

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THOMAS A. EDISON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

November 1, 1973

The Board of Trustees of Thomas A. Edison College of New Jersey met on November 1, 1973 at the Prudential Building in Newark, New Jersey, for a Special Meeting. The meeting began at 9:45 a.m.

Members Present: Jonathan Thiesmeyer, Chairman
Richard Pearson, Vice Chairman
Robert Kavesh
Blanche Ried
Ramon Rivera
Eleanor Spiegel
Richard Sweeney
Julius Vogel
James Douglas Brown, Jr., Secretary

Members Absent: Rebecca Butler

Also Present: Arnold Fletcher, Vice-President, Academic Affairs
George Engeman, Director of External Relations
Thomas McCarthy, Registrar
Jean Titterington, Director of Counseling
Dennis Smith, Assistant to the President

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Rivera as the new member of the Board of Trustees. The Chairman also noted that the senior staff of the College was present to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Trustees for this Special Meeting of the Board.

The minutes of the September 12, 1973 meeting were corrected as follows: the regular meetings are once every three months, not once a month; there would be no need for an official meeting in July prior to the scheduled annual meeting in September; the Chairman should call special meetings of the Board when he saw the need for one.

There was some discussion on the brevity of the minutes and it was decided to make the minutes as accurate but as concise as possible. The minutes for the September 12, 1973 meeting were approved as corrected.

The Chairman then noted that the recording secretary was prepared to record the meeting on cassettes. After some discussion on the question of taping the session for use in preparing minutes, the Board voted not to allow the meeting to be taped.

EXCHANGE OF
LETTERS WITH
NEW YORK:

The Chairman then announced that since the September 12, 1973 meeting, events had taken place which necessitated a change in the agenda of the Special Meeting. The Chairman noted the exchange of communications with the New York State Education Department and the New Jersey Department of Higher Education and the Edison College Board of Trustees. The meeting originally scheduled between Mr. Hollander from the New York State Education Department and Mr. Thiesmeyer with Dr. Nolan and Dr. Brown was cancelled by Mr. Hollander. The New York State Education Department also cancelled the interstate agreement and use of the College Proficiency Examinations and Regents External Degree Examinations by Edison College. The November test dates would be honored but the procedures would be changed. The examinations would be administered under the auspices of the New York State Education Department.

The exchange of communications, briefly stated were:

1. Mr. Hollander's letter to Chancellor Dungan informing him of the end of the interstate cooperative venture;
2. Mr. Hollander's letter to Mr. Thiesmeyer informing him of the letter to Chancellor Dungan cancelling the interstate cooperative venture;
3. Chancellor Dungan's letter to Mr. Hollander asking for an opportunity to discuss the matter before cancellation takes place; and
4. Mr. Thiesmeyer's letter to Mr. Hollander asking for an opportunity to discuss the matter before cancellation takes place.

Mr. Vogel then asked if the members of the Board of Trustees could be given more background on the interstate cooperative venture and how it came to an end. President Brown asked for an opportunity to outline the events of the first year of Edison College's operation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON
BACKGROUND & AREAS OF
DISAGREEMENT WITH
NEW YORK:

President Brown first pointed out that each member of the Board had received a copy of each of the letters relative to the cooperative venture with New York. The original agreement was between Mr. Birnbaum (New Jersey) and Mr. Hollander (New York). Commissioner Nyquist, representing the New York Board of Regents, and Chancellor Dungan, representing the Department of Higher Education, prepared letters based on the agreement but stated in broad terms.

The agreement between New York and New Jersey was vague. Specific details were not recorded at the time the agreement was made. As the year progressed, New York's perception of the agreement was seen to be different from New Jersey's perception. It became evident that New York

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perceived New Jersey as an extension of the Regents program in New Jersey. New Jersey's perception was that the cooperative venture was a relationship which would be beneficial to New Jersey and New York, since it would avoid duplication of effort. Chancellor Dungan and Vice Chancellor Birnbaum had a broader perception of the program than New York; they saw a program which included counseling as an important part of the program, and the encouragement of non-traditional learning. They also perceived a close working relationship with the other state colleges.

