

## NOTES WITH RESPECT TO INTERVIEW WITH STEVENS

- Expresses consternation of “how the hell Stony Brook ever got finally on its feet because there were all kinds of roadblocks put in the way.”
- It appears Olsen’s appointment to the campus came about as a chance development on a recommendation by Stevens to Carlson.
- The connection with Melville was through Bayles Minuse and in Albany through John Slocum.
- The offer of land made by Melville was, for tax purposes, given to State University in annual 60-acre parcels. One year a double parcel was provided “but that was unusual.” Construction and campus development had to take account of those parcels which were in control of the State and those which were not, at any given time.
- It was Melville’s idea “there you were going to build a sleepy little Ivy League college....to go along with the Stony Brook Village restoration.”
- It is Stevens belief that the planning of Stony Brook as a University Center may have been in the Master Plan of 1958 (where is it?) rather than later with the Heald Commission Report of 1960. In fact, Stevens speaks of the “decentralized” plan were State University of New York “entertained five University Centers at the very beginning,” the fifth Center being Oswego. One of the areas was “the Buffalo area,” before the matter of a merger with the University at Buffalo had come up. Oswego was dropped because of the lack of enrollment potential.
- The original Master Plan architects who assisted in the entire Master Plan were Moore and Hutchins. They had the planning for Binghamton-Harpur College and they assisted in formulation of the Master Plan project for Stony Brook. According to Stevens it called for “the central core of the Library and Humanities and Student Activities, Administration, we had the housing that was down by Nicolls Road out in that particular direction and ringing the campus; we had a Social Science coming out from the Humanities wing that became where the Lecture Hall Center is and that particular aspects of the Social Sciences. We had a Science wing coming out from the Library to another direction, and then we had an Engineering wing and then we had play fields and physical education.” This was “long before we had the Construction Fund involved in the act.” (**Question:** this would appear to be much more in harmony with a plan for a collegiate structure rather than a University. Was this essentially to be another college as Harpur had been planned?)

- Stevens also reports that “people decided we weren’t going fast enough” in building the campus. There appears to be someone by the name of Brill (he may have been Chairman of the Thruway Authority) who in turn was associated with Voorhees, Walker, Smith, etc. Apparently also Teegen had been associated with Voorhees. They violated AIA principles, and they ended up being censured.
- Melville’s concerns about the matter of buildings “loused up the act.”
- Stevens refers to the moratorium on the expansion of State University set by Harriman. In fact, there was concern that Rockefeller might support legislation that would enhance private universities and colleges in order to meet this particular demand, rather than see to it that State University was built.
- It is Stevens’ conviction that what turned Rockefeller around was Frank Moore, who was already working for the Rockefeller Foundation and good friend of Rockefeller’s. In fact, it was Moore who was one of the “first influential ones to get Rockefeller to run for Governor.” Stevens helped put together a document with others that indicated that the expansion for State University required “about a billion dollars.” Later John Mitchell was crucial in establishing the principle of “the moral obligation bonds” to support the building of State University. Once Rockefeller made the decision to move ahead, Moore’s pressure, key people assisting in the Governor’s Office was Frank Willy, Ronan and George Dudley.
- Stevens speaks of working with Herb Gordon, Bayles Minuse in gaining additional land east of Nicolls Road for the Health Sciences Center.
- The law that created the State University Construction Fund came into being in April of 1962.
- “Melville, everyone thought he was a great philanthropist, you see, in this property, but actually the property was given to the State in sections, in parcels of 60 acres, and it only could be 60 acres per year because he was writing this off as he was going on. And this was an agreement that had been made that I found about it after I found out that we had to restrict what we were doing so that it would fit within the 60, or else we had to make the description of the property such a strange thing in order to encompass because we had to own, once we let out a building for contract we had to own the land, you see, it had to be transferred to us, so that some of these things got pushed up a little bit too close because of that original 60 acres that was carved out in the center of the great big site that we were doing, so it was a strange way to go about doing things. For building a new campus, I think we should have done a lot better than we did, and I think we would have had we kept on our original tack.”

- Pellegrino had nothing to do with the determination of the architect or architecture for the Health Sciences. “He came after the fact.”
- “On the Medical Center ... we programmed things in such a way that we wanted to get started with a basic science facilities, and we thought that the Master Plan for the Medical Center should go on a building by building, unit by unit connected complex in which you had an opportunity to build, to construct a building and occupy it as you went on and built the rest of the Medical Center based on an overall campus plan.” He indicates that they end up with Goldberg as the architect because he “sold himself to the Construction Fund” and that Stevens and Gassman were opposed to the megastructure because “you couldn’t really occupy a building until you occupied everything, except for the Hospital.”