

NOTES ON NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS

172ND SESSION -- 1949

This document represents the 45th annual report of the State Education Department for the school year ending June 30, 1948. The central theme of the document is the creation of a State University of New York .

- On page 11 it is noted that the Regents “are in hearty accord with the recommendations of the Temporary Commission’s report of February 16, 1948. The details of that report are provided on pages 28 to 32 of this report.
- It is also noted that the State University legislation was adopted following the report of the Commission. It also notes that in setting up a State University, it provides for “a **temporary** Board of Trustees to plan expansion of higher education in the State.” It also notes that “the law also provided that the temporary Board of Trustees rather than the State Board of Regents should on April 1, 1949, assume direct administrative control of both the existing and future units of the State University. Despite certain misgivings as to the workability of the administrative arrangement thus created, the Department nevertheless began to prepare for operations under the new laws.”
- What is obviously referred to is not a temporary Board of Trustees but a Board of Trustees which for five years is given limited powers, essentially to plan the future of SUNY. It also notes “that although the State University of New York was established as a corporation in 1948, the oldest of the state colleges which compose the University dates back 104 years for its founding.”
- It also makes note of opportunities for returning veterans under the GI Bill. It notes the following “the Associated Colleges of Upper New York constitutes an example of how the State moved promptly to provide adequate college facilities for veterans. These colleges, collectively called ACUNY, were located at Plattsburg, Sampson and Utica, with an extension center at Middletown. They enrolled 8,256 students during 1947-48, almost all veterans. During their brief lives, the three colleges have provided instruction in the first two college years for more than

12,000 individuals. General approval from colleges and universities throughout the country has been given to the soundness of the ACUNY educational program. Students who completed the two years with a grade of C or above found they could transfer without difficulty to a college of their choice for a continuation of their education.” It also notes that veteran enrollments having hit a peak during the year are beginning to decrease sharply as a result of the Trustees of ACUNY deciding to close one of the units, Mohawk College at Utica as of July 15, 1948. In addition, it has subsequently be decided to close Sampson College at the end of the college year 1949, but to continue Champlain College of Plattsburg at least until June 30, 1950.