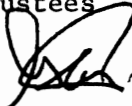




Thomas A. Edison State College
101 West State Street
CN 545
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Office Of The President
(609) 984-1105

MEMORANDUM
September 11, 1987

TO: Members, Board of Trustees
FROM: George A. Pruitt 
SUBJ: Report to the Board of Trustees

Accreditation Reaffirmed

I am pleased to report that the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools has reaffirmed the accreditation of Thomas A. Edison State College.

As you know, the five-year Periodic Review Report was submitted to the Commission in April, and we received the reaffirmation in July. A copy of the notification letter is attached to this report.

Status Report on Board Approved Bid Waivers

On June 12, 1987 the Board of Trustees authorized a bid waiver for the College to purchase professional services in excess of \$7,500 for implementing autonomy.

Beginning in July, 1986, these services were secured on an ad hoc basis from the Arthur Young accounting firm, and the cost for each segment was projected at less than the bidding threshold of \$7,500. However, as was indicated to you at the June, 1987 meeting, the estimated aggregate cost would be approximately \$25,000, thereby, requiring a bid waiver.

To date, the College has expended \$29,268 for assistance in developing policies and procedures, system enhancements, to assess staff and training needs, and to certify that all autonomy transition requirements have been met.

Student Trustee Legislation

As of August 31, this legislation has been introduced and has had two readings in the Senate. In September, I anticipate that the Higher Education and Regulated Professions Committee of the Assembly will recommend the legislation to the full Assembly.

I will keep you informed on the progress of this legislation which will enable the College to comply with the intent of the law as previously established.

Outcomes Assessment Plan

Attached to this report, you will find a June 30, 1987 paper entitled "Retention, Attrition, and Thomas A. Edison State College." This paper, essentially a "plan to plan," elucidates our position and intended course of action with respect to the "Retention Initiative" of the Board of Higher Education. It also serves to describe the underlying assumptions of our newly created outcomes assessment program and, in so doing, lays the groundwork for discussions concerning Edison's participation in the Department's "College Outcomes Evaluation Program (COEP)."

On August 5, Dr. Ice, Tom Streckewald, and I met with Dr. Laurence Marcus, Director, Office for State Colleges, and Dr. Edward Morante, Director, College Outcomes Program, to discuss our paper and the above issues. Both Dr. Marcus and Dr. Morante responded positively to our plans, and we will continue our discussions as the overall outcomes assessment plan develops. It is our view that Edison's outcomes assessment plan is consistent with these two initiatives, and we will be proceeding on that basis.

During September, meetings will be held with key staff members to establish performance standards for the mission-centered programmatic activities described in the June 30 paper and to identify potential data collection and reporting modifications. The detailed outcomes assessment plan will follow, and our presentation to you is tentatively planned for the December Board meeting.

FY 1987 Budget

I am delighted to report that the College ended FY 1987 with achieving revenues totalling \$1,741,836 or 135% of the budgeted revenue target. In comparison, in FY 1986, the College realized 103% or \$1,179,491 of its revenue target. These extraordinary revenue results were achieved as a result of the College's spiralling enrollment growth. The College expects to meet its FY 1988 annual revenue target of \$1,604,939 through continued aggressive marketing and the quality delivery of program services.

On the expenditure side, the College consumed \$3,352,722 or 90% of the expenditure budget of \$3,740,984. It should be noted that this budget was adjusted upwards by \$105,932 to include \$41,781 fourth quarter salary program, \$22,791 in fee increase funds, \$3,360 for the Managerial Merit Award Program, and \$38,000 from the 440 reserve. This adjustment came late in the year which contributed toward the underspending.

Student revenues for the year totalled \$1,682,391 or 138% of the budget target.

In comparison, in FY 1986, the College realized \$1,113,526 or 102% of the budgeted target, an impressive 36% increase in revenue attainment.

The Center for Corporate Partnerships, which was budgeted at \$70,000, realized revenues totalling \$59,175 or 84% of the budgeted target.

Specific major positive and negative areas for the twelve months were:

Positive Areas

- * Applications achieved 125% of its budgeted revenue target realizing \$161,950.
- * First year tuition fees generated \$390,126 or 132% of its budgeted target.
- * Subsequent year tuition fees realized \$287,724 or 114%.
- * Transcript evaluation fees realized \$508,890 or 200% of its budgeted target.
- * TECEP examination fees generated \$66,645 or 127% of its budgeted target, and
- * The Guided Study Program realized \$56,444 or 186% of its budgeted target.

