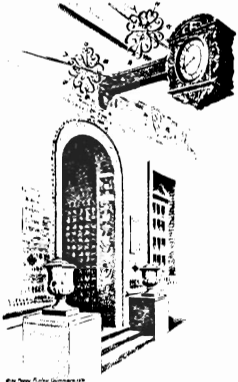


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M E M O R A N D U M
August 5, 1985

TO: Members, Board of Trustees
FROM: George A. Pruitt
SUBJ: Summer Reading

There have been several significant College developments over the summer about which you should be informed. As in past years, I thought you might find it useful for a mid-summer briefing to liven up your vacation reading.

I - Supplemental Appropriation - On Friday, August 2, Governor Kean signed the Supplemental Appropriations Act. As you may recall, this supplement contains an additional appropriation in the amount of \$245,000 for Thomas A. Edison State College. While the Governor, exercising his line-item veto authority, reduced the amount contained in the supplement by \$50 million, our item was one of relatively few that survived in tact. This was due in large measure to support received from Assemblyman Watson, the Chancellor, and the Governor's Counsel's Office. We have initiated several steps designed to have this appropriation incorporated in our base, with the hopes of keeping these funds on a continuous basis. Securing these funds was an achievement of great significance.

II - Year End Statistics - Attached you will find a summary of our year end enrollment statistics. I would call your attention to two items of great significance. First, our enrollment has broken through the 5,000 barrier, reaching 5,023; and second, we have experienced a marked increase in our minority enrollment, and particularly our black enrollment. Black enrollment has reached 8.6%; Hispanic enrollment 3%; and other American minorities, approximately 2%. In absolute numbers, black and Hispanic enrollment has increased over 40% in the last year, and has doubled over the last 2 1/2 years. The minority gains have been achieved without any change in the basic profile of our regular students. The trend line is encouraging, and I am optimistic about continued improvement in this area.

- III - Commencement - As you know, commencement will be held on October 20, 1985 at the War Memorial Auditorium here in Trenton. Our commencement speaker will be Dr. James L. Fisher, President of the Council for the Advancement of Support for Education (CASE). Dr. Fisher heads the largest institution-based membership association in American higher education. He is an excellent speaker as well as a dynamic and visible leadership figure nationally. I will be recommending to the Board at its October meeting, in keeping with past traditions, the awarding of an honorary degree for Dr. Fisher to be conferred at commencement. I am attaching a copy of Dr. Fisher's resume for your review.
- IV - Board Meeting Dates - We have polled the Trustees, and have settled on the following dates for the '86 fiscal year meetings of the Board of Trustees:
- October 11, 1985
December 13, 1985
February 14, 1986
April 11, 1986
June 6, 1986
- V - 1987 Budget Recommendation - On July 30, the College defended its 1987 budget request before the Finance Committee of the New Jersey Board of Higher Education. It is our current understanding that the Chancellor and the Finance Committee will be recommending to the full Board a request for \$233,000 above our adjusted appropriation for 1986. From the College's point-of-view, this represents an appropriate and positive budget recommendation. It has been my experience, however, that the actual amount recommended by Treasury for inclusion in the Governor's Budget Recommendation will be considerably less. The Board of Higher Education budget recommendation is, nevertheless, very important in that it represents a cap or maximum figure for any possible restorations to the budget during the legislative process. I am enclosing a copy of the Chancellor's recommendations and narrative comments concerning Edison's budget, which were given in advance to the Finance Committee. I am sure you will be pleased by the nice words the Chancellor had for the Board and the College.
- VI - Autonomy Legislation - The summer has been quiet on the legislative front. We are using it as a time of preparation for the big push in the fall, and, hopefully, the passage of the autonomy legislation. We continue to have the active support of the Governor's Office in this effort, and, while the outcome is uncertain, I remain optimistic.

- VII - Resignation of Natalie Huebler - I regret to inform you that Natalie Huebler will be leaving the College on August 9. Natalie has accepted a position with the Center for Educational Advancement. As you know, turnover is a natural and expected part of any organization, but some people will be missed more than others. Natalie will be especially missed by this College. She has played a major leadership role in the development of our billing, reporting, and collection processes which was a significant factor in the College's achieving its student revenue projections for the first time in its history. In addition, as president of our local union, she restored reasonableness and integrity to this important College organization. Her leadership in this area was particularly important given the volatile and complicated dynamics with which she was confronted. She handled herself admirably. She contributed significantly to the "normalization" of relations and the current amicable condition that exists between the College and the local AFT. Natalie's move marks a major career change for her. As you may or may not know, Ms. Huebler was a teacher before coming to Edison, and she has expressed a strong desire to leave the administrative arena where she has managed figures and reports, and return to a setting of "hands on" education dealing directly with students. Although we are sorry to see her leave, I know we all wish her well.
- VIII - New Jersey State College Governing Boards Association - On July 1, 1985, the Council of State Colleges ceased to exist and was replaced by the New Jersey State College Governing Boards Association. While the composition of the two bodies remains virtually identical, the new Governing Boards Association has, through statute, significantly greater independence and freedom of action than was generally possible through the Council of State Colleges. For the first time, the state colleges have a professionally staffed advocacy group comparable with other sectors within the state, i.e., Rutgers, the community colleges, and the independent sector.
- IX - Challenge Grant - The final draft of the College's proposal for participation in the Governor's \$10 million Challenge Grant Program will be completed shortly. A copy of the finalized proposal will be sent to you under separate cover. We are requesting approximately \$2 million over the next three years to strengthen three areas: 1) the Electronic College; 2) prior learning assessment; and 3) minority student outreach. We are optimistic that we will receive an affirmative response to this proposal early in the fall.
- X - PONSI (we ain't guilty) - I thought the attached newspaper article might be of interest to you. I know the Board has had discussions about the possible confusion between "PONSI" AND "PONZI." The "PONZI" group in the article has raised considerable more revenue than we have, but we have achieved much more desirable outcomes.

Delores and I are going to steal away to the North Carolina shore for a few days. We plan on leaving August 13, and I will be back in the office on August 27. I hope the summer has been pleasant for you, and that this finds you and your families well.

We have completed a benchmark year at the institution, and the prospects of the Challenge Grant activity have raised our expectations considerably for the year ahead. I look forward to seeing and speaking with you in the not too distant future. If you have any questions about any of the things herein contained, please feel free to contact me. My office will know where I can be reached during my absence from the College.

Take care.

GAP:acr
Enclosures