

Study on State University of New York at Stony Brook

Questions

Legislative debate and legislation that created State University of New York at Stony Brook.

What were the circumstances and who was responsible for the different reports about the future of the University that were sponsored:

- Young Commission - 1946-48
- Blegen Commission
- Heald Commission - 1960
- Report of the Independent Commission on the Future of the State University (Davidson-Enarson Report) - 1984-

To whom were reports ultimately delivered?

What information do we have as to the steps that were taken to initiate the hiring of appropriate people for the new University? For example, how did Olsen get hired, by whom? What relationship did that decision have to actions that had been undertaken in the Legislature, the Board of Trustees, Central Administration and the State Education Department?

What is the difference in the dates of the State's action to create the college and the Blegen and Heald Commission Reports which came later; how much later? During this earlier period, was there any response from the Governor or anyone in his office?

Hiring of Lee

When Lee was finally hired, the Heald Commission Report had already been published. What was the time differentiation between Lee's taking office and the Heald Commission Report?

Was there any interest at that point from State Education Department, the Governor's office or from people in Central Administration?

Why was there resistance to Lee's restructuring the organization of the college both at the University and in Central Administration?

Were there efforts being made to limit the mandate of the University essentially to a teachers' college by persons in the Central Administration; or to keep it as a special kind of undergraduate college?

What was the date of the visit of Commission of Education James Allen to Oyster Bay?

When did Lee invite him and what was the content of the meeting and the upshot?

Was the Governor's office at that time aware of or involved in any of these discussions?

Why did James Allen support Lee's insistence to use his good offices to advance the University's efforts to fulfill the mandate of the Heald Commission?

What was the relation between the Allen meeting and the concern about Lee's continuation as President in Central Administration?

Was the Governor's office aware of or involved in any of these movements on the part of Central Administration at the time?

Why was Hamilton led to force the resignation of Lee?

Could we get more information about the background of the following people during this period, their educational and administrative background:

- Olsen
- Hamilton
- Lee
- Key Persons in Central Administration
- Members of the Board of Trustees

Lee's refusal to resign led to his sudden ouster. At this point considerable publicity was generated locally and nationally. At what point did the Governor's office become aware of and concerned about these events?

What did Hamilton and Porter anticipate when they came to the campus after Lee's firing?

Was it the Governor who insisted that Hamilton, in effect, become the *de facto* head of the campus, with Porter assigned to the campus for administrative purposes? Apparently, both men were unprepared for what had happened and why.

What did they anticipate as a result of Lee's firing?

What role did the press play in bringing the Governor into the picture as actively involved and interested in the new University?

Ward Melville

In addition to his own financial interests, at what point did Strathmore become a reality; before or after the designation of Stony Brook as the location of the University?

Was Melville's interest in any way tied to the interest of those in Albany to limit the mandate of the University and to focus on its being essentially an undergraduate college

Additional Questions

Under what conditions was Hamilton removed as head of SUNY?

What subsequent changes were made in the organization and composition of both Central Administration and the Board of Trustees?

What role did the State Education Department and James Allen play?

What was the Governor's involvement in these matters?