



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

1280 ASYLUM AVENUE HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

RESOLUTION

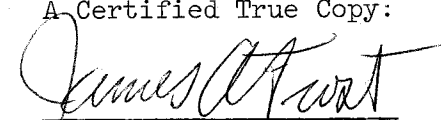
concerning

Program Coordination

December 6, 1974

- WHEREAS, The Connecticut State Colleges must continue to diversify their educational programs in order that they may provide the educational services required by the citizens of our State, and
- WHEREAS, Such diversification may have an impact on enrollments in private institutions, and
- WHEREAS, The Trustees understand the needs of private institutions and are concerned for the welfare of private institutions, and
- WHEREAS, The Trustees are also concerned that only the programs of the public institutions are subject to state-wide coordination and approval by the Commission for Higher Education and that such coordination and approval sometimes results in long delays in the initiation of programs at the Connecticut State Colleges, and
- WHEREAS, The Trustees believe such delays are wasteful, depriving students of educational benefits to which they are entitled, and
- WHEREAS, The Connecticut Council of Independent Colleges has proposed that a plan be developed to coordinate the educational programs of both the public and private institutions, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Trustees endorse the spirit and intent of the proposal made by the Connecticut Council of Independent Colleges and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Secretary to the Board is authorized and directed to work with the Commission for Higher Education, the Technical Colleges, the Regional Community Colleges, the University of Connecticut, and representatives of the private institutions in the development of a long-range plan for the establishment of new educational programs and in the development of a new refined state-wide plan for the coordination of all educational programs regardless of whether they are offered by public or private institutions.

A Certified True Copy:


 James A. Frost
 Executive Secretary

TOPIC: Program Coordination

L. Hyde - Nov. 74

The specialized "programs" that colleges offer require specialized faculty and equipment. Hiring such faculty and purchasing the needed equipment is an investment of risk capital. If not enough students enroll, the investment will have been wasted. Worse yet, if the students who do enroll are taken away from a college that already has such a program, the existing resource at the other college may be destroyed, or at least seriously weakened.

To avoid this hurtful possibility, new programs at public institutions must be "coordinated" by the CHE and then "approved" before the faculty is hired and the equipment purchased. Subsequently the new program is "accredited" by the CHE. The latter is a separate step that may be thought of as quality control or consumer protection.

Programs at independent colleges must be accredited, but are not coordinated. This is a great advantage to us, because coordination is complicated, time-consuming, and often acrimonious. Our advantage is increased by the fact that we are represented on the Subcommittee on the Coordination of Planning, and thus have an opportunity to delay, obstruct, and even prevent the introduction of a new program in a public institution, while having no obligation even to inform them of our plans.

They resent this.

For most of the programs at most of our colleges, all of this is quite irrelevant for the following reasons:

1. Many programs (e.g., Chemistry) are so widely available that no conflict arises.
2. Many programs require so little investment that the risks are trivial; e.g., adding Italian to a department of Romance Languages, or Biochemistry to departments of Biology and Chemistry.
3. Some of our colleges do not compete programmatically with other colleges within the state, either because of location (Connecticut College in New London) or because their clientele is national in origin (Yale) or both.
4. The concept of a "program" is elusive anyway. Programs with identical names may differ a great deal and not actually be duplicative or competitive.

In spite of these points, there are already some reasons to believe that the independent colleges should develop their own coordination scheme, or volunteer to participate in the coordination procedure used by the SCP.

First, we can hurt each other programmatically, and should have a mechanism to avoid it if possible. Second, we have influence in the SCP and the CHE with which we can restrain "uncontrolled growth" of the public institutions. That influence may weaken if we tolerate "uncontrolled growth" of our own institutions. On the other hand, the reasons given above indicate that the great bulk of program innovations should either be ignored or treated in a very perfunctory manner indeed. If our chosen procedure is largely a waste of time, it will be quickly ignored.

The obvious move would be to cooperate fully in the work of the SCP in spite of the objections listed above, and we may reach that point later, but it would not be wise to do so now. Primarily, this is because the SCP situation itself is not clear and well understood. According to the Master Plan, the present practices are to be replaced by new ones. In addition, the officer responsible for the SCP in the CHE has left, and a replacement is being sought. Accordingly, it is difficult to be either for or against the SCP at this time, and we will do better to abstain, at least for now.

On the other hand, the SCP is meeting regularly and courtesy and self-interest are both served by some voluntary cooperation. Timely notice to the SCP of program plans can help others avoid mistakes, and can preempt the program, to some limited extent, against a subsequent step by a competitor.

That alone will not be enough, however, and among ourselves I suggest the following: each of our colleges should prepare a list of those programs which it feels to be at hazard. These would typically be programs for which there is a limited demand, or a substantial investment or both. Colleges that do not feel competition at the program level could abstain. This office would collect and distribute the lists.

We would then request any other college in the CCIC that wanted to start a program on the "endangered species" list to notify the affected college and the CCIC executive committee.

If the affected college felt threatened by the prospect, and was unable to come to an informal agreement, it would petition the executive committee to appoint an ad hoc committee to hold a hearing and make a recommendation. The recommendation might call for complementary programs, perhaps with non-conflicting titles. That is, it would not necessarily support nor oppose the proposed action, though it could do either. Copies of their recommendation would be made available to the CHE and other colleges, but there would be no other sanctions.

If the innovating college chose to go ahead in spite of an adverse recommendation, they would be free to do so. After all, we are independent colleges. But at least we would be "coordinating" as well as we can with as little complication as possible.

W. Lewis Hyde, Executive Director
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges

October 23, 1974



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

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P. O. Box #2008 New Britain, Connecticut 06050

December 13, 1974

TO: Chancellor Louis Rabineau
Dr. Lewis Hyde
President Phillip Kaplan
Dr. Clinton Tatsch
Dr. Searle Charles
Dr. Glenn Ferguson

SUBJECT: Program Coordination in Higher Education

FROM: James A. Frost

At its meeting on December 6, 1974, the Trustees of the Connecticut State Colleges passed Resolution SCR#74-88, a copy of which is enclosed. The resolution speaks for itself. The Trustees believe the State Colleges must diversify in order to serve the people of Connecticut as effectively as they should. At the same time they recognize that such diversification will create problems, especially in the private sector. I have been directed to seek discussions that will lead to the diversification of the educational programs of the State Colleges in a manner that will be least disconcerting to other colleges and universities.

Any suggestion or proposal you may have will be deeply appreciated. It is understood, of course, that the State Colleges support the role of the Commission for Higher Education as the proper agency to coordinate and approve educational programs.

JAF.h
enc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Frost".
James A. Frost
Executive Secretary

cc: Mrs. B. C. Niejadlik
Mr. M. R. McCraven



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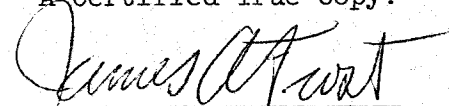
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 James A. Frost
 Executive Secretary