Negative Areas

- * Portfolio per credit fees generated only 48% of its target or \$48,841, and portfolio applications realized only 77% of its target.

Expenditures

The College's FY 1987 expenditure budget of \$3,740,984 has incurred costs and obligations totalling \$3,352,722. Major expense increases occurred in the salary and services-other-than-personnel area including the postage, telephone, and travel accounts.

The College completed the three year Project Learn Grant from the Kellogg Foundation. As of June 30, 1987, the College expended \$78,093 or 100% of the \$78,093 allocated under the fourth year of the grant. This grant expired as of December 31, 1986, and the College has closed-out the grant.

The College received a supplemental grant from the Kellogg Foundation for \$31,000 to assist adults in defining career goals. As of June 30, 1987, \$25,707 or 83% has been expended and obligated. This grant was extended to August 30, 1987.

The College was awarded a three year grant totalling \$84,417, titled "To Educate the People," from Wayne State University. The budget for grant year one was \$20,000, year two -- \$40,000, and grant year three -- \$24,417. As of June 30, 1987, \$67,804 or 80% of the budget has been expended and obligated. This grant has been closed out and a check for \$16,612.52 was refunded to the agency.

The College was awarded a three year grant totalling \$76,000, titled "Creating the Missing Link," from the Department of Higher Education. The budget for grant year one was \$26,708, year two -- \$33,928, and year three -- \$16,364.

As of June 30, 1987, the College has expended \$28,816 or 98% of the first year budget. It should be noted that the grant year was from January 1, 1986 to December 31, 1987. The second year grant funds were not received until July of 1987; \$2,759.24 of the second year allocation was utilized to meet salary costs.

Finally, the College was awarded on October 31, 1986 \$1,827,541 over three years under the Governor's Challenge Grant Program to create the Electronic College or CALL Network. The budget for grant year one is \$855,183, year two -- \$471,618, and for year three -- \$500,740. In grant year one the initial allocation was \$786,633. The College received its final allocation for year one of \$68,550 in July.

As of June 30, 1987, the College has expended and obligated \$636,076 or 74% of the year one budget of \$855,183.

The College ended FY 1987 with extraordinary financial results. Revenues were excellent reflecting the College's continuing enrollment growth while expenditures have been managed within budgeted limits as the College addresses its growth demands. The most pressing demand continues to be the need for additional staff in the administrative and academic areas to support enrollment growth.

On July 1, 1987 the College successfully implemented autonomy and is now depositing and investing its own revenues and processing its fiscal transactions under college policies and procedures. Attached to this report is a copy of the first check issued under autonomy by the College in its own name for a student refund. Also attached is the financial report.

FY 1988 Budget

Attached to this report is a copy of the final FY 1988 budget as approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

FY 1989 Budget

The Finance Committee of the Board of Higher Education has reviewed the FY 1989 budget and the Chancellor's recommendation of a budget totalling \$5,434,000 with a recommended state appropriation of \$3,812,000. This includes \$975,000 in new priority packages that will provide for thirty additional positions to meet the College's programmatic and administrative needs for responding to the unprecedented enrollment growth. The priority packages recommended include:

- * \$269,000 to meet administrative infra-structure requirements-- includes eight positions.
- * \$175,000 for eleven evaluator positions.

- * \$130,000 for seven advising positions.
- * \$340,000 to provide additional data processing equipment for the increased staff growth of the College.
- * \$61,000 to establish a Financial Aid Office -- includes two positions.

Payment Transactions

The College closed its fiscal year on July 31, 1987 having processed 2,535 payment transactions with only 35 outstanding payment documents. In comparison, last year at this time the College had 400 payment documents pending.

Staffing

The Personnel Office established eleven new positions, processed ten salary adjustments, four reclassifications, twenty personnel management actions, and is currently recruiting for fifteen vacancies.

Also, Personnel finalized the College's Personnel Plan, which has been provided to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations for final discussions with the AFT, and met with CWA Representatives to discuss the College's training policy and Union enrollment cards.

Management Information Systems

The Office of Management Information Systems successfully migrated all systems operating on the Wang VS 85 to the Wang 300 and completed installation of the College's local area network (Fastlan) which is currently supporting sixty-four terminals and printers. Other highlights include:

- * the installation of a dedicated telecommunication line to NJECN,
- * development and implementation of a purchase encumbrance system,
- * development of the orientation program for the CALL Network, and
- * initial development of a new student revenue management system.

