

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY
Albany, New York 12203

DATE: 27 June, 1968

FROM: Walter M. Tisdale

TO: President Evan R. Collins

SUBJECT: Campus Progress Report No. 129

At the Job Meeting today, we discussed possible "takeover" dates for the Performing Arts Center and the Instructional Resources Center.

1. Performing Arts Center

The contractor advances the same date, December 1968, as his present estimate of possible completion. Following past experiences, such estimates this far in advance are rarely dependable. My inclination would be that we may expect to take the building in January, and even this will be a tight squeeze. However, as matters stand now, it would seem that our plan to occupy the building for the beginning of the second semester is still valid, provided we stay flexible in case Theatre and Music activities must stand fast for a few more weeks at the beginning of that semester.

2. Instructional Resources Center

As you know, we have been pushing for the completion of the six 247 seat Lecture Halls as soon as possible, hopefully by the September semester. The contractor, for almost a year now, has been promising to try to have them ready, but he has never given any assurances. At the meeting today, he confessed that these prospects are absolutely impossible. When pressed for a date as to when he thought these six Halls could be ready, he said "for the Spring semester". The balance of the building would not be ready until later. Such time extensions are outside the realm of reason, and the Construction Fund and Central Office have joined with this University in attempting every known means to reduce this slippage. However, the prospects are exceedingly bleak.

Two reasons are advanced by the contractor for the slowness of completion, - (1) labor disputes continue to extract their toll; currently we have a cement carrier's strike that is going into its fourth week. While we don't have a great deal of call for this particular commodity now, some concrete is needed, and this is holding up that work. To make matters worse, any labor dispute, including this one, gives the contractor the excuses he needs to justify his delays.

A second reason advanced by the contractor is that he is not getting his payments promptly, therefore cannot pay his subs, and they in turn do not energetically pursue their work. The implication is that the fault rests with the Construction Fund for not clearing payments sooner. In my judgment, there are overly long delays in payment of subs, but not due to the Construction Fund. Rather the fault lies mostly with the prime contractor who has consistently taken terribly long periods to submit his requests for payment. In short, he is not only a slow builder, but also a slow administrator, and this is not a justifiable excuse for delays.

Cc: Vice President Allan Kuusisto
Vice President Milton Olson
Vice President Clifton Thorne
Dr. Paul Bruce Pettit

Dr. Charles Stokes
Dean O. W. Parimutter
Dr. Robert Rowe

Walter M. Tisdale
Assistant to the President
for Planning & Development