Memorandum to Presidents

Date: October 25, 1973

From: Office of the Chancellor

Subject: Programs with China

With the new cordiality in the relationships between the United States and the People's Republic of China, there's understandably wide enthusiasm on many campuses for exploring with Chinese academic representatives the establishment of international academic programs, faculty and student exchanges, and the like. Surely the State University, with its capabilities and interests, should be in the forefront of this movement, and I wholeheartedly endorse campus initiative in this direction.

However, I believe we're putting ourselves at a great potential disadvantage if individual campuses attempt to work out arrangements independently. As you know, the uniqueness of the State University of New York as a system can sometimes cause confusion to those who are not familiar with our administrative structure. This would be particularly so in the case of our establishing new programs on an international level in such a sensitive area.

Accordingly, I ask that all campus proposals relating to the People's Republic of China be cleared through the central staff. I'm appointing a committee to review and coordinate individual campus requests and shall announce its membership shortly. The committee will be responsible for preparing a single University-wide proposal for submission to the appropriate Chinese officials. Meanwhile, all campus inquiries should be sent to Dr. Ivan Putman, Director of the Office of International Programs.

I greatly appreciate your interest and cooperation in this important undertaking.

Ernest N. Boyer
This memorandum addressed to:

Presidents, State-operated Campuses
Presidents, Community Colleges

Copies for information only sent to:

Deans, Statutory Colleges
Chancellor Kibbee
Dean McGrath
President Miles
Vice Provost Risley