In addition, with regards to the CALL Network, MIS trained all new faculty mentors for the simulated classroom project, demonstrated simulated classroom software to site coordinators, and made a presentation to potential students at McGuire Air Force Base, Bell Core, Department of State, and the Division of Taxation.

Administrative Services

The College continued discussions with General Services Administration regarding long-term and short-term space needs, completed repavement of the rear parking lot, and reviewed proposed bidding specifications for the exterior renovations of the Kelsey Building.

We have completed negotiations to replace the IBM high speed copier with the Xerox 1090 which is their top-of-the-line equipment. The 1090 includes such features as copying 92 copies per minute, two-sided copying, reduction and enlargement, collating and stapling, and auto-tron recording. The cost is \$1,821 per month with an \$11,000 credit for the IBM machine. We will also be replacing the six table top copiers, at no increased cost, with six Xerox 1025's which include the features of automatic feed and color printing.

Director of Admissions Appointed

I am pleased to announce that a nation-wide search has been completed and that Wenrich H. Green has been appointed Director of Admissions. Mr. Green comes to his position with extensive experience as the chief admissions officer at both Western New England College (1983-1986) and West Virginia Wesleyan College (1977-1982). Prior to his work at West Virginia Wesleyan, Mr. Green was Assistant Director of Admissions and an Assistant Professor of Biology at Lycoming College.

Mr. Green is active in his professional field and has held a position on the Standing Committee on College Level Services of the College Board and was Regional Chairman, Committee on Admissions Practices and Procedures of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors.

Mr. Green earned his Master's degree from Pennsylvania State University and has completed additional course work beyond the Masters at Penn State.

Admissions Office

Activity in the Admissions Office has been extensive over the summer. A record number of applications (3,192) were received during FY '87, and activity is running at a high level to sustain both the applicant and enrollment levels. Last year's actual applications received represents a 23% increase over the projected applicant target of 2,600.

This year's recruitment activities will see an increased level of community and junior college contact along with more program-specific operations. Admissions staff will become increasingly involved with on-site recruitment operations at military installations throughout New Jersey. While actual applications are running slightly behind last year, it is anticipated that adequate enrollments will result to meet all college goals.

In an attempt to familiarize key community leaders with the College's programs and services and to assist them in identifying potential minority applicants for referral to the College, a series of three breakfast meetings were held during the month of June. These included two in Northern New Jersey and one in Mercer County. At these meetings, Black and Hispanic community leaders were invited to meet with College staff to discuss ways in which members of the minority community could be made more aware of the educational opportunities available at the College. A total of 68 individuals attended these meetings as guests of the College. All reports indicate that these programs were quite successful, resulting in a heightened College presence in the minority community. These breakfast meetings will definitely be continued and possibly expanded this year.

Admissions Staff - A search is nearing completion to fill the professional vacancy in the East Orange Admissions Office. Several excellent candidates are under consideration, and it is anticipated that this situation can be brought to closure in the very near future. A second professional staff vacancy will occur on September 1 due to the resignation of Melinda Lewis who accepted a position as Transcript Evaluator in the Registrar's Office.

Center for Corporate Partnerships

The Center for Corporate Partnerships reports four significant developments. First, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has agreed to contract with the Center for services. Presently, eighteen ETS employees have applied and will be receiving services at their site. Contracting with ETS, a major nonprofit corporation, extends the type of organizations served through the Center. ETS also adds a major Mercer County employer to the growing list of organizations contracting for College services.

Second, the pilot project with PSE&G has been extended. In December, 1986, PSE&G's Nuclear Training Department contracted to service fourteen employees who held the nuclear reactor's license. Effective in August, the project has been extended to include all licensed operators from both the Hope Creek and Salem plants. The program anticipates a Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulation requiring degrees. All licensed operators will be enrolled in Edison's Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology (BSAST) degree with a specialization in nuclear industrial operations.

Third, AT&T's corporate headquarters at Bedminster has requested assistance in planning services for their employees in Bedminster and at their Cincinnati office. An initial assessment of employee interest in services at the Bedminster site is being conducted, and the initial planning has been done for Cincinnati. This development is significant because it expands Center services to AT&T beyond PONSII to include a broader rubric of services.

Fourth, progress has been made in expanding the number of test sites to be used for the simulated classroom portion of the Challenge Grant. Both the New Jersey Department of State and the Division of Taxation are continuing their participation. In addition, McGuire Air Force Base and Bell Communications Research have agreed to participate, thus expanding the number of test sites to the four planned in the grant. The simulated classroom will have participants from each of these sites.

