



**SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES**

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August 28, 2003

Mr. Willie A. Tempton
Interim President
Prairie View A&M University
P. O. Box 188
Prairie View, TX 77446

Dear Mr. Tempton:

I am writing to respond to three recent communications regarding substantive change which we have received from your institution. In your letter of July 3, 2003, to Dr. Tom Benberg, you transmitted the prospectus for the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering program. The proposed program, requiring 53 semester credit hours beyond the master's degree as well as appropriate exams, a dissertation and two articles submitted for publication in a refereed journal, builds upon existing master's degree programs in Engineering and Electrical Engineering. The program will have three areas of concentration: computer engineering, microelectronics, and telecommunications and signal processing. Offered on the main campus, the inception date for the proposed program is August, 2003. The program is funded by the Texas Commitment to Prairie View A&M University which provides \$3,380,000 for the 2001-2005 biennia for the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering (exclusive of capital construction costs).

The program will be evaluated by the following measures:

1. High placement of graduates in academic institutions, research organizations, governmental agencies, and industries;
2. Number of students enrolled in the program;
3. High retention rate of students admitted to the program;
4. Students' completion of the Ph.D. program in a timely manner;
5. High publication record of graduates after three years in the field;
6. High number of archival journal publications per year for each faculty; and,
7. High percentage number of Ph.D. students supported as research assistants by external funds.

The surveys will be performed on completion of the program, three years after graduation, and five years after graduation. At the third, fifth, eighth, and tenth year after the start of the program, a Board of Evaluators will evaluate the proposed program. The Board will consist of representatives from high-tech companies, government agencies, and university professors. Their recommendations will be employed to improve the program.

You have added three faculty members for the program and have funding and plans to add two more next year. In Table 10, Library Holdings added in the past three years, are the numbers monographic titles or



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serial titles? Library, financial, and physical resources appear sufficient to support the program. We accept your documentation, approve the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering program and shall include it within the scope of accreditation previously granted.

You wrote on July 14, 2003, to transmit the prospectus for the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership degree program to begin in Spring Term, 2004. Modeled after doctoral programs at Temple University, Auburn University, and Michigan State University, the program will include a Leadership Core Curriculum and an area concentration and will build upon a strong, existing master's degree program. The prospectus states that the program will require 62-66 hours of credit; what is the precise credit hour requirement?

Instructional delivery, using the Social Systems Model, will occur on the main campus and use face-to-face instruction with some web-based course activities. What is the Social Systems Model? During the second and subsequent years, seventy-five percent of the program will be offered on the main campus, while twenty-five percent of the courses will be offered at satellite campuses. Five new faculty will be hired during the Fall 2003 semester. Please provide a complete faculty roster when all faculty are in place. Please document the research capability of the faculty and their experience in directing independent study (*Criteria, 4.8.2.3*).

You have succinctly identified the gaps in your library collection; please document your progress in purchasing library materials to fill those gaps. Physical and financial resources appear sufficient to support the program. The proposed program will be evaluated by the following measures:

1. High student grade point averages;
2. Low student attrition rates;
3. Students' completion of program in timely manner;
4. High placement of graduates in academia, research, government agencies, and private sector positions; and,
5. Publication records of graduates after five years in the field.

Every graduate of the program will be surveyed three to five years after graduation to determine employment success and placement, publication records, satisfaction with academic preparation, and to elicit suggestions for improvement of the Ph.D. program. We shall defer action on the proposal until we receive the additional information requested.

Your letter of August 12, 2003, notified the Commission of your intent to cease offering courses leading to a bachelor's degree in Sociology at the Texas A&M University Center for the benefit of personnel at Fort Hood, TX, on August 15, 2003. Tarleton State University has agreed to assume responsibility for offering Sociology courses at the site; you have given students who may desire to complete a degree with your institution up to two years to complete their program through courses offered by Tarleton State



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University. New students and those desiring to make the change will matriculate at Tarleton State University. We require no further information on this matter and shall note the termination of the Ft. Hood courses in our files.

Thank you for your efforts to keep the Commission informed. Enclosed is an invoice for \$600 to assist in defraying the costs associated with the review of substantive changes. We wish you much success as you begin another academic year.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Rogers".

James T. Rogers
Executive Director
Commission on Colleges

JTR/RER:rlb

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Tom E. Benberg