Attachment C).

d. Academic Program Inventory

An academic program inventory is being developed as a part of the long-range planning studies of the Commission. This will include a systematic listing of all academic degree and certificate programs at all public and private nonprofit colleges, universities, and technical education centers within the State. Programs are arranged within the inventory according to a standard taxonomy of instructional programs in higher education.

Each institution was asked in late summer to verify its program offerings from the institutional inventories supplied to each by the staff. These lists were derived from an unpublished inventory which the staff has maintained for some years, and from inspection of current catalogs as well in the case of the non-public institutions.

Using the information as updated and verified by each institution, a pre-print of the final version of the inventory was made available to the members of the Joint Legislative "Committee to Study the Overlapping and Duplication of Academic Offerings and Opportunities . . ." on October 23. Copies were also distributed at the November meeting of the Commission on Higher Education. A copy of the pre-print was mailed to each institution so that possible errors in transcription might be detected prior to final printing. Only a very few such errors have been called to our attention, but a number of institutions have now requested changes in either program title or classification within the taxonomy at variance with earlier submissions. Such changes will be made where appropriate.

Copies of the printed version should be available by January 15. Sufficient copies will be printed to provide each institution three (including one for the library) and one for each public high school within the State. Administrators of the State Department of Education have examined a pre-print and believe that it will be useful material to be placed in the hands of high school guidance counselors.

e. Study of Libraries

The planning study of library resources and needs was formally initiated at a Statewide meeting of college and public librarians on October 1. All colleges and universities, selected public libraries, and selected proprietary institutions were invited to send their head librarians to this meeting. All of the public institutions were represented by at least one librarian except for USC-Coastal Carolina, USC-Union, and Trident Technical College. All private institutions except Southern Theological (Lutheran) Seminary, Morris, Presbyterian, Wofford, Clinton, and Friendship Colleges were represented. Of ten proprietary institutions invited, only three -- Columbia Commercial, Nielsen Institute, and Rutledge College -- were represented. Ten public libraries and the principal staff of the State Library were invited and of these only Florence and Charleston Public Libraries were not represented.

The consultant team was introduced* and described the pending study, which will include a survey and on-site visits to institutions. Following a general discussion, the group divided into special interest sessions, each with a member of the study team present, to discuss detailed concerns. The general reaction to the proposed plan of study was one of enthusiasm.

The consultant team remained in Columbia on October 2 to revise the questionnaire that will be used in the survey and to develop a more detailed work plan for the conduct of the study. The revised questionnaire was mailed to all participating libraries on November 6, with responses requested by not later than January 12. After preliminary

*The consultant team consists of Dr. Edward G. Holley, Dean, School of Library Science, U.N.C.-Chapel Hill; Miss Johnnie E. Givens, Director, Felix Woodward Library, Austin Peay State University (Tennessee); Dr. Fred W. Associate Professor, School of Library Science, U.N.C.-Chapel Hill;

analysis by Commission staff, the responses will be furnished consultant team members by early February. The study team will begin on-campus visits the week of February 16, and will schedule further visits in the weeks of March 8 and of March 22. The study is progressing on schedule.

f. Planning for Health Education

In response to documented manpower needs for optometrists in the Southeast,* the Assistant Director for Health Affairs and two members of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (Dr. Draffin and Mr. Walsh) have met with counterparts from Georgia and North Carolina, under sponsorship of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), to develop a plan for a regional school of optometry to serve the three adjacent states. Each state recognizes the need for expansion of optometric education, but no single state is prepared to provide the total resources required to establish a quality school on its own. Consequently, the possibility of shared capital funding and operating expenses is being explored; possible assistance from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in the procurement of matching funds for construction as well as start-up support for a new program is also being explored. The proposed regional school would reflect the characteristics prescribed as requisite for new optometric facilities by the Liaison Committee for Optometry of the Association for Academic Health Centers as recommended by the consultants' report to SREB. Consequently, it is expected that the host state, when designated, would locate the new school in a major academic health center, as was done in Alabama where the new School of Optometry has been located at the Medical Center of the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Optometry would be assured, by this means, of participation in the training programs and research opportunities that prevail for the full complement of health professions found within an academic health center.

Within South Carolina, the quantitative need for practicing optometrists is under analysis by the Health Manpower Division of the Governor's Office. The data from this study will be available to a Task Force on Optometric Education established by the Health Education Authority to engage in planning, to relate to the SREB-sponsored development of a regional model, and to provide advice to the Commission.