Financial Aid

The Director of Financial Aid recently received approval to have the Guided Study courses eligible for funding under the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant Program (TAG).

Students who qualify economically and who successfully complete twelve credits during a semester can receive a TAG grant. The twelve credits can be in any combination of Guided Study courses, TECEP, CLEP, or traditional college courses.

Military Affairs

The College was selected by DANTES to exhibit at the Worldwide Military Services Education Conference being held in Washington, DC, in November. The purpose of the Conference is to provide a link between the military and the civilian educational community. Approximately 900 educators who serve the military services worldwide will be in attendance. The exhibit will be geared to serving the needs of the military through telecommunications. Edison staff will be on-hand to demonstrate the "Simulated Classroom."

Public Relations and Publications

The College participated in the New Jersey State Fair again this year with a display and handouts. The College was part of the Jersey Pride exhibit, coordinated by the Governor's Office, which showcases the various departments of the state. Over 600,000 people visited the Fair between July 31 and August 9.

Publications for the Testing Office have been redesigned into a package of promotional brochures, test description books, and testing covers with a coordinated look for the entire program. The updated look and revised copy improve the image of the College and the TECEP Program. The new brochure is attached to this report.

Alumni Affairs and Alumni Association

The number of alumni interested in serving on the Alumni Board tripled since last year. As a result, the Board voted to establish the positions of Associate Directors. These nonvoting positions will increase the size of the Board and the number of alumni in leadership roles. As of October 18, 1987, the Board will be comprised of eighteen alumni--nine elected Officers and Directors plus nine Associate Directors approved by the Board.

The Alumni Association will present its first Award for Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association to Frank Z. Hawrylo, '79. Mr. Hawrylo is a former President of the Alumni Association. The Award Committee received six nominations for this award by canvassing its membership. The award will be presented on Alumni Day scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 1987.

I am pleased to announce that the College is expanding its awards program recognizing alumni who have served Edison during the year. First time recipients (44) will continue to receive a framed certificate. Fourteen (14) alumni who have already received a certificate and continue to serve will receive a newly designed plaque.

The Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning Network (CALL) Update

During the first ten months of year one, the development and implementation of the three primary components in the CALL Network have been significant:

Creating the Infrastructure - The implementation of the CALL Network required the acquisition of, and the development of access to, sufficient computer power to support the greatly increased use of computers to deliver Edison's services. Significant highlights of the first year included the installation and migration to the Wang VS 300 system, installation of the area network and wide area network development and implementation of the first phase of the Simulated Classroom project, development of software to support the Diagnostic Examination program, and the development of the College's orientation data base.

Through the cooperative work of Edison's staff and NJECN, a number of critical software packages which manage communication and information flow as well as mini-data bases were put in place. Substantive design, field-testing, and orientation for students, faculty, and staff were critical accomplishments in getting the electronic infrastructure in place for year one of the project.

The Simulated Classroom - This phase of the CALL Network provides distant learners with high-quality courses which integrate print video and audio components. In completing the first semester with the course "The Adult Years," the most important dimension to distant learning was provided--interaction. Through the initial start-up of the CALL Network, students had direct feedback from their mentors regarding class materials.

Computer Diagnostic Examinations - This component will be available through the CALL Network and will allow students to obtain a detailed understanding of their strengths and weaknesses in specific subject areas. Through an adaptive test, students will learn what areas of a subject they have mastered and what areas need additional study. The three scheduled diagnostic examinations are now ready for try out and revision in producing the prototype examinations.

On July 27 and 28, Jerry Ice, Rich Hansen, Bill Seaton, Paul Jacobs, Drew Hopkins and I demonstrated the above components to program officers of the Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The second Performance Assessment Center for the administration of the nursing performance examinations was implemented on July 19. This center is located at St. Francis Medical Center, Trenton, and will be the location for the Health Assessment and Teaching Performance Examinations. Five students completed the exams during the week of July 19. The next testing dates at the Center are set for September 12 and November 14, 1987.

As discussed at the last Board of Trustees meeting, The Regents College Nursing Program (BSN) was granted continuing accreditation by the National League of Nursing in March, 1987, but was placed on warning for areas needing improvement. Regents College will submit a response for reconsideration by the League of Nursing's Board of Review at the Board's

October, 1987 meeting. Since Edison's nursing program is modeled after the Regent's Program, we will delay requesting a National League of Nursing site visit until final action on the Regents College program has been given. The site visit may be delayed until the 1989-90 academic year. The Self-Study report would be completed during the spring, 1989.