New Jersey's perception was that the cooperative venture was not the central aspect of the program but only one part of the College's total program. During the course of the year, the New York Regents External Degree Program and Edison College talked past each other, never quite understanding each other's position. As the year progressed, the Regents External Degree Program gave more and more academic authority to the Associate in Arts Committee. The business committee and the nursing committee gave authority for the General Education Component to the Associate in Arts Committee.

The CPEP examinations are not central to the Associate in Arts Degree. This degree can be earned totally without CPEP examinations. The Regents External Degree Examinations (REDE) are central to both the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and the Associate in Applied Science in Nursing Degrees. The examinations which have been and are being developed are an integral part of the curriculum.

The Mission of Edison College is at odds with the rigid interpretation of the interstate agreement by the Regents External Degree Program. This interpretation does not allow for the counseling aspect of Edison College or the cooperation between Edison College and the other New Jersey colleges as outlined in the mission statement and presented to the New Jersey Board of Higher Education. During the course of the year, it seemed to the staff of Edison College that New York approved of New Jersey developing peripheral matters that pertained to the degree program such as Special Assessment and the enrollment and recruitment of students and evaluation of transcripts. The Edison College staff attempted to get a formal working agreement with the Regents External Degree Program. Meetings were set up and then cancelled. It seemed to take a long time to find a meeting time agreeable to each side. There was a communications gap between New York and New Jersey. Decisions were made in New York without consultation and only the results were communicated to Edison College.

By January, 1973, the need for a formalized agreement was noted by Edison College and the Department of Higher Education. Vice Chancellor Birnbaum's letter of February 20th was the initial step. This was followed by Mr. Hollander's response on March 12th and Vice Chancellor Birnbaum's agreement of March 27th. The next communication was Dr. Nolan's

interpretation of the agreement on April 13th. Vice Chancellor Birnbaum expressed the desire that Dr. Nolan and Dr. Brown would be able to work everything out concerning the apparent disagreements. It seemed impossible for Dr. Nolan and Dr. Brown to get together before their meeting of August 8th at which time Dr. Nolan took the hard line which was delineated in his letter to Dr. Brown dated August 18th.

Attempts were made to work out agreements with the Regents External Degree Program but these were rebuffed. Dr. Nolan's letter expressing his interpretation of the interstate agreement offered no compromise. Dr. Brown's response to Dr. Nolan was presented at the September meeting of the Board of Trustees and approved by the Trustees. Dr. Brown did not feel that the Associate in Arts Degree should be restricted to the interstate committee, nor that Edison College should restrict its enrollment in the Associate in Arts Degree to New Jersey residents.

A meeting was arranged between Mr. Thiesmeyer, Mr. Pearson, Dr. Brown, Dr. Nolan and Mr. Hollander for October 11th. The meeting was cancelled by Dr. Nolan by telephone with a statement that a letter would follow. In the meantime, our New Jersey representatives to the degree committees and examination subcommittees were informed by telephone that the interstate agreement was finished and a letter would follow. There followed letters to Chancellor Dungan and Mr. Thiesmeyer announcing the end of the interstate agreement. Comments concerning the Edison College interpretation of the degree requirements were made in these letters. The Edison College staff takes strong exception to the veiled charges of unprofessionalism in these comments.

Mr. Hollander holds out a possibility for a continuation of testing in New Jersey. This should be explored.

DISCUSSION OF
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY
RELATIONSHIP:

Mr. Thiesmeyer then referred the Trustees to his letter to them in which he stated the issues as he saw them.

1. Authority of joint "faculty committees." To what extent should the faculty committees which draw up the independent study degree programs and the proficiency examinations control the requirements for meeting degrees? This includes who should review student transcripts.
2. The fees charged for use of New York's CPEP examinations and their Regents External Degree examinations. Should New Jersey charge the same fee as New York for New Jersey residents? For out-of-state residents? If New Jersey charges less for out-of-state residents than New York, serious competition factors are involved.
3. Duplication of credit. Should a person who has taken a regular college course in a subject be able to get duplicate credit through External Degree examinations?

