RESOLUTION

concerning

CAPITAL PROJECTS

January 6, 1978

BE IT RESOLVED, That the priorities for capital projects for year 1978 are as follows:

GENERAL FUND

1  (Science and Classroom Building (Southern))
  (Classroom Building (Western, New Campus))

SELF-LIQUIDATING PROJECTS

1  Residence Hall - 300 beds (Western, New Campus)
2  Residence Hall - 300 beds (Eastern)
3  Residence Hall - 300 beds (Southern)

A Certified True Copy:

James A. Frost
Executive Director
The General Assembly  
State of Connecticut  
Joint Committee on Legislative Management

March 28, 1977

TO:  
Office of Legislative Research  
Joseph N. Joyce, Jr., Education Research Specialist

FROM:    Office of Legislative Research  
Joseph N. Joyce, Jr., Education Research Specialist

SUBJECT: Capital Projects at Southern Connecticut State College - The Science Building and the Student Center

You have asked for information concerning capital projects at Southern Connecticut State College. Specifically, you were interested in the current status of the proposed science building and student center. In addition, you have inquired as to the availability of federal funds for the construction of the science building.

Each of these projects is treated separately below.

SCIENCE BUILDING

The first authorization by the General Assembly for the construction of a science building at Southern Connecticut State College was in 1967, when a sum not to exceed $3,750,000 was authorized (Special Act 67-276). The size of the original project grew through the late 1960's and early 1970's, and subsequent authorizations reflected the rising estimated cost for the proposed building. In 1969, a sum not to exceed $1,725,000 was added to the prior authorization of $3,750,000 (Special Act 69-281). In 1974, the General Assembly authorized an additional maximum of $12,600,000 (Special Act 74-90), bringing the current total authorized for the project, which was to consist of science and general classroom facilities at Southern Connecticut, to $18,405,000.

State bonding has yet to be approved to start construction of the building and the decision as to when or if the necessary bonding will be approved rests primarily with the Department of Finance and Control. While the General Assembly makes authorizations for capital projects, it is important to note...
that this is merely the first stage in a complex process which involves the Department of Public Works, the Department of Finance and Control and ultimately the Bond Commission, which must approve the bonding for capital projects. Authorizations for capital projects by the General Assembly are not appropriations of the money for those projects.

While the designs for the $18 million facility have been completed for several years, the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges, taking note of the recent state fiscal crisis and the Governor's sharp curtailment of bonding for capital projects, decided last year to replan the facility along the lines of a science facility recently constructed at Central Connecticut State College for the cost of $10 million. As a result, the estimated cost for a science building at Southern Connecticut has been reduced from $18,405,000 to $12 million.

Regarding the availability of federal funds for the project, the state could receive some $732,094. In 1968, the state received a commitment of $500,000 under Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to assist in the construction of a science building at Southern Connecticut. In November, 1976, the federal government notified the state that the $500,000 award was in danger of being withdrawn due to Inaction. In February, 1977, Jay Tepper, Commissioner of Finance and Control, responded to the notification, requesting an extension until September, 1977. He cited the current uncertainty regarding the reorganization of the governance structure for higher education as the basis for requesting the extension. To date, the federal government has yet to respond to the Commissioner's request.

Also, the state could be eligible for an additional $232,094 in federal monies under Title VIII of the Public Health Services Act. Whether the state will receive this money is entirely dependent upon when the project is undertaken, since money awarded under this program is not set aside but rather is distributed on a first come, first served basis.

STUDENT CENTER

In 1967, the General Assembly authorized a sum not to exceed $1,400,000 for the construction of a student union at Southern Connecticut (Special Act 67-276). During the period that the design for the building was occurring, a women's dormitory was also being planned. (Special Act 67-276 had also authorized a sum not to exceed $4,000,000 for the construction of a women's dormitory at Southern Connecticut; of that amount, $2,301,500 was expended in the construction of housing, leaving $1,698,500 of the authorization unallocated.) At the suggestion of the Department of Public Works, the two separate projects were combined, with one building designed to serve as the student center and women's dormitory (with authorization for the project totalling $3,098,500).

In the budget for 1975-76, the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges requested an additional authorization of $1,000,000 for the now combined student center and women's dormitory. The Governor recommended no further authorization and
the General Assembly followed the Governor's recommendation. The same request was made in the budget for 1976-77, with the same result. The request was repeated in the budget for 1977-78, with the Governor again recommending no additional authorization. The General Assembly has yet to take final action on the 1977-78 budget.

