

This is the type of information of Larry's cards - hold for Senate presentation.
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THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

January 27, 1975

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles McCann

FROM: Larry Stenberg

SUBJECT: Preparation for the House Ways and Means Committee Hearing

RECEIVED

FEB 3 1975

T. E. S. C.
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

As you know, I had limited time to prepare this information. I hope it represents some of what you need for Thursday's hearing.

Recognition of our Student Services area

Each year we have had an increase in the recognition of our Student Services area with regard to successfully developing new approaches in the field. Last year we hosted visits from several student services representatives of adjacent and distant colleges. We also answered a large volume of correspondence from colleges which requested information on various segments of our program. During the past two years, the success of our Student Services program has resulted in more requests than we could oblige to make presentations at regional and state-wide meetings and conferences. Some of our student staff members have spoken at and participated in professional meetings where undergraduate attendance is rare. As a result of our extensive training, a number of our former student staff members have acquired jobs in student personnel or related fields, including federal and state positions.

Following last year's visit, the veteran Student Services representative on the accreditation team rated our program as the best she had ever evaluated. If we are forced to operate at the budget level recommended by the Governor's office, our present level of success will be placed in serious jeopardy.

Uncommon Demands Which Support the Need for Funding Beyond That Found in Conventional Schools

All of the items listed below place increased demands on our level of staffing and support dollars that would be difficult for the other four year state colleges to duplicate:

- 1) The complex issue of identifying our unique and innovative programs for prospective students, parents, and school counselors (Admissions)
- 2) Collection of comprehensive information on student academic achievement and the extra steps necessary to translate it for other institutions (Registrar)

- 3) Assisting students in making continuous adjustments to a less structured and intensely demanding academic environment (Counseling)
- 4) Helping students to develop skills to handle money problems rather than just solving money problems for students (Financial Aid)
- 5) Assisting graduates to articulate their unique educational experience for graduate schools and potential employers and identifying our unusual educational package for potential employers (Placement)
- 6) Responding to routine health care needs for students physically isolated from comprehensive community health care resources (Health Services)
- 7) Providing for the recreational needs of students on a campus void of a traditional physical education department (Recreation and Campus Activities)

Arbitrary Utilization of a Relatively New, Untested Formula to Determine Our Level of Funding

There is no provision in the existing formula to measure the full impact of the following conditions on staffing and support cost needs:

- 1) Our extending beyond sheer delivery of service by providing educationally based programs which assist students to better understand themselves and develop skills to solve problems. This approach greatly benefits students' growth but requires more staff time.
- 2) The effects of full accreditation, which we projected would have a significant impact on the pool of prospective students. Our professional opinion of this change in trend was not accepted in the Governor's office, and corresponding figures which generate formula dollars were arbitrarily reduced.
- 3) The alarming percentage increase in the number of graduates that will require placement service. Our total number of graduates eligible for placement assistance will more than double in the next biennium. Again, the Governor's office reduced our estimates and, in this case, drastically cut potential formula dollars.

Since the formula was adopted on a trial basis in 1973, there is some question regarding its application to an institution once enrollment exceeds 2,500. We are still being affected by initial start up costs; therefore, enforcement of 2,500 as an arbitrary standard has a

pronounced effect on our existing programs. If the Governor's recommendation is accepted, we will be reduced to \$152,000 below current operating level. Because we are committed to adjusting our formula percentage to equal that of the other four year colleges in the state, we have reduced our percentage request each year. However, based on our proposed rate of reduction, we believed we were justified in exceeding 2,500 student enrollment before coming in line with other institutions in the state. Our proposed level and the Governor's recommendations break out like this:

	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
1973-74	115 %	100 %
1974-75	93 %	90 %
1975-76	91.5 %	85 %
1976-77	88.3 %	75 %

Besides the significant cut in formula funding proposed for 1976-77, our non-comparable items were removed by the Governor's recommendation. If the Governor's budget is accepted, we will actually have fewer dollars in the second year of the biennium than in the first, despite a growth in enrollment.

Impact of the Governor's Recommendation on Delivery of Service

As indicated in the attached memo to Dean Clabaugh, the most significant effect the Governor's recommendation will have is a 5.17 staff year reduction in the face of an enrollment increase. Beyond this obvious problem, the \$152,000 cut will have overall impact in several ways:

- 1) It will result in a direct cutback in service to students, which will require making a determination on what services to eliminate.
- 2) Because many of our services are required to meet fixed deadlines in reporting to a variety of outside agencies (particularly Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar, and Placement), meeting these deadlines with a reduced staff will delay responding to student needs.
- 3) To cut back as little as possible on present minimum staffing, we reduce the majority of our employees to 10 and 11 month contracts, which will result in reduced service and closure of some operations during a major portion of the summer session.

Specific impact on individual units includes:

- 1) Registrar - possibly discontinuing the ID card operation, cutting back implementation of a notification system to students on incompletes, no credit, and not reported credit, and a lag in servicing a 9 per cent increase in students compounded by a large growth in former students requesting service with no increase in staff.
- 2) Admissions - reduction of on-campus counseling for prospective students, an increase in the time period for responding to applicants, and curtailing the non-white recruitment program
- 3) Counseling - elimination of part or all of inservice training and group workshops, severely reduce staff, requiring a cutback in services to 65 per cent of current level the first year and 37 per cent the second
- 4) Financial Aid - reduction of contract time for three or five employees, resulting in office coverage problems
- 5) Placement - closure of the Placement office during the key summer period and elimination of the employer brochure
- 6) Health Services - inability to replace important diagnostic equipment, elimination of workshops, and closure during most of the summer session
- 7) Recreation and Campus Activities - elimination of a vital non-comparable service which is critical to the well being of students

Summary and Recommendations


Cutbacks in staff will result in a cutback in services and a delay in responding to students. Our unusually high level of contact with students--we average a minimum of 15 contacts per student annually in a combination of all our Student Services programs--is in jeopardy. Our commitment to providing an educational base for service delivery, which consumes time far beyond that required in conventional schools, will also be negatively affected.

I would urge that the Legislature increase our formula percentage to 80 per cent in the second year of the biennium and recalculate our formula based on the original formula figures for admissions applications and former students with active placement files. We believe they are fair and accurate. Recalculation based accurate formula drivers for number of applicants and number of active former student (i.e., placement) files would increase the Governor's recommendations

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for program 030 to \$460,000 in 1975-76 (from \$422,100 in printed budget = \$37,900) and to \$466,600 in 1976-77 (from \$417,300 in printed budget = \$49,300), all at the formula levels recommended by the Governor.

If, in addition to correcting the drivers, the Legislature could permit slowed deceleration of formula percentages; i.e., 85 per cent in 1975-76 and 80 per cent (vice 75 per cent) in 1976-77, the five percentage points would produce an additional \$31,100 (i.e., increasing from \$466,600 to \$497,700) the second year.

LRS:bmh 

cc: Dean Clabaugh
Les Eldridge