The need persists for educational programs that foster an extension of health care delivery to areas remote from urban centers. The development of the Area Health Educational Centers, under review by the Health Education Authority, is providing a structure designed to attract primary health care physicians and associated health care professionals to non-urban areas. The new program for a Master's Degree in Health Sciences at M.U.S.C., recommended by the Health Education Authority and the Academic Program Development Committee for approval by the Commission, could help in the training of better prepared allied health personnel who have the potential to function to a considerable extent as health care extenders.

*A Proposed Regional Plan for the Expansion of Optometric Education in the South, prepared by Wesley H. Dorn, Ph.D., Thomas W. Mou, M.D., and Harry B. Peters, O.D., published by the Southern Regional Education Board, December 1974.

The emphasis of the Statewide Master Planning Committee for Nursing Education, advisory to the Commission on Higher Education for review and Statewide planning of educational programs in nursing, has been refocused on long-range Statewide planning as a consequence of a recent reassessment of the purpose of the Committee and a revision of the Joint Statement that prescribes the functional operation of the Committee.

g. Planning for Marine Education

During the visit of Mr. Harold L. Goodwin, the Commission's consultant on marine affairs engaged in the preparation of Articles of Organization for a proposed South Carolina Consortium in Marine Education, Research, and Development, South Carolina ETV produced and recorded a panel presentation, "Educators and the Sea," featuring Mr. Goodwin and three South Carolina marine educators. The purpose of the televised panel discussion and its relationship to educational planning in marine affairs is revealed by the "preview description," issued by the State Department of Education:

"Increasing the public's awareness of the ocean as one of South Carolina's most valuable resources is the theme of the program, 'Educators and the Sea.' The nature, quality, and impact of the inevitable intervention by man at the interface between land and water, both at the sea-shore and on the shores of lakes, ponds, and streams, depends upon an educational awareness among all citizens.

"South Carolina educators with strong interests in marine affairs discuss the historical, economic and scientific importance of the ocean with Mr. Harold Goodwin, noted national marine educator and presently consultant to the Commission on Higher Education for marine education. Other participants are Dr. Clemmie Webber, Professor of Science Education, South Carolina State College; Mr. Paul Teller, Project Specialist with Project MAN, Charleston County Schools; and Dr. John Vernberg, Director of the Belle Baruch Coastal Marine Laboratory, University of South Carolina, who served as moderator. Panelists stressed an approach to marine education that is interdisciplinary, through the humanities, arts, and social sciences as well as the natural sciences."

This television production is sponsored jointly as an educational audio-video resource by the State Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education. The illustrated 30-minute panel discussion has been shown on SCE TV on November 3, 11, and 25. Future showings are anticipated.

The proposed Articles for the organization of the Marine Educational Consortium are under consideration by representatives of the institutions of higher education primarily involved in marine education and research, and by the Marine Research Center of the State Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources at Fort Johnson. A meeting will be convened by the Commission staff for discussion of the proposal during the next three months.

h. Study of Student Financial Aid

An Advisory Committee on Student Financial Aid, comprised of members representing the several sectors of postsecondary education, held its organizational meeting on October 17. Discussion focused on the goals the Committee should set for itself and upon refinement of the financial aid survey instruments drafted by the Commission staff.

Areas of major concern pinpointed by the Committee for its study were:

1. Financial aid dollars available to students at South Carolina institutions -- adequacy of those dollars to meet the demonstrated financial needs of students;
2. Sufficiency of financial aid staffing to administer existing aid programs;
3. Communication of financial aid information to students, prospective students, counselors, and parents of students; and
4. Current trends (and expected developments) which affect (or will affect) student financial aid in the State.

The draft forms of financial aid survey instruments were studied, and the Committee suggested a number of changes which have been incorporated. Early in December, the survey forms will be mailed to all postsecondary institutions in South Carolina to gather the information needed by the Committee for the analysis of financial aid currently available in the State, for specific identification of problem areas, and for use in determining subsequent activities to be undertaken by the Committee in this study.

i. Study of Proprietary Education

At the September 4 meeting, the staff reported on progress in making contact with the proprietary schools and the dissemination of a detailed questionnaire indicating scope of operations, enrollment at each school, and related matters. This work has continued and the point has now been reached where the data should be analyzed to determine appropriate conclusions and recommendations. The Chairman of the Commission will soon appoint an Advisory Committee on Proprietary Education to accomplish this end and to provide guidance to the staff. Miss Frances Miller has agreed to chair this Committee.