

# ANNUAL NOTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 1958-1961

## Notes on 1958

- In the Annual Report of 1958 it is noted that Hamilton is to be made President effective August 1, 1959, and Slocum had become Vice President for Administration April 1, 1958. Jerome Kovalcik, the public relations officer, is terminated on December 17, 1958. We learn from other sources that apparently this was tied to the Carlson firing related to the Blegen Report and its publication.
- It is also to be noted that the College on Long Island in the listing of institutions, it is not a liberal arts college as is Harpur, nor a college of education. Instead it is listed under "Other Professional Colleges," including the contract colleges of Cornell, Maritime college and forestry.
- The Report notes that "New York is now at a crossroads in its public higher education." It recognizes that the gap is growing wider between availability of education at the public and private level and the number of college-going young people. It notes also that in the same three year period, the private colleges and universities show no substantial increase in full-time enrollment, whereas there is a 10% increase in State University from 25% "in the last three years."
- In Rockefeller's first annual message to the Legislature, he urges that "all of our State's higher education resources be mobilized and expanded to take care of a near-doubling of enrollment in the next decade."
- Considerable discussion and thought is given to the need for substantial funding through bond issues to help finance construction of State University of New York units. In November 1957 "by more than a million vote majority, citizens gave overwhelming approval to the bond issue (\$250 million) and enthusiastically support to expansion of the State University."
- It is noted that in the 1958-59 academic year, 35% of the students at the various State University of New York colleges were being housed in new residence halls erected under Dormitory Authority. It recognizes that the arrangement with the Authority that at the end of the loan period "the dorms become the property of the State."
- In the 1958 Annual Report an entire separate section for the first time is devoted to "the College on Long Island." Their central concern is the expressed need to develop an engineering curriculum "with primary emphasis on the basic sciences and

mathematics and with substantial education in the social sciences, humanities and arts and communication.” Various consultants are acceded to and in particular the officials of General Electric Company who volunteered their services and submitted to State University “a proposed curriculum which together with ideas and suggestions of a number of other outstanding individuals, institutions and corporations, has formed a basis for the engineering curriculum adopted by the Trustees.” There is recognition that the program will depart from “the long standing tradition of existing engineering colleges, most of which offer specialization in a wide range of engineering.” A degree of Bachelor of Engineering Sciences “will be awarded graduates of the four-year course.” It is recognized that specializations in fields of engineering will be made available on a “post baccalaureate level.” It is noted that the Regents have already authorized the granting of this degree.

- A good deal of concern is expressed about the need to accelerate the construction of the Stony Brook campus site. Original estimates are for five to seven years before occupancy. However, agreement is reached on the construction program that would have initial buildings at Stony Brook-Setauket site ready for student occupancy September 1961.
- There is reference made to the need to hire the services of “a major architectural firm and by October of 1958 an architectural firm had accepted the assignment.” It is indicated that the Trustees “have directed State University staff to place high priority on the solution of all of these problems connected with the construction of the facilities on the campus.”
- It is proposed that the initial phase of development of Stony Brook will be completed over a five-year period and ready for 3,000 students. The goal is that facilities will be expanded eventually to accommodate 10,000 students.

- The following building schedule is proposed:

Fall of 1961: Humanities building, Chemistry, Dormitory for 600 students, Dining Hall, Service buildings, Heating Plant, together with appropriate utilities, water and sewage. This will accommodate 800 students.

Fall of 1962: Physics building, Biology, Library, Health and Physical Education building and additional Dormitory for 600 students with total capacity of 1,400 students.

Fall of 1963: The Engineering building, additional dormitories for 600 students, another Dining Hall. 2,000 students are expected to be enrolled at this time.

- “By 1963 all of the educational facilities on the new campus will be constructed. Additional Dormitories would be completed as required, enrollment expected to reach 2,600 in 1964 and 3,000 in 1965. It is anticipated that the enrollments would be distributed as follows: 1,500 students majoring in science; 1,000 in engineering

program; 500 students preparing to teach science or mathematics in public secondary schools “or to continue advanced instruction to qualify for teaching in the community colleges or other higher education institutions.”

