Memorandum to Presidents

Date: August 27, 1976

From: Office of the Chancellor

Subject: University-wide Program of Symposia in Religious Studies

As part of our effort to extend religious studies activities within the University and enrich our general education programs, I am pleased to announce a University-wide program of symposia in religious studies for the academic year 1976-77. The purpose of these symposia will be threefold:

1. To give faculty, administration and students additional understanding of what the serious study of religion comprises on the contemporary university campus;

2. To give students and the larger academic community an opportunity to examine the religious and ethical dimensions of a central human problem or theme;

3. To explore the possibility of expanding the study of undergraduate religious studies on selected campuses.

A symposium will extend over two or three days on each campus selected. Plans for each symposium will be developed by a local campus faculty committee and the Director of this project, Dr. Charlie Hardwick, a prominent scholar/teacher in religious studies. Two or three other nationally prominent scholars/teachers will also be available to participate in the symposium itself, and it has been suggested that, ideally, the symposium may be made an integral part of present credit bearing curriculum offerings.

Unfortunately, our funds are restricted and only a limited number of campuses will be able to participate this year. However, this is a significant project, and if you feel there is interest on your campus, I would encourage you to submit a letter of application, stating your interest. The letters should be sent to: Dr. Charlie D. Hardwick, Program of Religious Studies, State University at Stony Brook, by September 22, 1976.
With the exception of local publicity, the symposia will involve no costs to the campus. To explain the program further, a more detailed information packet is being sent to you by the Project Director. You should receive this shortly.

I am confident this program of symposia in religious studies will add significantly to the University and should be a rich experience for the participating campuses.

If you feel it would fit into your campus plans for the coming year, we'd like to hear from you.

Thanks very much.

[Signature]
Ernest L. Boyer

This memorandum addressed to:

Presidents, State-operated Colleges
Deans, Statutory Colleges
Presidents, Community Colleges

Copies for information only to:

President Rose
Mr. Barlow