RESOLUTION

Concerning

MASTER OF ARTS

IN

OCEANOGRAPHY AND LIMNOLOGY

AT

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE

March 12, 1976

RESOLVED, Under the authority granted the Board of Trustees in Chapter 164, Section 109 and 10-326 of the General Statutes, Western Connecticut State College is hereby authorized to submit a program proposal leading to a Master of Arts in Oceanography and Limnology to the Commission for Higher Education for planning approval.

A Certified True Copy:

James A. Frost
Executive Secretary
Enclosed is a copy of a letter to Dr. Robert M. Bersi concerning the licensure of the Master of Arts program in Oceanography and Limnology at Western Connecticut State College.

Two copies of this report have already been sent to Dr. Bersi. The enclosed two copies are for your office.

William H. James

WHJ/1c

Enc.
October 6, 1976

Dr. Robert M. Bersi, President
Western Connecticut State College
181 White Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810

Dear Dr. Bersi:

The Commission for Higher Education, at a meeting held on October 5, 1976, approved the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Master of Arts degree program in Oceanography and Limnology at Western Connecticut State College be licensed for a period ending June 30, 1978, provided that there be a progress report and possible interim visit during the 1976-77 academic year.

Enclosed are two copies of the report. Another two copies are being sent to Dr. James A. Frost at the office of the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
William H. James
Director
Accreditation and Scholarships

WHJ/1c
Enc.

cc: Dr. James A. Frost
TO: THE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
FROM: William H. James on behalf of the Standing Committee on Accreditation
DATE: October 1, 1976
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION OF LICENSURE OF A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM IN OCEANOGRAPHY AND LIMNOLOGY AT WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE, DANBURY, CONNECTICUT

Section 10-330-3 of the policies for the licensing and accrediting of institutions of higher learning in Connecticut contains information as follows:

"SEC. 10-330-3. -- ACCREDITED CONNECTICUT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING MAKING SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN THEIR PURPOSES OR DEGREE PROGRAMS.

Each accredited institution desiring to add new degree programs or schools, i.e., new curricula, new major fields of concentration, or subject matter areas not currently offered by the institution, shall report the proposed change or changes to the chancellor of the commission. When the proposal is received, the standing committee shall decide whether:

(1) There shall be an immediate visitation prior to the offering of the program; (2) there shall be a visit at some future date specified by the committee; (3) the program shall be evaluated at the time of the next regular evaluation visit to the institution; or (4) the program, on the basis of the information from the institution itself, can be considered eligible for licensure because of the institution's current regional accreditation or because of an imminent visit by a nationally recognized special accrediting agency."

Pursuant to this policy, Western Connecticut State College furnished information to the Standing Committee on Accreditation in regard to the Master of Arts Degree Program in Oceanography and Limnology.

Pertinent items of information about this program include the following:

1. Western Connecticut State College is fully accredited by the Connecticut Commission for Higher Education. It is also regionally accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Further, the college indicates that its undergraduate and present Master of Science degree programs are also accredited by the Connecticut State Board of Education, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, the New York State Board of Regents, and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.
2. The proposed program is designed to provide flexibility in allowing students with diverse backgrounds and interests to pursue studies of oceans and lakes in the fields of geology, meteorology, biology, chemistry, and physics. The objective of the proposed program is to provide the background training for students to fill positions as competent scientific staff members in environmental protection agencies, petroleum companies, research institutes of oceanography and limnology, private consulting firms, and in teaching.

3. The proposed M.A. curriculum, a copy of which is attached, is structured to require the following:

   a. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution in any science field—geology, earth sciences, biology, physics, or chemistry.

   b. The completion of twenty-four (24) semester hours of oceanography and limnology courses.

   c. The completion of six (6) semester hours of thesis work on an ocean or lake study.

4. The proposed program was approved as follows:

   a. July 16, 1976 - Board of Trustees for the State Colleges

   b. April 12, 1976 - Subcommittee on Coordination of Planning, CHE

5. On May 17, 1976, the Standing Committee on Accreditation approved five (5) consultants to evaluate the proposed program, with the understanding that the college would use at least three (3).

6. On May 28, 1976, the faculty and administration at the college who are concerned with initiating the program discussed the program in detail with the following three consultants:

   Joe Webb Peoples, Ph.D.  George I. Seney Professor of Geology, Emeritus
                              Wesleyan University
                              Middletown, Connecticut

   John J. Donohue, Ph.D.  Professor of Physical Sciences
                            Director, Kettering Science Center
                            Bennett College
                            Millbrook, New York

   F. K. Szucs, Sc.D., Ph.D.  Professor of Geochemistry
                             Slippery Rock State College
                             Chairman, Board of Directors
                             Lake Erie Marine Science Center
                             Pennsylvania

The consultants' report, attached, indicates that the college's physical facilities and library resources, together with the resources of cooperating institutions, are adequate to support the initiation of the program at the earliest possible time.
In the light of the foregoing information, the Standing Committee on Accreditation voted, on Thursday, August 26, 1976, to recommend the licensure of this program, as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Master of Arts degree program in Oceanography and Limnology at Western Connecticut State College be licensed for a period ending June 30, 1978, provided that there be a progress report and possible interim visit during the 1976-77 academic year.
March 29, 1976

Dr. Robert M. Bersi
President
Western Connecticut State College
181 White Street
Danbury, Connecticut

Dear Bob:

Enclosed are copies of the two resolutions passed by the Board on March 12 approving development of a liberal arts program in Graphic Communication and a Master of Arts program in Oceanography and Limnology contingent upon SCP approval.

We will include copies in our presentation at SCP tomorrow in support of your bid for such approval.

Sincerely,

Clinton M. Ritchie
Executive Officer for Academic Affairs

CMR/eh
enc.

cc: Dr. Teal
    Chancellor Rabineau