

NOTES ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORTS OF 1949-53

REPORT OF 1949

This represents the second year of the existence of the Trustees and appears to be the first complete year of activity of the Board. Of thirty-three institutions now, for the first time, act as “coordinate arms of a unified system of state supported higher education.” These represent the State University of New York, including under it thirty-three institutions are 11 teachers colleges, 6 ag and techs, 5 community colleges, 1 maritime center, 1 college of ceramics (Alfred), 4 contract colleges (Cornell), 1 college of forestry (Syracuse), 2 associated colleges and 2 medical centers that will be incorporated during the year.

- Alvin C. Eurich is appointed as first President of the University effective January 1, 1949. Executive Deans are created, one for institutes and community colleges (Lawrence L. Jarvie), another Executive Dean for teacher education (Hermann Cooper). Jarvie and Cooper were previously Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner respectively in the State Department of Education. Charles Foster is appointed as Business Assistant to the President, who has moved over from the Office of State Budget Director. Additional positions are indicated to be filled in 1950 include Executive Deanships for four-year colleges and for medical education. Lester J. Evans from the Commonwealth Fund joins the staff for a six-month period as consultant in medical education.
- Major attention is given to the “establishment of uniform budget procedures, consideration of construction priorities, consideration of unified public relations policy and of uniform publications, consideration of overall University policies with respect to personnel administration, dormitories, fraternities, religious services.”
- It is recognized that given the diverse institutions and their respective historical and administrative careers that “no standard pattern” has been developed with respect to their different governing bodies. President James A. McCain of Montana State University is appointed as a consultant to survey the administrative organization of the University.
- Considerable time appears to have been devoted “on the preparation of uniform accounting and budgetary procedures. The 1950-51 State University budget submitted to the Board of Trustees in November constitutes the first overall uniform budget for higher education in the history of the State.”

- A committee on medical education centers is formed to “formulate plans and make recommendations for the establishment of two health and medical centers as part of the State University.” “The law provides that one center shall be in or close to the metropolitan New York City area and the other at least 100 miles from the metropolitan area.” (The law is an amendment to the State Education Law of 1948, Chapter 698, Paragraph 354, 2).
- This represents an important geographic and political issue which will keep on repeating itself throughout the development of State University of New York and also apparently associated with the concept of “decentralization.”
- On January 15, 1949, the Committee “voted to recommend the absorption of the Long Island College of Medicine and the College of Medicine of Syracuse University into the State University as the nuclei of the two medical centers. The following day the Trustees accepted the Committee’s recommendation.” It is also noted that as of December 31, 1949, “it appears that both schools will formally join the State University by the end of June 1950.”
- In planning for facilities two general categories are established: State aided or community colleges, which are to be locally administered “are to receive some state financial assistance for both capital and operating expenses but which are not to be administrative units of the University; and state-supported colleges which are to be administered through Boards appointed by the Governor, to be supported wholly by the State and which are to be constituent units of the University.” It is also proposed that “in the interest of orderly planning and to prevent establishment of overlap facilities, the Law provides that all state-aided institutions must be established in conformity to a Master Plan being formulated by State University Trustees. **No such requirement is provided by law with respect to any state-operated institutions which the Trustees may establish.** However, it is noted that the Trustees will evolve and complete for adoption in early 1950 a Master Plan in order to “approve the establishment of both state-aided and state-supported facilities in conformity with the Plan.”
- Representatives of the Binghamton-Endicott-Johnson City area “have proposed the establishment of a state-operated liberal arts college in that area.”
- “The Trustees have set 1954 as the target date for the completion of all major planning on the initial facilities of the University’s development.”
- The Trustees recognize that “as the last major State University to be established in this country, State University of New York has at once the opportunity and responsibility

for pioneering in the field of higher education.” As such it sees a State University in the middle of the twentieth century “as unique as that occupied by the land-grant colleges in the middle of the nineteenth century. It is the last of the state universities **to be established and the first university to be established on a decentralized basis.**” This appears to be the first serious use of the term “decentralized” and it is hard to understand what it might mean, especially given the type and variety of institutions under state support in other states with the number of institutions they represent as in California, Texas, Michigan and Illinois.

- The Trustees see patterns emerging as genuine educational challenges: such as integration of vocational and liberal arts curriculums in a single university program, the development of “new horizons for the inspiration of democratic traditions, to discover new patterns of family living.” In addition it recognizes “broad uncharted areas in the fields of technological education, in the organization of careers for women, in the training of specialists in such long neglected fields as small business, governmental administration, international relations.”
- Trustees are concerned that “continued lack of general education facilities would also work a serious hardship on the specialized colleges within universities. **Conclusion of the Trustees Committee on Medical Education in its report of June 15, 1949, that ‘it is preferable to establish a medical school in connection with a (liberal arts) college or university’ applies equally to the other specialized programs.**”
- It is recognized that 97,000 additional two-year enrollments would have to be achieved in New York State by 1967 to attain a program comparable to that of California 25 years earlier. “Also that 122,000 additional full-time enrollments would have to be achieved in New York State by 1966 to attain a program comparable to that of the Ithaca area 25 years earlier. In these calculations the present Veterans enrollment was disregarded.” The Trustees recognized that in the formulation of initial Plan still almost 3/4 or 71% of the State’s youth from 18 through 21 have not be provided for. Therefore, the Trustees conclude that the standards that they have used “while realistic are certainly conservative.” It also recognizes that in spite of New York being one of the wealthiest states “for many years New York State has been at or near the bottom of the list of states in its per capital expenditure for higher education.
- “In expansion of educational opportunity, a central issue is concerned with health service personnel: nurses, social workers, dentists and public health officials, as well as physicians.”
- The Trustees have placed the development of the medical centers and the basic undergraduate program to the top of their priority planning list.”