Similar to the science building, state bonding has yet to be approved to start construction of the building and the decision as to when or if the necessary bonding will be approved rests primarily with the Department of Finance and Control.

JNJ:np
James A. Frost, Executive Director  
Board of Trustees, State Colleges  
1615 Stanley Street  
New Britain, Connecticut 06050

Dear Mr. Frost:

Re: Proposed Science Building at  
Southern Connecticut State College,  
New Haven

In your letter of June 15, 1977 addressed to former Commissioner Robert A. Weinerman, you indicated that the Board of Trustees have had the Science Building at Southern Connecticut State College (Project BI-RS-41) high on their list of priorities.

In view of the recent creation of the new Board of Higher Education, it seems that a more formal route to follow would be, to present your request to the next meeting of the new Board, and that a resolution regarding the proposed Science Building be prepared for submission to this department. Perhaps it can be incorporated in our Long-range Planning report which we are preparing for submission to the Governor by Sept. 1, 1977.

It may also be appropriate, with the pending creation on October 1 of the new Office of Policy and Management, to submit your request to that department as part of your capital program for the 1978-79 Legislative session.

We do not see, however, under the present financial restraints, how this department can strongly press for a particular project of this nature. It is our opinion that it would fare much better as part of an overall State College program backed by the Board of Higher Education.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Bergen  
Commissioner

By: Milton R. Case, Chief  
Property Planning Section  
Public Works Department

MRC/eac

c: Comm'r. Bergen  
Dpty. Comm'r. McCulloch  
WRieser  
File
June 15, 1977

Commissioner Robert Weinerman
Department of Public Works
State Office Building
Hartford, CT 06115

Dear Commissioner Weinerman:

As you know the Trustees have had the Science Building at Southern Connecticut State College (Project BI-RS-41) high on their list of priorities. You will recall that the President of Southern Connecticut State College and members of his staff examined the new Science Building at Central Connecticut State College (Project BI-RC-52) and decided it could be modified for use at Southern, thereby reducing certain costs. The following communications relate to this matter: Letter, September 3, 1975, from me to you; Letter, July 9, 1976, from me to you; Letter, July 19, 1976, from you to me; and Letter, October 20, 1976, from me to you. Copies of all are enclosed.

We are still very much concerned about the Science Building at Southern because our students are not receiving the laboratory instruction that they should. I have no record of a response to my last letter on this subject, dated October 20, 1976. Will you please tell me what the next step should be? Thank you.

Sincerely,

James A. Frost
Executive Director

JAF/b
encl.
cc: President Jennings
October 20, 1976

Mr. Robert Weinerman
Commissioner
Public Works Department
State Office Building
Hartford, CT. 06115

Dear Commissioner Weinerman:

Reference is made to your letter of July 19 concerning the proposed Science Center at Southern Connecticut State College.

After a review of the plans of Copernicus Hall (the Science Building at Central Connecticut State College) and visiting it, President Manson Van B. Jennings and representatives of the science departments of Southern Connecticut State College, believe that the plans can be adapted to the programmatic needs of Southern.

A science building for Southern remains a top priority in the capital program of the Trustees. What steps should now be taken to move this project forward?

Thank you and your staff for your help with this and so many other matters.

Sincerely,

James A. Frost
Executive Director

JAF/b
September 30, 1976

Dr. James A. Frost  
Executive Secretary  
Board of Trustees For State Colleges  
P. O. Box 200  
New Britain, Ct. 06050

Dear Jim:

The enclosed memorandum from Dean Kuslan indicates the belief of those most intimately involved that the plans for Copernicus Hall at Central Connecticut State College can be suitably adapted for use at Southern Connecticut State College with appropriate modifications to meet our particular needs.

I endorse Dean Kuslan's proposal that we take such steps as are necessary and appropriate for the modification and implementation of the plans for a science building for Southern Connecticut State College.

Sincerely yours,

Manson Van B. Jennings  
President

MVanBJ/v  
Enc.
Addition to Science Center
Southern Conn. State College
New Britain, Connecticut
Project BI-RS-41

Dr. James A. Frost
Executive Director
Board of Trustees for State Colleges
P.O. Box 2008
New Britain, Connecticut 06050

Dear Dr. Frost:

We have received your letter dated July 9, 1976 in connection with the above subject project.

We welcome your approach to try to solve your difficult problem concerning the science facilities.

Under separate cover, we are sending you a set of drawings for Project BI-RC-52, Science Center at Central Conn. State College, for your review. In the meantime, we too will review the possibility of modifying the RC-52 project to fit your needs and the proposed site. You must understand that even with the use of the existing design, some alterations must be made and the designer architect has to be paid 50% of his fee for reusing the documents.

The alteration design will require some time. In any event, if the project is authorized for construction we will use the best and most economical methods to complete the project.

After you have reviewed the RC-52 project, please let us know if you are still interested in using that particular design.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Robert A. Weinerman
Commissioner

State Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06115
203-566-3360

Addition to Science Center
Southern Conn. State College
New Britain, Connecticut
Project BI-RS-41

JUL 21 1976

RECEIVED

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE STATE COLLEGES
Robert Weiner, Commissioner
Public Works Department
State Office Building
Hartford, CT.

Dear Commissioner Weiner:

As you know from earlier conversations we have a very difficult problem in that the science facilities at Southern Connecticut State College are inadequate for present enrollments. We do have an appropriation for a new science building (Project BI-RS-41PL) at the level of 17.8 million dollars. The present fiscal situation of the State makes it unlikely that a project of this magnitude can be approved for construction despite the very great need of students.

We have asked whether the project could be reduced in size and scope by eliminating some of the non-science areas that are included in the present plans. The advice has been that no savings could be made by a reduction in the present plans because of the way in which the building is designed. To start over by redrawing the plans has been viewed as so expensive that it, together with the steadily increasing cost resulting from inflation, makes such redrawing impractical. The inadequate instructional facilities are having a severe effect upon the education of students and for this reason some solution must be found. We would welcome any suggestions you might have.

It has occurred to us that the plans for the science building at Central Connecticut State College, with some modifications of the site and possibly the elimination of a lower floor which was designed for general arts, might be used for a similar structure at Southern. The building at Central cost about 10 million dollars. If it would be reproduced at Southern for a cost near that it would be much more likely that we could gain approval for the project. Perhaps the same fast-track method used for the construction of Central's science building could be used at Southern. Is this a possible solution to our problem?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

James A. Frost
Executive Director

cc: President Jennings
The Science Departments have agreed that the basic architectural plan developed for Copernicus Hall at Central Connecticut State College can be suitably adapted for use by them with the advice and assistance of the architectural firm, and they are anxious to begin.

I therefore request that you convey this agreement to adapt the Copernicus Hall architectural plan to Dr. Frost and through him to Public Works and the other involved agencies.

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<tr>
<td>Manson VanB. Jennings</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>9/24/76</td>
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<td>L. Kuslan</td>
<td>Dean, Arts and Sciences</td>
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RECEIVED
SEP 27 1976
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
September 3, 1975

Robert A. Weinerman, Commissioner
Public Works Department
State Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Commissioner Weinerman:

For some years there has been legislative authorization to build a science and classroom building at Southern Connecticut State College. The science facilities on that campus are extremely inadequate, so inadequate that each year hundreds of students take science courses without proper laboratory experience. The construction of the science and classroom building at Southern has been a top priority of the Trustees for many months. The cost of the building has been projected at over $17,000,000 and this may be the reason why it has not been built.

The Trustees have directed me to explore the possibility of redesigning this building in the hope that the cost may be reduced. President Jennings and I request a meeting with you to discuss this matter and to speak of what the Trustees envision for that campus over the years.

There is a problem at Eastern Connecticut State College. President Webb requests an interview with you to discuss that campus. The immediate problem concerns the closing out of the Noble School. The Noble School is financed jointly by the town of Willimantic and by the college. Presently it is used by the College Education Department as a student teaching and demonstration center. The building is owned by the State. President Webb and I wish to talk with you about the disposition of the building. As you may be aware we are under considerable pressure to provide better health services at Eastern. This pressure comes from both students and townpeople. President Webb and I would like to discuss with you various solutions to the infirmary problem. On the occasion of our visit we would also like to go over the long-range plan for the development of Eastern's campus.

It is quite important to us to have these two meetings with you. If you find our request agreeable, please have one of your staff call 6366-7373 or 6366-7374 to arrange the times. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

James A. Frost
Executive Secretary

cc: President Jennings
President Webb