Memorandum to Presidents

Date: May 2, 1977
From: Office of the Acting Chancellor
Subject: State University of New York Intercampus Doctoral Fellowships and Grants-in-aid

In The Responsive University, the University's 1976 Master Plan, the Board of Trustees reaffirmed its commitment to doctoral education as follows:

Renewed emphasis will be given to the importance of strong support and high quality in the doctoral programs. In order to enhance access to doctoral resources of the whole University, experimentation will be encouraged in development of University-wide doctoral programs.

After considerable discussion and planning, including discussions with representatives of the University Centers, the University is now ready to take its first steps in carrying out the Board's mandate.

University Center departments of geology, anthropology, and philosophy, invited to propose plans for a pilot experiment in University-wide cooperation at the doctoral level, have devised a program to be known as the State University of New York Intercampus Doctoral Fellowships and Grants-in-aid. Within constraints of time and funding, a strong effort is being made to make this program operative in 1977. Though specific details may vary from discipline to discipline, the major features of the program are common to all and are described below. In addition, an invitation is extended to all the other doctorate-granting departments within the University to propose plans for their participation in this experiment.

Description of the Pilot Program

The purpose of the program is to make it possible for doctoral students in the fields of geology, anthropology, and philosophy to use resources available at other campuses of the
University than the one where they are in residence, and thus to improve the quality of doctoral education within the system. The resources may be faculty members, courses, equipment, or libraries not available on the student's home campus. A limited number of fellowships and grants-in-aid will be offered to make it possible for selected graduate students to travel to other campuses for a year, a semester, or shorter periods, in order to gain access to the resources they need.

An academic-year Intercampus Doctoral Fellowship will be funded at $5,000, prorated for lesser periods. (Periods of less than a semester will generally be funded as grants-in-aid rather than as fellowships.) Half of this sum is to be provided by the home campus and half by the Central Staff. At this level of funding the Fellowships will carry considerable prestige and should be attractive to the very best students.

Participating departments will collect and publish information identifying the resources (faculty, special research emphases, courses, and equipment) available State-wide. Student applications will be received at the home campus, to be reviewed there by departmental committees and the graduate dean.

This and subsequent programs will be reviewed and coordinated by the State University Doctoral Council, which consists of the academic vice presidents and graduate deans of the four University Centers and the academic vice president of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The Council is advisory to Dr. Loren Baritz, Provost of the University.

Next Steps

Departments representing other disciplines within the University are now invited to prepare plans for coordinated approaches to doctoral education. Such plans need not follow the model of the pilot program if the needs of the different disciplines warrant differences in approach. The common denominator of all programs, however, must be the provision of access for graduate students to doctoral resources on an intercampus basis. Ancillary projects, such as faculty travel, may be included in the plans, though obviously they will have to be made contingent upon the availability of additional funds.
Interested departments should approach their graduate deans as soon as possible. Completed plans should be forwarded to Dr. Baritz on or before November 1, 1977, for review by the State University Doctoral Council.

James F. Kelly

cc: State University Doctoral Council

This memorandum addressed to:
President, State-operated Campuses
Deans, Statutory Colleges

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Presidents, Community Colleges
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Vice President Cook