- It also recognizes that 1950 will be a crucial year and the Trustees recommendations are twofold: “first, that certain minor amendments and additions to the University Law be enacted; and second, that adequate capital funds be provided to enable the program to proceed without delay.”

REPORT OF 1950

- In Central Administration Charles Foster takes on additional duties as Academic Assistant to the President, together with his assignment as Business Assistant to the President. Jarvie is assigned the additional responsibility as Academic Dean for four-year colleges, and Carlyle Jacobsen is appointed Executive Dean for medical Education.
- There is some concern expressed that the Korean War has affected continuation of increasing enrollments. The Board sees that there is much “concern about the future of higher education.”...No social institution, therefore, has a greater stake in the outcome of the present world conflict than the colleges and universities.” It sees the world struggle with communism as forcing upon us the recognition for increased trained manpower and high rates of production requiring “the ingenuity of trained scientists and technical workers in all fields.”
- “On February 7, 1950, the Trustees formally adopted the first Master Plan for higher education in the history of the State.” Based upon this report, the Trustees voted to establish the first two liberal arts colleges operated by the State of New York, one in Plattsburgh (Champlain College) and the other in Endicott (Harpur College). In the establishment of these two liberal arts colleges, the Trustees note that “fears were voiced from many quarters that such institutions were unnecessary and would jeopardize the successful operation of many privately supported institutions throughout the State.”
- Also there are noted “expected additions to the medical centers.” “Colleges of dentistry and nursing are planned for both centers as soon as physical space permits.”
- Also the first two community colleges are established in the State -- Orange County Community College and Jamestown Community College.
- During the year the “Trustees accepted a proposal of the Bureau of Inter-Cultural Education of New York City to establish an experimental program in inter-cultural education on a single campus.” The first Director of the Center for Community Studies is W. E. Vickery, a research associate in inter-cultural education to the University of Chicago. The pilot program was established at the State University College for Teachers in Albany “with a view to future expansion at other University units.”
- There is recognition of the “need to enrich the programs at all University units in the field of general education.” Committees of faculty at all units have been asked to

prepare recommendations on this and the effort to improve the general education content of the University programs “has been under the general guidance of President Emeritus Edmund E. Day of Cornell University, who is serving as a consultant on general education.”

- Other areas involving consultants hired by State University were home economics, the arts and audio visual aids, and adult education.
- “Under the chairmanship of Dean Maynard Hines of the Indiana University School of Dentistry, a special advisory committee is preparing recommendations with respect to the development of dentistry programs for the two centers.” “A similar group under the aegis of Miss Lucile Petry of the United States Surgeon General’s Office “has undertaken the preparation of a report dealing with nursing education.”
- Note is also made of the State University Symposium held in Buffalo on January 27-28, 1950, proceedings of which are published under “The Functions of a Modern University.”

NOTES ON 1952

- Alvin Eurich resigns December 31, 1951. Charles Garside serves as Acting President January 1 to March 31, 1952, and William S. Carlson becomes President April 1, 1952. Also effective January 15, John H. Slocum is appointed Secretary, Board of Trustees; it appears Reuben Frodin as Academic Dean for four-year and professional colleges had been appointed in 1951.
- A major concern appears to be the issue of integrating the various units “into an effectively functioning whole”. It is maintained that “without the guidance of a University organization, the potential of a group of colleges may will be frustrated by duplication of effort, misplaced emphasis, and wasteful competition. ...A group of semi-autonomous colleges operating under the general surveillance of a supervisory body does not make a university. ...A university with only general supervisory authority over its constituent colleges is a university in name only, responsibility for determining policy is not enough; there must also be the means for executing and enforcing those policies. If not, the university becomes, in reality, merely an advisory agency, values to be gained through university organization are lost. This does not mean that to be effective a university must assume and exercise all administrative duties itself and deny them to its colleges.” This raises very fundamental questions about the meaning of the term “university” and whether State University of New York believes itself as central administration to be that body. It appears to be the case since it notes the following: “a great step towards the achievement of an integrated University was achieved early in December upon the announcement of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools that State University had been created as a single institution.
- In March 1952 the United States Department of Air Force note that defense needs of the nation required establishment of an air base in the northeast and the site then considered would include the site of Champlain College in Plattsburgh. Notwithstanding resistance to this, Congress appropriates the resources for construction of the air base and Champlain College completes its operation in the academic year 1952-53.
- In the meantime land is secured -- which is to ultimately be the base for the current campus at Binghamton -- for the further development and expansion of Harpur College. This remains now the only liberal arts college in the State.

- During 1951 State University of New York sponsored the establishment of a non-profit corporation, the Research Foundation of the State of New York, “empowered to encourage, receive and administer gifts, grants and bequests made to the faculty or for the benefit of the University.

NOTES ON 1953

- Chairman of the Board Oliver C. Carmichael resigns September 1, 1953, to become President of the University of Alabama.
- It is noted that the value of State University with its diverse institutions would be in “making opportunities for higher education available to all areas of the State through **decentralization** of facilities.”
- In 1953 public hearings are held for two proposed State University colleges of dentistry with representatives of private dental colleges “arguing against the need for additional facilities.” The Committee on Medical Education recommends that the Trustees “deferred for the present a definitive decision on the establishment of any new college of dentistry.”
- “While the shortage of nurses is evident, there is not a shortage of educational opportunity for prospective nurses in hospitals and colleges facilities. The Committee on Medical Education is seeking a new approach to nursing education.”
- “The Trustees reaffirm that the admission of students to the study of medicine at the two State University colleges of medicine has been and will continue to be made without discrimination as to race, color, religion, creed or national origin. The same policy, of course, applies to all the constituent units.”
- “The State University has for a number of years supported a small program in public administration in Albany.”