Memorandum to Presidents

Date: February 19, 1974

From: Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs

Subject: Proposal for Services to Handicapped

As is well known, the Chancellor has committed the University to employing ways to bring the total University resources to bear on the problems of the State and of our society. It is our reasoning that the State University of New York will be able to move further and faster in public service-related research and activities by coordinating our efforts on a system-wide basis. One way to do this is through seeking and accepting contracts which can be administered by the Central Administration and carried out by individual campuses.

One promising area which has recently come to our attention is that of service to the handicapped. A recent Request For Proposals by the United States Office of Education, Bureau for the Education of the Handicapped, offers a three-year contract to create a national center for analyzing the needs for, and developing materials for, handicapped students and teachers of handicapped students, excluding the area of the blind or deaf. It is our hope that the State University of New York can respond to this request as a system, with the Central Administration performing the coordinating functions required by the contract and individual campuses performing the actual national services on a sub-contract basis. Simply stated, the proposal calls for a special national center to:

(a) Locate usable materials which exist and fulfill identified needs;

(b) Adapt adaptable materials which can be made to fit identified needs;

(c) Develop needed materials which are unavailable and unadaptable and "unattractive" to commercial developers; and

(d) Field test newly developed extant materials for effect on learner-target.
To bid successfully on this contract, it is necessary to demonstrate the availability of University resources and the interest of the various campuses in the areas of special education, media materials development, and materials evaluation. The purpose of this letter is to elicit response from those campuses which have resources which they believe can be directed towards this area of need. Though a general letter of interest and commitment to such involvement would be appreciated, a more useful response would be an indication of those specific resources within your institution which could most directly relate to such a project. All work rendered by an individual campus would be fully compensated.

Should you decide that you wish to participate in this undertaking, and we hope that wherever possible you will, we must receive your statement of interest no later than February 25, since our Washington deadline is March 4. Requests for more information may be directed to Mr. Norbert Nathanson (518) 474-1781.

Bruce Dearing

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