- In reality small freshman class was admitted in September 1957 and another group in 1958 “bringing to 243 the number of regular session students in attendance at that time. it is expected in the fall of 1959 the College would admit another freshman class of 180 students.”
- What will happen to the Coe Estate and Planting Fields? It is suggested that “the Trustees do not plan to abandon the investment made in Planting Fields when movement of the College to its new home is completed by 1962. it is proposed that a study is underway to determine the most advantageous future use of this beautiful property.”
- It is also noted in the Report that “the past year has seen national concern for science and mathematics education in the elementary and secondary schools, as well as in higher education.” Already programs for the education of mathematics and science teachers at the high school level have not only been authorized for Stony Brook but are already authorized by the Trustees “and registered by the Education Department for the Colleges at Buffalo, Cortland, Oneonta, Oswego and Plattsburgh.” These five colleges joined the College at Albany and the College on Long Island in preparing teachers in this field.” Is this part of the plan of decentralization?
- Throughout SUNY total enrollment during this past academic year rose to 64,716 full-time and part-time students. Of this number, 41,996 were enrolled in the State colleges and 22,720 in the community colleges.
- It is noted in staff changes that Dr. Thomas Hale Hamilton is appointed President of the State University Board of Trustees on May 14, 1959. The appointment was made effective August 1, 1959. He formerly was Vice President for Academic Affairs at Michigan State University. He succeeds William S. Carlson, whose resignation was effective September 1, 1958. It is also noted that the new position of Provost is created in the new reorganization. Slocum moves from Executive Dean for Four-Year Colleges on April 1, 1958, and assumes the duties of a new position as Vice President for Administration. Charles Foster becomes University Controller and Elwin Stevens Assistant to Vice President for Planning and Development.

## Notes on 1959

- It is noted that overall full-time undergraduate enrollment in SUNY is second only to the University of California and “the rate of enrollment expansion of SUNY is currently three times that of the nation as a whole.” It is at least doubled the increase reported collectively for all degree granting institutions in the State of New York.
- It recognizes, therefore, the need for updating and revision of the 1950 Master Plan so that a 1960 Master Plan would be applicable for the decade 1960-70.
- Concern is expressed that in spite of new efforts of SUNY that “many thousands of prospective students will be left outside State college doors....it is now apparent that 1959 ratio of two applicants for every freshman place will go up to 2½ to 1 for 1960...in some units the ratio expected will go 5 to 1.” There is a recognition that representative of the various types of institutions of SUNY “that from 57 to 95% of the applicants not admitted have academic records considered to be sufficiently high to qualify for admission to higher education institutions.” It also recognized that in spite of providing for a doubling of enrollment over the next decade, with respect to other states, New York “remains a debtor state in this respect. Annually about 20,000 students are being exported than it accepts from other states.”
- It is recognized that a major problem exists among the institutions in SUNY are the irregular and illogical arrangements that have developed. “Patterns of non-tuition to different tuition fees exist among the various institutions. At the 22 other institutions which have been established in the State University system since its organization, tuition is paid by student, with the partial exception that teacher education students in the Long Island Center attend tuition-free.” This teacher education exemption also applies to the various State supported institutions, including the 11 colleges of education. The Trustees urge that new principles be adopted so that “tuition charges in all State operated undergraduate colleges be fixed at a uniform rate by the State University Board of Trustees. The distinction between various courses of study at this level is no longer valid.” It is pointed out that “an immediate solution” to this problem is “prevented by statutory requirements.” The Trustees, therefore, “recommend to the Governor and Legislature that legislation be enacted which would delegate to the State University Board of Trustees the authority to fix tuition at all State operated and contract colleges.
- A separate section is devoted to “Doctoral Programs at Albany.” Albany appears to have emerged as the first Center to achieve university-like status. It proposes that there be established doctoral programs leading to both degrees of Doctor of Education and Doctor of Philosophy “and to obtain the authorization of the Regents for granting

such degrees.” It is anticipated that the Regents will authorize the Doctor of Education degree and “will shortly have before them the request for approval of the Doctor of Philosophy in certain fields in the social sciences and humanities.” The latter are associated with plans being developed at Albany “designed to prepare college teachers in the humanities and social studies.” It expresses concern that the rapid increase of community colleges has in turn created the need for teachers of those students with appropriate graduate degree training.

- It is noted that in 1960-61, it is anticipated that the University will have research expenditures totaling \$15 million.