Book Published

Paul Jacobs and Marco Meirovitz (Edison alumnus) had another book added to their collaboration. The newest book is titled Visual Thinking: Entertaining Activities to Increase Intelligence published by Trillim Press.

Services to Students

The College experienced major increases in the number of students served. The following statistics compare FY '87 with FY '86 totals.

- an 80% increase in Associate Degree enrollment
1,310 as compared to 728
- an 11.7% increase in phone calls to the Advisement Center
9,117 as compared to 8,159
- a 16.6% increase in evaluation reviews by Phone Center staff
2,467 as compared to 2,115
- a 55.6% increase in student letters received and answered by
Advisors - 2,426 as compared to 1,559
- a 17.5% increase in student appointments with Advisors
1,368 as compared to 1,164
- a 4% increase in Pre-Graduation Conferences
127 as compared to 122

It is hoped that this slight increase in the number of Pre-Graduation Conferences is an indication that the reduction in Bachelor of Arts graduates has ceased and that there will be an increase in Bachelor of Arts graduates in the future.

- a 182% increase in Nursing Performance Exams
48 as compared to 17
- a 121% increase in official student withdrawals
390 as compared to 176

By allowing students to withdraw from the College, we will now be able to follow up with a letter encouraging them to reenroll at the end of their two year "stop out" period.

The Academic Programs staff, including support personnel have done an outstanding job providing services to an increased number of students. A recent research project co-sponsored by ACT and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities indicates that colleges report that academic advising services provided to students are the most important "positive campus characteristics" in assisting students in making progress toward degree completion.

Arnold Fletcher Award

The Arnold Fletcher Award recognizes Thomas A. Edison State College baccalaureate graduates for exceptional achievement in independent learning. Students selected have demonstrated excellence and have earned a large number of credits using one or more of the nontraditional learning modes recognized by the College: Assessment of Prior Learning through Portfolio, Testing, Guided Study, Correspondence Courses, Nursing Performance Exams. The award is named in honor of Dr. Arnold Fletcher, Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1973 to 1983.

The Selection Committee, composed of the Coordinator of Liberal Arts Programs, Coordinator of Business Programs, Coordinator of Applied Science and Technology and Human Services Programs, Director of Nursing Program, and the Dean of Academic Programs have selected the following to receive the Arnold Fletcher Award at the October, 1987 Commencement.

Manuel J. Buendia, Mahwah, NJ
Larry R. Danley, Sparkes, NV
Jerry L. Decker, Kerrville, TX
Richard P. Diehl, Long Valley, NJ
Robert G. Dobslaw, Lancaster, PA
Barbara C. Foley, Pomfret Center, CT
Mark Cirelly, Harrisonville, NJ
John F. Holtz, Medford Lakes, NJ
Robert T. Hynes, Victor, NY
Steven F. Levicoff, Plymouth Meeting, PA
Willy L. Wallendal, Flemington, NJ

1987-1989 College Catalog

The new Edison State College Catalog was mailed to 5,500 currently enrolled students and applicants. In addition, the catalog was mailed to 2,283 friends of the College. This included New Jersey libraries, community college transfer offices, corporate sites, military bases, members of the Southern New Jersey Technology Consortium, Statewide Testing and Assessment Center members, Academic Council members, Edison faculty consultants, the National Guard, and the Board of Trustees.

Applications and Enrollments - FY 1987

The College's growth rate continued to accelerate during the past year with total enrollment reaching 5,859, an increase of 10.1% over FY 1986. We received 3,192 applications, a 15.2% increase over the record number received in FY 1986. Similarly, new enrollments were up 19.4% to 2,121. Total enrollment is expected to grow, as it is fueled by applications and by conversion of applicants to new enrollments, both exhibiting strong growth in FY 1987. Attached to this report, the graph, "Student Numbers By Fiscal Year," depicts the growth pattern of the past four years.

Minority Enrollment

Our minority enrollment figures for FY 1987 are encouraging and reflect the College's continuing commitment to these populations. Minority enrollment growth (16%) outpaced total enrollment growth (10.1%). Black enrollment increased 14.9%, Hispanic 17.9%, Asian 19.8%, and American Indian 6.9%. Total minority student enrollment for FY 1987 was:

Black	463
Hispanic	178
Asian	115
American Indian	31
TOTAL	<u>787</u>

These 787 students represent 13.4% of the student body. Four-year figures are depicted in the graphs "Minority Enrollment at Edison" and "Percentage Minority Enrollment."