4. Development by New Jersey of new degree programs and proficiency examinations to complement New York's efforts. New Jersey has not developed any examinations although the original understanding was that it would. The degree programs New Jersey now has under development are not wanted by New York since New York's External Degree Program reflects only degrees which are currently offered by New York State institutions of higher learning.
5. Acceptance of degree requirements. Should both states be willing to accept and to hold to the degrees developed by joint faculty committees? Should there be no administrative changes or should changes by the administration be permitted?
6. Comparability of degrees. Should all independent study degrees offered jointly by both states be limited to degrees comparable to degrees awarded by any higher institutions in either state?

Mr. Pearson then said that reasons do exist for saying that Edison College did not live up to the interstate agreement by not developing new degree programs.

Dr. Brown then pointed out that Edison College proposed a Management Degree in December, 1972. The Regents External Degree Program objected to the degree program for several reasons: it did not entirely reflect what was being offered in New York colleges; there would be no norming population (Edison College investigated this objection with ETS and found that there would not be too much difficulty with the norming); the Regents External Degree Program saw no need for the degree; it had no money to allocate for development. Priorities in New Jersey are not the same as in New York. Edison College was unable to agree with the Regents External Degree Program about what would be the kind of degree programs that would be acceptable.

Mr. Pearson then said that it seemed that Edison College did not wish to follow the agreements made in New York.

Mr. McCarthy then pointed out that Edison College followed all the recommendations of the Associate in Arts Committee and the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Committee. These were taken from the minutes of the committees since the Regents did not have them stated in one document. The Regents External Degree Program would give out interpretations to rules without consultation, but Edison College followed these whenever they were received. He also pointed out that changes in fee structure were announced only in the document presented to the Carnegie Foundation.

Mrs. Spiegel then asked what would be the advantages of an interstate agreement.

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Dr. Brown stated that without the interstate cooperation there would be no testing program. This would not affect the Associate in Arts Degree or a contemplated Bachelor of Arts. It would affect the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Edison College would probably lose the Associate in Applied Science in Nursing Degree, if it hasn't been lost already. Edison College may lose its image if the agreement were severed. Budgetary problems would not exist as a result of the loss of examinations. Without the interstate cooperation, Edison College would be able to work with other states, work with ETS and also get back to the work at hand. The Edison College staff does want some agreement with the Regents External Degree Program but without losing Edison College autonomy. Dr. Brown also expressed the opinion that Edison College should be treated as a peer with other states; that there would be the possibility of being national. Edison College should be autonomous for the purpose of accreditation.

Ms. Titterington then stated that Edison College students are not concerned about an interstate agreement but about a degree program. Adults are different types of students. They want information now. They do not come to the College with total packages but come with interests and desires. Many students want a Bachelor of Arts or a Management Degree.

Mr. Pearson stated that in the long haul, Edison College is better off without an agreement with the Regents External Degree Program, but felt that the time was not right for a break. Edison College does not have the resources to go it alone.

Mr. Rivera then asked if our students would be allowed to take New York developed examinations if there were a break in the agreement. It was pointed out that they could take examinations but it may mean having to travel to New York State.

Dr. Fletcher then read a statement he had prepared. The major points were that the original principle is valid; that sharing part or all of new degree programs would be beneficial; that it would be a good point to share experiences and exchange ideas on Special Assessment; that Edison College should appoint a test developer; Edison College could encourage students to enroll in New York programs where applicable; that Edison College could advertise New York test centers; that Edison College could change its fee structure; that there should be meetings of the staffs of Edison College and the Regents External Degree Program as equal partners; that an interstate agreement could serve as a model of interstate cooperation. Dr. Fletcher also pointed out that a way to develop new ideas and the sharing of projects should be written into an agreement. He also pointed out that there should be a concise statement on the minimum agreement which would include: that the College should have access to Examinations (as hinted at in Mr. Hollander's letter);

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Mr. Pearson then asked if it might be good to have a cooling-off period. It was agreed that there should be one, but that one was actually in effect since as far as the Regents External Degree Program is concerned, there is no interstate agreement.