## Notes on 1960

- It is noted that Harry W. Porter is appointed Provost effective January 1, 1961. It is also noted that Leonard K. Olsen is Dean of Long Island Center and will remain so until December 31, 1960. It is interesting to note that whereas in other institutions throughout SUNY successors to those leaving their respective positions as Dean or President, no mention whatsoever is made of John F. Lee's following Olsen's Deanship. Those assuming positions during 1961 and noted so as for example Oscar Lanford, President of Fredonia effective July 1, 1961; Walter Hinkle, July 1, 1961, at Alfred; Glenn Wright, July 1, 1961, at Canton; Charles Laffin, President Farmingdale, April 15, 1961; Charles Eisenhardt, President, February 20, 1961, Hudson Falls Community College; Joseph P. McMurray, May 1, 1961, etc. It should be noted that Lee's appointment as first President of Stony Brook already appeared in *The New York Times* on September 17, 1960.
- A major achievement appears to have been the revised Master Plan of 1960, which began in 1959. "The Regents approved a plan with slight modification March 24, 1961. On April 6, the Governor approved the new Master Plan as modified, and April 11, 1961, saw the Board of Trustees adopt the modifications and incorporate them into the Plan." **Basic question: is the Master Plan essentially the document that emerges as the report from the Heald Commission, especially in terms of the State's so-called plan for "5-part coordinated plan of expansion"?** What were the root causes leading to this rather sudden and dramatic change in the Trustees outlook on the future of higher education in New York? Gone are the references to decentralization and the defensive posture *vis a vis* the private universities and colleges. It recognizes that American society is shifting its demand away from the occupations requiring little or no training to those requiring college and graduate preparation. It recognizes continued serious interchanges in medicine, engineering, teaching at all levels, nursing, dentistry. It anticipates that by 1970 a total 314,000 full-time students are expected to enroll in four-year programs in colleges and universities in New York State. Of this number the private colleges and institutions will be able to absorb only 228,000 of these students, therefore, 86,000 must be provided places within SUNY.
- The 5-part plan incorporates the following:
  1. Immediate expansion of two-year facilities.
  2. Programs in arts and sciences to be offered at selected four-year colleges and available to those transferred from two-year institutions.

3. “Entirely multi-purpose institutions, offering programs in the liberal arts from the freshman year on, established at existing sites in key areas in the State.
  4. Appropriate master’s degree programs developed on a full-time basis in all four-year college which do not now offer them.
  5. Graduate centers, with courses of study leading to doctoral degrees, established in four locations in the State, namely, Stony Brook, Binghamton, Albany, and Buffalo.”
- It is also noted that during the year plans have been made for a graduate school of public affairs at Albany; a college of arts and sciences and a graduate program have been established at Long Island Center; plans are underway at Albany for full liberal arts and expanded graduate program towards a new campus to be built at Albany; the new campus for Harpur has been occupied and dedicated. “Plans were initiated for the merger of the University of Buffalo into the State University of New York.”
  - In 1960-61 research required an expenditure in SUNY of \$15.6 million. It is also noted that research is being conducted at Long Island’s “little UN” laboratory (staff of scientists from United States, India, Sweden, Israel and Japan) in the area of organophosphorous chemistry.

## Notes on 1961

- It is most interesting to note that in the listing of institutions for the year for the Long Island Center at Oyster Bay no name of President is listed but “Vacancy.” Nowhere throughout the document is any mention made of the issue on the campus or of John F. Lee, etc.
- It reiterates the major point of the 1960 revised Master Plan and once again introduces the language that these plans will allow State University “to realize the potential of its own unique decentralized plan.”
- Likewise, nowhere in any of the Trustees notes was the Blegen Report every referred to or mentioned at any time, nor the problem associated with Carlson and Blegen.
- In designing multi-purpose institutions in the Master Plan, it dramatically notes “the change of the colleges of education to multi-purpose institutions may be regarded as the most significant step in the history of public higher education in New York State.” These colleges of education will henceforth be known as State University colleges.
- It is announced that the merger of the University of Buffalo with SUNY is finally declared on March 8, 1962.
- For the first time a separate section is devoted to graduate education in SUNY. It notes that during January 1962 plans were completed, announcement made of new graduate programs at Stony Brook, programs leading to Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry, Physics, and Thermal Sciences and Fluid Mechanics. For the first time it also notes the following: “although these graduate programs in the physical sciences and engineering are the logical first steps in Long Island’s graduate education, steps are underway for graduate study in social sciences, and humanities as well.”
- In 1961-62 expenditures for research in SUNY reached a total of \$16.8 million.