



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
at SPARTANBURG
 800 UNIVERSITY WAY
 SPARTANBURG, S.C. 29303

OFFICE OF
 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

February 21, 1990

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Mr. Alexander M. Gilchrist, Chair
 USC System Academic Planning Committee
 Thomas Cooper Library
 University of South Carolina
 Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Mr. Gilchrist:

The USC Spartanburg Faculty Senate agrees substantially with the positions expressed by USC Aiken and Coastal Carolina in opposition to the recommendation of the USC Columbia Faculty Welfare Committee that the University "keep the aspirations of the four-year.....campuses within their supposed limitations." The addition of new programs to our curriculum (such as an M.Ed.) occurs only after a careful study of the educational needs of the Piedmont and the determination that these needs are not currently being met adequately by programs offered by other institutions. Consultation with appropriate members of the Columbia faculty and University administration is a part of our approval process. However, accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is based on our success in achieving the goals adopted by our faculty and approved by the President and the Board of Trustees. It is not going to be jeopardized by the intrusion of limitations imposed by external groups such as the Columbia faculty.

We appreciate the flexibility of the USC system which has in the past permitted a creative diversity among campuses. We wish to express our concern that the concept of a "unitary system" for the University and the formation of a System Academic Policy Coordinating Committee places constraints upon our ability to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our students. We maintain that the differing missions and student characteristics of the separate campuses of the University must be reflected in differing curricula, teaching strategies, and academic policies. We will continue to direct our efforts toward challenging our students academically while giving them the support necessary to meet those challenges, regardless of whether the methods selected are identical to those selected by the faculty on other campuses of the USC system. Recent

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developments in American public education, as well as in Eastern European countries, give ample proof that stressing conformity to a "system" brings stagnation and resentment. Now, more than ever, the University should be encouraging innovative initiatives and healthy diversity.

Sincerely,



William C. Bruce
Faculty Secretary

WCB:sj

cc: Dr. Gunther Holst
Dr. Ron Ingle
Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins
Dr. Peter Becker
Dr. John Duffy
Dr. Art Smith