Dr. Brown stated that some kind of contingency plans should be in effect for February. Mr. McCarthy stated that a three-month cooling period could be possible for the sake of discussion. Ms. Titterington stated that we should all be aware that many students have been making plans for taking examinations and we should try to help them.

Dr. Ried then asked why we couldn't give the examinations in February. Dr. Brown pointed out that according to the Regents External Degree Program, they own the examinations. Even though the new Regents External Degree Examinations were developed with New Jersey money and faculty input, the examinations are copyrighted by the Regents External Degree Program.

Mrs. Spiegel then asked if Chancellor Dungan or Vice Chancellor Birnbaum have exerted any effort to help pressure the Regents External Degree Program to give us the use of the tests. Dr. Brown stated that if we were to exert any pressure, we would get no examinations. Dr. Brown also informed the Trustees that Dr. Nolan had written to the Middle States Association giving a one-sided story about the break. Middle States has given the impression that they feel it would be better for Edison College to go it alone.

Dr. Kavesh stated that he agreed with Mr. Pearson about working out some type of agreement with the Regents External Degree Program. He is against a formal break at this time.

Dr. Ried stated that she had mixed feelings concerning a break in the relationship. Her primary concern was the position in which it placed the students.

Mr. Vogel stated that he agreed with Dr. Kavesh about a gradual break. Dr. Brown pointed out that Edison College could mount a testing program by May. He also raised a point that these examinations would not be normed. Mr. Vogel then asked how was Special Assessment different in the two programs and why was Edison College wrong.

Mr. Pearson observed that the faculty around the State of New York had faith in what their State Education Department was doing. They are unaware of what is being followed outside the state.

Dr. Brown observed that the Regents External Degree Program is the Regents. The degrees and procedures are imposed upon the state by the overall authority of the Regents. He pointed out that the Director of the Regents External Degree Program, Dr. Nolan, is also the head of the State Education Department's office which has to deal with new academic programs throughout the state.

MOTION ON NY-NJ MEETING: Mr. Pearson then made the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Chairman and the Vice Chairman be authorized to initiate negotiations with Mr. Hollander, using the proposal of Dr. Fletcher as a basis for discussion; and that the Chairman and Vice Chairman report back to the Trustees on whether a new agreement with the Regents External Degree Program is possible and what its terms would be.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Ried and Mr. Rivera.

Dr. Ried asked if someone from Edison College should be present to assist in the discussions with Mr. Hollander. Mr. Pearson felt that the feelings between Dr. Brown and Dr. Nolan are such that it would not be conducive to the success of the meeting to have anyone from Edison College present. Mr. Thiesmeyer stated that he wanted the discussion at the highest level only. Mr. Rivera stated that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should present a stronger position and that the College should not negotiate out of weakness.

Dr. Brown observed that the situation in New York is very political. Mr. Hollander's letters are more conciliatory in nature. Dr. Nolan seems to want no agreement. He also stated that there would be no need for Edison College staff to be present if no one from the Regents External Degree Program is present.

After this discussion, the motion was called. The motion carried by a vote of 7-1.

Mrs. Spiegel then asked if Mr. Hollander might refuse to meet with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr. Pearson said that he would agree to meet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
CALLED:

Mr. Thiesmeyer then observed that it was 12:05 p.m. He suggested a five-minute break and then the Trustees would go into an executive session with the President and the staff of Edison College not present. The executive session ended at 12:40 p.m.

The Trustees reconvened at 1:50 p.m. All those present for the morning session were present except for Dr. Kavesh and Mr. Rivera.

DISCUSSION OF
ACADEMIC COUNCIL:

Mr. Thiesmeyer recognized Dr. Fletcher. Dr. Fletcher then made a presentation on Special Assessment and the Academic Council. (The term Academic Policy Committee had been used in working papers and is not the name approved by the Board of Trustees. Hereafter, the term Academic Council will be used.) All members received copies of the Special Assessment documents and the list of suggested members of the Academic Council. He pointed out that there were some changes in the structure of the Council as approved at the

September Board meeting but that the changes were in agreement with the overall philosophy of the Board. Dr. Fletcher recommended that the structure be approved and that the members listed be approved. Not all the people listed had been contacted but if changes would occur, these would be brought to the Board at the December meeting. The President should be given authority to substitute people when necessary.

Most of the faculty are teaching faculty and are respected in their disciplines.

Dr. Ried asked what their role would be; if it would be to identify suggested programs, or to resolve questions? Dr. Fletcher stated that the role would be to advise and recommend policy questions, students, new programs and implementation of existing programs. Mr. Thiesmeyer asked if this were a change in the role; Dr. Fletcher said no. He pointed out that there was a redefinition of structure of the Council, with an added section dealing with libraries and learning resource centers but that the role remained unchanged.

Dr. Engeman explained about the exchange of learning resource materials which developed out of CHEN which had been funded by the Department of Higher Education and the member colleges. (CHEN is the Commission on Higher Education-Newark.)

Mrs. Spiegel stated that the members of the Academic Council need to have a commitment to Edison College but also a commitment to help out minority groups such as Blacks, Spanish speaking, women, etc.

Dr. Fletcher pointed out that the Council is as representative of the minorities as possible but that there are places on the subcommittees for additional minority representatives. He also expressed the hope that members of subcommittees would be able to move up to the Council as vacancies occur.

Mr. Thiesmeyer stated that he agreed with Mrs. Spiegel about having a greater representation of minorities on the Council. Mr. Pearson expressed the need to add more representatives of non-conventional educational institutions to the Council. He suggested the addition of alumni and students. Mr. Thiesmeyer pointed out that this was ruled out in the original proposal passed by the Trustees in September.

Dr. Brown observed that this group is to be advisory, not another Board of Trustees.

Mr. Pearson observed that at John Jay, students were now on all committees. Dr. Fletcher agreed with the idea of student involvement. He also stated that some places have public-oriented advisory committees but he expressed some concern about the possibility of watering down the main Academic Council by broadening it too much.

Mr. Sweeney observed that the faculty could come from educational institutions other than colleges. This would not be a watering down of the committee.

Mrs. Spiegel observed that education is not the province of formal educational systems, and that we all should remember that many people outside formal education can present an educational expertise.

Ms. Titterington stated that there should be some input of the students' needs. The Academic Council is the final group but the subcommittees will be doing the major portion of work and it is on this level that the impact of minority representation would be best felt.

Mr. Pearson asked if it would be possible to broaden the group so that 12 come from traditional colleges and 6 from non-traditional educational institutions.

Dr. Brown observed that with reference to the interstate agreement with New York as discussed during the morning session, the Board may run into the problem of respectability of the Council if we have too many non-academic personnel. He also pointed out that several people on the list of suggested members actually play dual roles: Mr. Peter Helff works with New Jersey Public Broadcasting in addition to Bergen Community College, Mr. Robert Leonard works with Community Services in addition to Brookdale Community College, Mr. Raymond Male works with Civil Service Institutes in addition to Rider College, Mr. Daumants Hazners is a member of the President's Commission on Traffic Safety in addition to Mercer County College.

Mr. Thiesmeyer observed that the use of subcommittees will be beneficial since the members of the subcommittee may have specialized expertise but not have enough overall expertise to formulate college-wide programs and policy.

Dr. Brown pointed out that there is a need for academic representation to ensure the acceptance of academic programs.

Mr. Thiesmeyer then restated the questions: Should the Academic Council be more representative of minorities? and Should it be more representative of other educational institutions?

Dr. Ried reaffirmed the idea of using subcommittees for a wider representation of minorities.

Mr. Vogel pointed out that only two of the 19 suggested members of the Academic Council came from non-traditional educational areas.

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Mr. Sweeney asked who would appoint the members of the sub-committees. Dr. Brown said that the Trustees would appoint the additional committee members. Mr. Sweeney also asked if the terms of service on the committee were set. Dr. Brown said that they were.

Mr. Thiesmeyer then posed the question: Should it be the Council itself that appoints the subcommittees or should it be the Board of Trustees at the recommendation of the Edison College staff? Dr. Fletcher said that he felt the Academic Council should develop its own bylaws subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Sweeney asked if the committee members are considered employees. Dr. Brown pointed out that they would be consultants and would be paid honoraria for their services. He also pointed out that New York paid its consultants \$125 per day. Edison College has been paying \$100 per day but would like to set a figure of \$50 per day as the honorarium for the Academic Council. The Edison College staff and the Council members would hopefully have inputs to the College other than the academic inputs of the traditional colleges.

MOTION ON
ACADEMIC
COUNCIL:

Mr. Vogel then made the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the structure of the Academic Council and the proposed membership as described in the proposal of Dr. Fletcher with the exception that the Board of Trustees would urge the increase of representatives from minority groups (e.g., Blacks, women and other minorities) and representatives from non-traditional educational institutions, and be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees delegates to the President the authority to approve substitutions and terms of office where necessary.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Sweeney. Mr. Thiesmeyer called the motion; it was passed unanimously.

Mr. Thiesmeyer then called upon Dr. Fletcher to present the Special Assessment (Individual) materials. These were distributed to the Trustees and commented upon by Dr. Fletcher.

NEW DEGREE
PROPOSALS:

Mr. Thiesmeyer then called upon Mr. Smith to present the new degree proposals which have been submitted to the Department of Higher Education. Copies of these proposals were distributed to the Trustees. Mr. Smith gave the rationale for the degrees and discussed the cooperation of other state agencies in the development of the degrees. The Bachelor of Arts is the primary goal. This degree could make use of CLEP examinations, GRE (Graduate Record Examinations), Special Assessment. The Associate in Applied Science in Radiologic Technology has been suggested since there are a large number of technicians in this area without degrees and the degree is now being listed as a prerequisite for advancement. The enrollment in this degree

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would be kept to those individuals who are already licensed by the state. The Associate in Applied Science in Management Degree is closely attuned to in-house educational programs. Evaluations would take place after the in-house training by Edison College. There would be a General Business component and a General Education component, as well as the specialized management component.

Dr. Brown pointed out that the Management Degree would require testing and test development. There would be a pilot project for the degree program.

Mr. Thiesmeyer questioned the role of the Board of Higher Education in approval of degree programs. Dr. Brown pointed out that after the Trustees approve a new degree program, the Board of Higher Education must give its approval. He also pointed out that the two proposed associate level degree programs are specific degree programs. The Bachelor of Arts degree is a more varied degree program. It can make use of different types of evaluation, the GRE Advanced Examinations, the Undergraduate Program (UP) subject examinations developed by ETS, as well as Special Assessment.

Dr. Brown also pointed out that the College must follow the same procedure for degree approval set up by the Department of Higher Education as the other colleges must follow.

It was the consensus of the Trustees to present that these were three good areas of degree development for the College to proceed in.

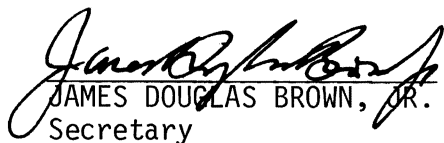
MEETING
ADJOURNED:

Mr. Sweeney moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Spiegel. Mr. Thiesmeyer adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be the regularly scheduled December meeting, December 12, 1973, at Western Electric, Hopewell, New Jersey.

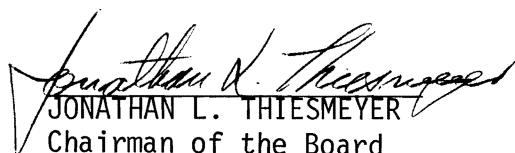
Attachment

Submitted by:


JAMES DOUGLAS BROWN, JR.
Secretary

December 12, 1973
Date

Approved by:


JONATHAN L. THIESMEYER
Chairman of the Board

December 12, 1973
Date