

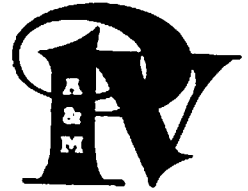


PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of The Texas A&M University System

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE



May 5, 2003

Dr. James T. Rogers
Executive Director
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Rogers:

As required by *The Policies, Procedures, Guidelines* of the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Prairie View A&M University hereby notifies the Commission of its intent to implement two additional doctoral programs: Ph.D., Educational Leadership and Ph.D., Electrical Engineering.

As your records will show, on July 3, 2002, Prairie View A&M University was notified that the Commission on Colleges had approved its substantive change request to move from Level III to Level V. The University's first Ph.D. program, Juvenile Justice, had been implemented in 1999.

Enclosed is a copy of the notification of approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Due to the fiscal austerity that states, including Texas, are experiencing, THECB has asked that each institution receiving approval for doctoral programs in the 2002-2003 academic year, submit a letter to Commissioner Don Brown reaffirming the financial commitment outlined in the certification of financial adequacy required by respective governing boards and by THECB. In view of the budgetary constraints it reordering of priorities could well have projected allocations to new and existing programs. At Prairie View A&M University, however, that has not been the case. The University is most fortunate to have had the addition of doctoral programs by discipline in its strengthening and enhancement plan signed by the Honorable George W. Bush who was Governor of Texas when the state reached an agreement with the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education. That agreement, titled the *Texas Commitment to Prairie View A&M University*, has provided full support for recruiting scholarly faculty, building the library and instructional infrastructure, supporting student assistantships, et cetera. For Electrical Engineering there is even a new building nearing the design stage. While the two doctoral programs were approved to begin Fall, 2003, the University has planned to enroll students in the Educational Leadership program in January, 2004. Since the faculty hiring process in electrical engineering was completed far ahead of schedule, the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering is scheduled to enroll students in the Fall, 2003.

DR. JAMES T. ROGERS

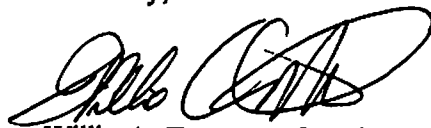
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Dr. Rogers, the Commission has provided such excellent guidance and service to Prairie View A&M University during the years and especially during its preparation for and progression through its March, 2000 site visit for reaffirmation of accreditation and substantive change review, an effort broader in scope than any in the history of the University. The responsiveness and professionalism of our liaison to the Commission, Dr. Tom Benberg, are phenomenal. Our hope is that we'll remain one of his institutions for some time to come.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about our plans and if there is additional information we should submit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willie A. Tempton', written in a cursive style.

Willie A. Tempton, Interim President

xc: Dr. Tom Benburg, Associate Executive
Director, Commission on Colleges
Dr. Leo Sayavedra, Vice Chancellor for Academic
and Student Affairs, TAMUS
Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith, Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs