

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THOMAS A. EDISON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

December 12, 1973

The Board of Trustees of Thomas A. Edison College of New Jersey met on December 12, 1973 at the Western Electric Education Center, Hopewell, New Jersey for the December quarterly meeting. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Thiesmeyer, Chairman  
Rebecca Butler  
Robert Kavesh  
Eleanor Spiegel  
Richard Sweeney  
Julius Vogel  
James Douglas Brown, Jr., Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Pearson, Vice Chairman  
Blanche Ried  
Ramon Rivera

ALSO ATTENDING: Arnold Fletcher, Vice-President for Academic  
Affairs  
Thomas McCarthy, Registrar

MINUTES APPROVED: The Minutes of the November 1, 1973 meeting were presented for approval. They were approved unanimously.

CANDIDATES FOR  
A.A. APPROVED: Mr. Thiesmeyer recognized President Brown and Mr. McCarthy for the presentation of the candidates for the Associate in Arts Degree. A total of 51 candidates were presented to the Board. All candidates had met the requirements for the degree as approved by the New Jersey Board of Higher Education.

There were a number of questions concerning the candidates, such as age range, geographical mix, academic preparation and the like. A report on the graduates is included with the minutes as an appendix.

Dr. Kavesh moved that the Board of Trustees grant the Associate in Arts Degree to the 51 candidates, upon the formal request of each candidate. [A total of 45 formally requested the degree.] The motion was seconded by Mr. Sweeney and passed unanimously.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL: Mr. Thiesmeyer recognized Dr. Fletcher for a report on the progress of the Academic Council. Dr. Fletcher presented a revised list of the new Academic Council and its committees. He noted that the size has been increased from the number

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presented in November. The number of minorities has been increased. He said that the organizational meeting of the Academic Council will take place on January 11, 1974, at the Forsgate Country Club, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The members of the Board of Trustees were invited to the meeting.

Dr. Brown pointed out that many of the individuals selected for the Academic Council have backgrounds which are broader than their present title might suggest.

In response to a question on the Public Service Institute, it was pointed out that this is a training center set up by the State of New Jersey for Civil Service employees in municipal, county and state agencies.

Mrs. Spiegel asked for a clarification on the section of the Academic Council titled Business and Career Programs. Dr. Fletcher said that this committee would include subcommittees on the three business/career degree programs: the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and the proposed Associate in Applied Science Degrees in Management and Radiologic Technology.

Dr. Fletcher said that he hoped to have the membership for all committees by the end of January and that the College needs to have subcommittees in operation for the development of examinations in business administration and radiologic technology.

Mr. Thiesmeyer asked why there was no one on the Academic Council from the Newark College of Engineering or from Stevens Institute of Technology. Dr. Brown responded that there are interested individuals at the Newark College of Engineering who will be working with the College on the Associate Degree in Management as it develops. He stated that Stevens is not presently represented but hoped that Stevens would be helpful to the College as it grows.

Dr. Kavesh asked if anyone was on the Council from the City of Newark itself. Dr. Fletcher responded that he had tried to get someone for the Academic Council but the individual was unable to serve. He noted that there was one member on the subcommittee on Radiologic Technology from Essex County College in Newark. Dr. Kavesh then gave the name of a possible candidate for the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Subcommittee to Dr. Fletcher.

Mrs. Spiegel and Dr. Kavesh each raised questions concerning representation from penal institutions or from state government. The problem of sending instructors into penal institutions to teach traditional courses was noted as were the problems of presenting the proper curriculum to the prisoners.

Mr. Thiesmeyer asked if any consideration was given to representation from educational services in the military such as Fort Monmouth. Dr. Fletcher responded that one instructor had been contacted but the request was turned down by his military superiors.

Mr. Thiesmeyer noted the need for more female and black members on the committees and asked that this be kept in mind when the subcommittees are appointed.

Mr. Sweeney asked what the role the various committees will be in new degree programs. Dr. Fletcher responded that the primary role will be the development of new programs. The committee will also be involved in the implementation of policy and the development of new examinations.

Mr. Vogel noted the need for expertise in test evaluation and development if the College is to move in that direction.

Mrs. Spiegel asked if the Council would always meet as a whole or would meet periodically as smaller groups. Dr. Fletcher responded that there would be subcommittees convened for degree development that would meet regularly but once the degree was completed would meet only once every so often.

Mr. Sweeney stated that the backgrounds of the individuals on the Council and subcommittees will determine the degrees the College will have. Dr. Brown pointed out that the leadership of the College is in the hands of the Administration and the Trustees. The Council is advisory in nature. It is the President and the Board that will make the decisions. Dr. Brown also pointed out that external situations may determine the direction in which the College will go.

There was some discussion on the need to upgrade the police departments. The College is working with the State Police Academy at Sea Girt and also with the Plainfield Police Department. Dr. Brown noted that it is advantageous for the police to have peer contact in the traditional colleges. Mrs. Spiegel noted that the police should still have the possibility of using Edison College if they wish.

Mr. Sweeney asked what the mechanics of operation between the Council and the Administration would be. Dr. Fletcher responded that if the idea comes from the Council, the Administration would do the research on whether the degree is marketable. If it would be, the Council would have to decide if the facts would warrant the development of the degree. Then a subcommittee would be appointed to develop a degree in that area. Dr. Brown pointed out that the development of the subcommittee in Radiologic Technology is an example of how the administrative leadership would work.

Mr. Thiesmeyer accepted Dr. Fletcher's report and thanked him for a job well done. The Board then recessed for a short break and resumed the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

MEETING WITH  
MESSRS. HOLLANDER  
AND LIERHEIMER:

Mr. Thiesmeyer reported on the meeting he and Mr. Pearson had with Messrs. Hollander and Lierheimer of the New York State Education Department. The meeting was held in New York City on November 13, 1973. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Hollander stated flatly that the relationship between the Regents External Degree Program and Thomas A. Edison College was severed. They then discussed the background of the relationship beginning with Commissioner Nyquist's appointment and his call for an external degree. They discussed the difficulties between the Regents External Degree and Edison College; some procedural differences but mostly philosophical differences. It was apparent to both Mr. Pearson and Mr. Thiesmeyer that it would be impossible to renegotiate the relationship.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS  
BETWEEN MESSRS.  
HOLLANDER AND  
THIESMEYER AND  
MR. HOLLANDER'S  
LETTER TO  
CHANCELLOR DUNGAN:

Mr. Thiesmeyer then read to the Trustees the subsequent exchange of letters between himself and Mr. Hollander and Mr. Hollander's letter to Chancellor Dungan. Copies of these letters are included at the end of the Minutes. In summary, both Mr. Thiesmeyer and Mr. Pearson felt that in the long run the break was inevitable and that perhaps it is better that it happened now rather than later.

DISCUSSION OF  
PHILOSOPHICAL  
DIFFERENCES:

Basically, the philosophy of the Regents External Degree is that if non-traditional methods are to be used for earning degrees, traditional degrees must be offered. The approach used should in no way be experimental. They see Thomas A. Edison College as being experimental. The Regents External Degree leadership thinks that this would lead to problems in the academic world.

Mr. Sweeney asked which of our degree programs was an experimental program. Dr. Brown replied that perhaps the Associate in Applied Science in Management was experimental.

Dr. Kavesh noted that it seemed to him that Messrs. Hollander and Lierheimer arrived at the meeting with a predetermined decision that the relationship was ended.

Dr. Fletcher pointed out that we are not really experimental in degree content. We may be experimenting with different paths toward a degree but the degrees are following what is currently offered in New Jersey institutions.

Mr. Thiesmeyer said that according to Messrs. Hollander and Lierheimer, the Regents External Degree emphasized the quality of the degree. They expressed the idea that Edison College may not be as concerned with quality as they are. Dr. Brown pointed out that Edison College is much more visible in New Jersey than the Regents External Degree is in New York.

Dr. Kavesh stated that he still does not know why there was a relationship in the first place unless the administrators of the Regents External Degree expected New Jersey's program to be subservient to them. Mr. Sweeney stated that perhaps they were fearful that our standards would differ from theirs. They expected us to develop traditional evaluative models, not non-traditional. Mr. Sweeney also stated that the College should not let itself get into the situation of analyzing different bodies of knowledge. It should be assessing the same type of knowledge as that required for traditional degrees.

Mr. Thiesmeyer said that New York sees normed standardized examinations as the only means of assessment. Edison College sees other types of evaluation as being possible. New York perceived the good in working together but the implementation of procedures differed and they became fearful.

Dr. Brown pointed out that the Regents External Degree developed under the aegis of a normed standardized testing office. He also pointed out that in the main the New York State college system did not recognize the needs of adult learners.

Dr. Fletcher said that the College must also relate to the national movement in the area of adult education and the opportunities of aiding the adult learner, but within the framework of more traditional degree programs.

Dr. Kavesh asked if there are any other states offering external degrees with which Edison College could work. Dr. Brown indicated that Empire State College and Minnesota Metropolitan State College have developed very structured programs that assume that a student begins and ends with the same institution. Edison College is unique in that it was a fiat of the State Department of Higher Education. Other states have tried for a consensus among the state colleges and ended up with little results. Right now Edison College and nine other colleges are submitting a proposal along with ETS for setting up a pilot project in Special Assessment.

Mr. Thiesmeyer recommended that the Board of Trustees make some sort of motion relative to the break with the Regents External Degree.

Dr. Kavesh asked if Chancellor Dungan and Vice Chancellor Birnbaum have any feelings about the break. Mr. Thiesmeyer responded that Dr. Birnbaum has expressed no specific feelings and that Chancellor Dungan does not seem to be upset by the break. He met with Mr. Pearson and Mr. Thiesmeyer and said he saw the College going its own way.

Mrs. Spiegel asked that the letters be attached to the minutes. Mr. Thiesmeyer stressed that there was no agreement between Messrs. Hollander and Lierheimer and Messrs. Thiesmeyer and Pearson that there be a break in the relationship, contrary to what Mr. Hollander states in his letters to Mr. Thiesmeyer and Chancellor Dungan expressing a joint decision to sever the relationship.

The Board adjourned for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:35 p.m. with all present for the morning session in attendance.

NEW DEGREE  
PROGRAMS:  
Bachelor of Arts

Dr. Brown began the discussion of new degree programs with the Bachelor of Arts Degree. This is an extension of the Associate in Arts Degree. There is a large number of Associate in Arts candidates who have acquired more than the 60 semester hours needed for the degree. He noted that there are no normed standardized tests currently being used that go beyond the two-year equivalency. He gave some possible paths toward a Bachelor of Arts: 120 semester hours with some type of distribution; broad academic concentrations but within some type of guidelines. There is a question of what kind of testing program could be used. The tracks of how credit can be earned will be the major challenge. The degree would be an evolving process, using assessment cases where the body of knowledge is identifiable.

Dr. Kavesh asked if there were a potential market. Dr. Brown said that according to the feedback from the Counseling program there definitely was a market but that the level of response remained to be seen. It is easier to identify the market for the more specialized degrees.

NEW DEGREE  
PROGRAMS:  
Associate in Applied  
Science in Management

Dr. Brown pointed out that the College can tie in-house educational aspects into some type of degree. There is a need to merge experimental and theoretical aspects of the technical areas of the degree. The program would upgrade the course taught in-house so that it would be equal to what might be taught in a college course. Dr. Fletcher used as an example the upgrading of the English Course used in the Sea Girt program.

Mr. Thiesmeyer stressed the need to make sure that the individual has been made to demonstrate his knowledge of the area.

Dr. Brown went on to state that the nature of the Associate in Applied Science in Management Degree is that the program begins at the level of the students, whatever it may be, not with the assumption that everyone is beginning from scratch as is usually the case in the traditional college. What the College is trying to do is to have a diagnostic type of assessment.

NEW DEGREE  
PROGRAMS:  
Associate in Applied  
Science in  
Radiologic Technology

Dr. Brown pointed out that this is a newly credentialed area. Fifteen years ago it was not considered college level, but it is today. Adults are doing the job but lack the academic credentials. The means of attaining the academic credentials seems to be wanting. The professionals in the field are in favor of having this type of program to give the proper academic credentials to qualified individuals. Dr. Fletcher pointed out that all the New Jersey colleges offering a program in this area are represented in the subcommittee for this degree as well as hospital representatives, professional representatives and one prospective student.

DISCUSSION ON NEW  
DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Mr. Thiesmeyer asked if the College is thinking of setting up degrees in the traditional arts and sciences. Dr. Brown responded that this would be covered by the Bachelor of Arts; occupational areas would be covered by the Associate in Applied Science Degree. Dr. Fletcher pointed out that there is a movement toward broad areas of concentration as in a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities. Empire State and Minnesota Metropolitan have built up specific degree areas for each student. Edison College would probably structure broad fields concentrations.

Mr. Thiesmeyer said that there must be some type of framework for each degree. Dr. Kavesh pointed out that colleges are letting students take whatever courses they want with or without a major.

Mr. Sweeney asked what would be the employment opportunities for a graduate with a general Bachelor of Arts. With a general degree, where could you go? Even in teaching, there is a question of what is the major field.

Dr. Kavesh stated that if everyone who comes to the institution for a degree is merely a dilettante, the Academic Council may demand more strict guidelines. Could the College maintain a Bachelor of Arts with standards? Dr. Butler pointed out that this would be the challenge of the Academic Council.

Mr. Thiesmeyer stated that most of the candidates seem to want to have an opportunity for occupational advancement. Dr. Kavesh asked if the College might not be taking too great a step. Dr. Fletcher pointed out that the challenge needs to be met and that ETS is anxious to begin work on assessment of educational background.

Mrs. Spiegel asked what kind of staffing is going into assessment. Dr. Brown responded that there will be a full-time Director of Test Development and Assessment, an Administrative Assistant, Counseling Services, and use of faculty panels. Mrs. Spiegel said that assessment must be an important aspect of the College. It cannot be intimately linked to tests but must remain flexible.

Mr. Thiesmeyer observed that the College should stick to more identifiable degree programs.

Dr. Kavesh raised the hypothetical case of an individual who comes to the College with a massive amount of knowledge and gets credit automatically. Dr. Brown said that this would not happen, some one is going to have to evaluate the knowledge. Dr. Kavesh expressed the reservation about granting degrees with no formal testing by Edison College. There is a need to enunciate the problems.

Mr. Sweeney observed that the more vocationally oriented the degree, the fewer problems there are. An open-ended Bachelor of Arts does have some problems. He suggested more vocationally oriented degrees before beginning a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Dr. Brown observed that perhaps we need to be more conservative but we do need to have a discussion of the topic by the Academic Council. Mr. Thiesmeyer pointed out that there needs to be some continued discussion about the degrees between the staff of the College and the Board of Trustees.

PRESIDENT'S  
REPORT:

Dr. Brown stated that the staff is presently preparing an eighteen month report to the Board of Trustees and other interested publics. He also pointed out that the budget picture for FY 1975 is not too good. The Department of Higher Education submitted a request for \$250,000 and not the \$315,000 asked for by the College. This affects the whole Counseling Program. There is a need to get external funding for Counseling. Funding for FY 1974 is shaky, but there are several proposals in the works: Carnegie, Sloan and a few others.

There was to be a meeting with Chancellor Dungan, Dr. Brown, Dr. Fletcher and representatives from ETS concerning a possible working relationship between the College and ETS. There is a possibility of a Carnegie grant for funding of a Board of Examiner type assessment testing program.

There are going to be seven Board of Examiner type examinations for the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree to be given in March. This is an experiment. There will be a committee of the Academic Council on Testing and Assessment.




NEXT MEETING  
DATE AND LOCATION:

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Friday, March 15, 1974, at the Edison College offices in Trenton. This is a change in the day of the week from the regular Wednesday meeting. Maps and directions to the College will be sent to all the Trustees. Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. with coffee at 9:30 a.m.


Appendices: Mr. Thiesmeyer's letter to Mr. Hollander  
Mr. Hollander's letter to Mr. Thiesmeyer  
Mr. Hollander's letter to Chancellor Dungan  
List of the Graduates with Statistical Information

Submitted by:

  
JAMES DOUGLAS BROWN, JR.  
Secretary

March 15, 1974  
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DATE

Approved by:

  
JONATHAN L. THIESMEYER  
Chairman of the Board

March 15, 1974  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE