

NOTES ON REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

February 16, 1948

- The Act creating the Commission by the Legislature upon the recommendation of Governor Dewey was in 1946, Chapter 353. “It shall be the duty of the Commission to examine into the need for a State University, including professional graduate schools, to be established in the State to make appropriate recommendations with regard thereto.”
- In its “General Conclusions” the report cites the increasing demand for higher education and the overall inadequacy of the private sector to provide for this projected increase. In addition, it expresses concern that there would continue to be a difficulty based on past experience when “a substantial proportion of the youth of this State was denied the opportunities for higher education by economic and other barriers, including discrimination on account of race, creed, color or national origin.” It cites “the necessarily high tuition fees of the private colleges and universities to keep many students from enrolling.” It also notes that “some members of New York’s large minority groups have had difficulty in securing access to educational facilities on an equal basis with other students. This is true not only on the college level but on the professional and graduate school levels as well. This discrimination is repellent to the American spirit and must be eliminated.” And more clearly, on the basis of student demand, the pressures now felt would grow rather than diminish.
- Among the 13 recommendations made, the key ones were as follows:
 - “Immediate establishment of State University as a corporate entity.”
 - “Appointment by the Governor for initial development of the State University of a temporary Board of Trustees for a six-year term and operating under the general supervision of the Board of Regents.” It is also suggested before the end of this period recommendations would be made for the permanent operation and governance of the University “within the higher educational system of the State as established under the Board of Regents.” “The State University should place prime emphasis upon the development of widely distributed and greatly expanded facilities throughout the State and may include as a part of the distributed facilities **on a single campus a university program comprising undergraduate, graduate and professional work either by taking over an existing institution or by building a new one.**”
 - In conjunction with the private and local public institutions, the University will provide for adequate programs supplementing needs that are not being met.

- Formulation for the sharing of costs between the community and state in the establishment of community colleges.
- Establishment of expanded scholarship programs “for both general education and graduate and professional work.”
- In the details of the report, for the first time the language of decentralization appears in the following terms: “the prime effort in the development of the State University should be to provide decentralized facilities for higher education. The purpose of the University is to supplement and strengthen the work of existing institutions.” (A 1b, page 20)
- However, immediately after this assertion the following appears “it may prove to be advisable to include within the State University an institution located on a single campus and comprising within itself a program of undergraduate, graduate and professional work.” (A 1c, page 20)
- Also important to note “this Board (of Trustees) should be given major responsibility, under the general supervision of the Board of Regents, for the initiation, planning, supervision, and coordination of the programs of the State University, and for such negotiations as may be required in connection with the transfer of any private institutions to the State.”
- Attention is paid to the need for four-year institutions, medical centers, dental personnel, nursing, veterinarians, psychiatrists, public health and various practitioners in the health professions.
- Attention is paid as well to programs of graduate and professional study and research. It is noted “that facilities for research and education of research personnel are among the great needs of the country. The State of New York should insure itself against possible lack of specialized personnel and against deterioration in research.” (A 7c, page 24)
- It also indicates under what conditions the State “should establish and maintain one or more appropriate graduate or professional schools.” One is where existing programs are not adequate and cannot be expected to become adequate to supply the number of persons needed by the State in a given graduate or professional field. Such need is not necessarily associated with student demand. And secondly is when the State “does not have adequate facilities and institutions which can maintain **top flight standards** in any given field of research and professional study.” (A 7d, (2), page 25)

- Master Plan is proposed to be developed by the State University Board of Trustees and after approval by the Regents and the Governor “shall serve as a long-range guide to the localities and the State in establishing and developing community colleges.”
- The State Legislature and the State University, the bills in the Legislature were approved and the State Education Law was amended by Chapter 698 with the appropriate sections under Article 89, paragraph 352, “State University of New York established. 1. There is hereby in the state education department within the higher educational system of the state as established under the board of regents a corporation to be known as the state university of New York which shall be responsible for the planning, supervision and administration of facilities, and provisions for higher education supported in whole or in part with state moneys in accordance with the provisions of section three hundred fifty-eight hereof, and to perform such other duties as may be entrusted to it by law. Such corporation is hereby authorized to take, hold and administer real and personal property, and the income thereof, absolutely or in trust for any educational or other corporate purpose within the jurisdiction of the university.” It should be noted that in the original Commission Report (cf. page 21) the language is less explicit in terms of the authority of the University. In the Law “supervision and administration” emphasizes a larger role and more responsible one than the Commission where “initiation, planning and supervision and coordination of programs” is noted. The term “administration” gives clear authority in the Law which it does not in the Commission.
- This is also to be noted in the powers and duties of the Trustees, Paragraph 355, 1 a and b, where “the over-all central **administration, supervision and coordination of State-operated institutions in the State University** including contract colleges” is a major responsibility of the Trustees.
- It is also noted in Paragraph 354 3 that powers of the Trustees would include “formulate plans and make recommendations for the establishment of such four-year liberal arts colleges, professional graduate schools, research centers or other facilities, **including an integrated university located on a single campus as the Trustees in their discretion may deem appropriate or advisable.**”
- Also in 1948 Chapter 753 represents “an act to amend the Education Law, in relation to complaints against educational institutions for alleged discrimination in the admission of applicants. In this amended policy is made explicit for the maintenance of equality of opportunity for all students “without regard to race, color, religion, creed or national origin.” Also it shall be an unfair educational practice for an educational institution after September 15, 1948, “to any way discriminate on any

grounds. Provision is made whereby the Commissioner of Education has the power to review, investigate and take appropriate action if such violations occur.” This act took effect July 1, 1948.

- It is of interest to note that the two elements side by side that are dealt with legislatively, the creation of the State University and deny discrimination policies and principles in educational institutions.
- In the amendment to the Education Law Chapter 698, Paragraph 354, 2, 1948, it is noted that one medical center shall be” in or close to the metropolitan New York City area and the other at least 100 miles from the metropolitan area.”