

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THOMAS A. EDISON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

September 22, 1978

The Board of Trustees of Thomas A. Edison College of New Jersey held its first official meeting of the 1978-79 Academic Year on September 22, 1978, at the Trenton Motor Lodge, Trenton, New Jersey.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Pearson, Chairman; Eleanor Spiegel, Vice Chairman; Alan Ferguson; George Hanford; Anita Heard; Allison Jackson; John Kuemmerle; Arnold Fletcher, Acting President

MEMBERS ABSENT: Blanche Ried; Robert Taylor

ALSO PRESENT: Laura Adams, Director of Academic Programs; Thomas McCarthy, Director of Admissions and Registrar; Mary Skelton, Director of Public Relations; Jean Titterington, Director of Academic Counseling

Mr. Pearson formally opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The minutes of the special meeting of August 11, 1978 were presented for approval. Mrs. Spiegel moved that the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Mr. Ferguson. There was a brief discussion on items referred to in the minutes including the College's role in the new master plan, the Department of Higher Education's role in approval of the goals and plans, the status of the Work, Education and Leisure Initiative, and the housing allowance for college presidents. There being no corrections or additions to the minutes, the motion to approve them as written was approved unanimously. (7-0-0)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1978-79:

At this time, Mr. Pearson asked Mr. McCarthy to take over the meeting so that there could be nominations and election of officers for the 1978-79 term. Mr. Hanford moved to nominate Mr. Pearson for another term as Chairman, Mrs. Spiegel for Vice-Chairman and Dr. Fletcher as Secretary. Mr. Kuemmerle seconded the motion. There being no other nominations from the floor, Mr. Pearson, Mrs. Spiegel and Dr. Fletcher were elected unanimously. (7-0-0)

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Mr. Pearson asked if any of the trustees had suggestions on how the role and scope of the Board of Trustees might be changed. Mrs. Jackson suggested that its meetings be held at various locations in the State. Use of other State College facilities was given as a possibility. Mr. Pearson asked if meetings every second month were sufficient. The sense of the meeting was that they were sufficient. Mr. Ferguson recommended that the trustees be given updated information on what each division of the

College does. Mrs. Heard recommended that the December meeting be held at the Forrestal Center headquarters and that there be reports from each of the offices. Mrs. Jackson recommended that the College place information about its programs at the Education Information Center at Camp Kilmer.

APPROVAL OF  
GRADUATES:

Mr. Pearson then recognized Acting President Fletcher and Mr. McCarthy who presented for approval the names of 58 candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree, 4 for the Bachelor of Science degree, 7 for the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree, 69 for the Associate in Arts degree and 3 for the Associate in Science degree. Mr. Ferguson moved that the Board of Trustees approve the candidates for the degrees as indicated on the lists presented by the Registrar; seconded by Mr. Hanford. After a brief period of discussion about the candidates, the motion was approved unanimously. (7-0-0)

REPORT OF THE  
ACTING PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pearson then recognized Acting President Fletcher for his report on the state of the College.

Kelsey Building: Work on the Kelsey Building renovations is on or ahead of schedule. Date of completion has been set for April 29, 1979, barring any problems. The building has been completely gutted and the process of reconstruction has begun. Already there is a problem with adequate space for the College. At the time the request for the Kelsey Building was presented, the College needed only three floors. Since the original request two years ago, the Education Information Network has been added and the various offices of the College have grown. There is need now to complete the second floor of the building for College use. The Vice Chancellor, James Rosser, has stated that the entire building is property of the Department of Higher Education and has been allocated to Thomas A. Edison College. Dr. Fletcher indicated that he has requested from the architect an estimate on how much it will cost to complete the second floor for College use. Dr. Fletcher asked that the Board of Trustees take formal action to support the additional space allocation.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST  
FOR ADDITIONAL  
SPACE FOR THE  
KELSEY BUILDING:

Mr. Hanford moved that the Board of Trustees, having analyzed the need for additional space within the Kelsey Building recommend that the second floor be allocated to the College and instruct the Acting President to pursue the funding for completion of the second floor, as part of the original package, with the Department of Higher Education. Seconded by Mr. Ferguson. After a brief discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. (7-0-0)

Supplemental Budget: Acting President Fletcher reported on the status of the supplemental budget allocation of \$71,000 which is required to correct a technical error on the part of the Department

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of Higher Education. This was agreed to by Chancellor Hollander at the August meeting of the Board of Trustees. The possibility of a supplemental appropriation was mentioned but Mrs. Spiegel stated that she did not feel a supplemental appropriation would be possible. Mr. Kuemmerle asked if the problem existed within the legislature. Mr. Pearson stated that the problems with the budget were in the Department of Higher Education and Governor Byrne's Office. The legislature approved a supplemental budget appropriation last year only to have it vetoed by the Governor. He also stated that the Trustees should not try to second guess the Chancellor. He is aware of the political situation and it is up to him to make the next move. Several questions were raised by various members: Would it be best to test the Department of Higher Education's plan to improve relations? Should the Trustees meet with Chancellor Hollander to discuss alternatives if the legislature were to balk? If there are alternatives, why not use them to obtain the supplemental? Mr. Pearson reminded the Trustees that the Department of Higher Education did provide \$27,000.00 in FY 78 to overcome a deficit in the budget and the \$300,000.00 required to complete the renovation of the Kelsey building. Mr. Pearson recommended that Dr. Fletcher monitor the situation for a month and if nothing has been done, then he and Dr. Fletcher will meet with Chancellor Hollander.