Student Characteristics

- Sex Ratio - In FY 1987, males comprised 58.4% of total enrollment (females - 41.6%). This is an increase of 1% from FY 1986. Over the past five years, the percentage of males has varied from 57.5% (FY 1986) to 59.2% (FY 1984). The graph, "Enrolled Students By Sex," depicts these relationships in student numbers.
- Residency - Over the last three years, out-of-state students have comprised an increasing proportion of the student population, ranging from 30.6% in FY 1985 to 33.8% in FY 1987. Over the last five years, the residency ratio has varied from 71%/29% in-state/out-of-state in FY 1983 to 66.2%/33.8% in FY 1987. The graph, "Student Enrollment by Residence," depicts these ratios by student count.

- Sex By Residence - This year we are able to report on the sex ratio of in-state students vs. the sex ratio of out-of-state students, and the results are interesting. While the overall male/female ratio on July 1, 1987 was 58%/42%, in-state students were almost equally split (50.9% males, 49.1% females). Out-of-state students exhibit a strong predominance of males (72.1% males to 27.9% females). The outcomes assessment program will be able to inform us as to whether these data have any significance. The sex by residence ratios are provided, by student count, in the graph, "Student Enrollment July 1, 1987."
- Income - We have also looked at student family income by sex. These data are presented in the graph, "Student Income Profile July 1, 1987." Although we have students in every income range, this analysis indicates that, of students who provided income figures, Edison students tend to have incomes of \$30,000 or more. Also, the differential between male and female students tends to increase as income level rises. Again, further study will indicate whether or not these tendencies are significant.

Distribution of Edison Students

Finally, you may be interested in reviewing the distribution of our students around the globe and also by county in New Jersey. At the end of the graphs section are three sheets which provide this information. Not only do we have students in every state, but in Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and in 21 foreign countries! In New Jersey, every county is represented, with Mercer, Monmouth and Middlesex counties accounting for 32.9% of our in-state enrollment.

ATTACHMENT A

MIDDLE STATES REPORT



COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Middle States Association
of Colleges and Schools

3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104
Telephone: 215/662-5606

RECEIVED

JUL 2 1987

June 30, 1987

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. George A. Pruitt
Office of the President
Thomas A. Edison State College
101 W. State Street, C.N. 545
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear President Pruitt:

At its meeting on June 25-26, 1987 the Commission on Higher Education acted to accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm the accreditation of Thomas A. Edison State College. The Commission requests an information letter by April 1, 1988 providing specific information on faculty identity, involvement, and evaluation; further, the Commission requests evidence of outcomes as reflected in further success of the students and on further developments in CALL. As of now the next evaluation of Thomas A. Edison State College will occur in 1991-92 and will focus on these and other issues identified below. The Periodic Review Report was thorough and provided a clear if at times redundant picture of the institution's last five years, although the plans for the future are more sketchy. The report is especially detailed in the areas of administrative reorganization, procedural changes in the academic areas, and on developments in the field of nontraditional education. The College appears to be making a conscientious effort to address the issue of relatively low minority student enrollment, and the Commission encourages continued effort in that direction. The Commission will be particularly interested in the progress of CALL and in other technologically assisted teaching and learning programs.

Although the Academic Council appears to have been better included in the policy-making procedures of the institution, there appears to be room for further improvement. Faculty consultant and workload and remuneration have been regularized, but it is still not entirely clear just how the faculty shapes curriculum in general or interacts with individual degree candidates in particular. The Commission will be following the progress of the new bachelor's degree program in Nursing, particularly with respect to improving the balance between men and women enrollments. On page 34 of the PRR there is an indication that some students are allowed to complete a degree without a program plan, and the Commission questions whether that is an appropriate procedure.

As the College exercises its newly acquired fiscal autonomy, it may be desirable to undertake annual audits of financial records by an independent accounting firm. The Periodic Review Report demonstrates fiscal control by the institution over its budget and financial activity, and the general data supported the narrative.

Dr. George A. Pruitt
June 30, 1987
Page Two

The Commission's records show the following description for Thomas A. Edison State College:

Public (state) nontraditional, external degree granting college offering Associate and Baccalaureate degrees. The College evaluates and awards credit for college-level learning acquired through formal and informal learning experiences.

If for any reason the above is inaccurate in any way please notify the Commission office immediately.

Please be assured of the Commission's continuing interest in developments at Thomas A. Edison State College, and if at any time the Commission or its Staff can be of assistance please feel free to call on us.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward V. Ellis".

Edward V. Ellis
Chair

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