Report on Personnel: Acting President Fletcher reported on new appointments made to the professional staff of the College. Mr. Pearson noted that most appointments would come to the Trustees for approval or concurrence after the appointment was made but that appointments to the positions of Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Director of Admissions and Registrar, Director of Counseling and Information Services and Director of Fiscal Affairs would have to be reviewed by the full Board of Trustees before being made.

APPOINTMENTS

APPROVED:

Mrs. Spiegel moved that the three appointments to the Statewide Information Network for Education be approved. Seconded by Mr. Hanford. There being no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. (7-0-0)

ROLE OF THE TRUSTEES:

Mr. Pearson reviewed the background on the request for clarification on the role of Boards of Trustees made by the Council of State Colleges. A memorandum was mailed to all Board chairmen in August. Mr. Pearson's reply dated September 6, 1978 was mailed to all trustees. Chancellor Hollander expressed concern over airing the College's problems in public. Mr. Pearson noted that the Governor's office did not see a need not to discuss the situation with the Newark Star Ledger. Chancellor Hollander stated to the Council of State Colleges that he never met with Dr. Brown without Mr. Pearson being present. Several State College Board Chairmen indicated that they would put the question of political interference on the agenda for the next meeting of their own boards.

There was some discussion about the various responsibilities of Boards of Trustees as established by law. Mr. Pearson stated that the Board of Trustees should prepare an annual report. This has not been done in the past. He also stated that the Board has the authority to monitor appointments and has the fiduciary responsibility for the College.

Mr. Ferguson asked what the current status of a successor to Mrs. Heard was. Dr. Fletcher stated that no one has been appointed to replace Mrs. Heard. He also stated that there should be a representative selected from the southern part of the state and that if anyone had a recommendation to forward it to Anita Leone in Chancellor Hollander's office.

FY 80 BUDGET: Acting President Fletcher stated that there was a meeting scheduled at 3:00 p.m. with the Budget Committee of the Board of Higher Education to discuss the Department of Higher Education's budget recommendations for FY 80. Dr. Fletcher reviewed the proposal submitted to the Department and the process of budget approval. Mr. Hanford questioned the funding of counseling and the balance between counseling and the rest of the College's budget.

REQUEST TO RECONSIDER THE FY 80 BUDGET APPROVED: Acting President Fletcher presented a memorandum addressed to the Board of Higher Education requesting a review of the Department's budget recommendation for FY 80 and urging restoration of the entire budget request for the College. Mr. Kummerle moved that the Board of Trustees approve the statement and present it to the Budget Committee at the 3:00 p.m. meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Heard, the motion was approved unanimously. (7-0-0) [A copy of the memorandum is attached.]

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:45 p.m. and resumed at 2:00 p.m. All participants from the morning session were present except Mr. Hanford and Mrs. Jackson.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL: Acting President Fletcher presented the name of an additional individual to be reappointed for a full term on the Academic Council. This name was inadvertently left off the list approved at the July meeting. Mrs. Spiegel moved that Charles Strain be reappointed to the Academic Council for a full three-year term. Seconded by Mr. Ferguson, the motion was approved unanimously. (5-0-0)

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Mr. Pearson asked Mrs. Spiegel to give a report on the work of the Presidential Search Committee. Mrs. Spiegel stated that the Committee has met twice with the next meeting scheduled for October 2, 1978. Nancy Kopp has been appointed student

representative. An announcement of the vacancy will be placed in the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Newark Star Ledger, the Washington Post and the Journal of School Administrators. The trustees were asked to provide the names of contact persons for possible names of candidates.

The Committee decided not to hire a consultant for the whole experience. If needed, one would be hired on an ad-hoc basis. The Committee has already received two resumes. All committee members will review all resumes, in general, with a team of two members reviewing a set of resumes in depth. A press release will be sent out after the meeting of the Board of Trustees announcing the Presidential Search.

After the report from the Presidential Search Committee, the Trustees recessed for 10 minutes to enable the Thomas A. Edison College Foundation for Non-Traditional Education to hold its annual meeting. The meeting of the Board of Trustees resumed at 2:35 p.m.

COUNSELING  
SITE IN SOUTH  
JERSEY:

Mr. Pearson recognized the Director of Academic Counseling, Jean Titterington, who alerted the Trustees to a problem the College was experiencing in obtaining the approval of a new site for the South Jersey counseling office. The College would like to obtain two locations, one in the city of Camden and one in Westmont. The current site in Vineland is not accessible to the general public in South Jersey.

OPENING OF THE  
EDUCATIONAL HOT-  
LINE:

Ms. Titterington announced that the Hotline for the Statewide Information Network would officially open on October 2, 1978 with Congressman Patten present to take the first call.

COMMENCEMENT  
ACTIVITIES:


Dr. Fletcher reminded the Trustees that the College's sixth commencement would be held at the Trenton War Memorial Building on Sunday, October 15, 1978 at 3:30 p.m. Approximately 100 graduates are expected to attend. All the trustees are invited to attend the ceremonies and the reception which follows.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. so that the Trustees could attend the Board of Higher Education Budget Committee hearing at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

  
Arnold Fletcher  
Acting Secretary

  
Richard Pearson  
Chairman of the Board

December 1, 1978  
Date