Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission, 1972-1980

Repository: Delaware State University Archives
William C. Jason Library
1200 N. DuPont Highway; Dover, DE 19901
302-857-6130

Creator: Delaware State College Office of the President

Date: 1972-1980 [bulk dates, 1974-1979]

Location: Row 12, Bay A, Shelf 1

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: English

Source of Acquisition: Unknown

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is open to public viewing. No restrictions.

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Abstract: The Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission (DPEC) was founded by an executive order and signed into being by Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt in 1977. The commission’s primary function was and is to study, improve, expand, and create consistency among the institutions of higher education in Delaware. The records found herein are primarily comprised of meeting minutes and materials, correspondence, and reports dated from 1972 to 1980.

Scope and Content:

This collection is largely made up of records of DPEC meetings held between 1974 and 1979. Series I: Meeting materials consists of meeting minutes and handouts. Note, however, that the majority of folders, representing individual meetings, do not hold minutes. If searching specifically for minutes, check the folder immediately following as the minutes may have been included as a handout or agenda item at the next subsequent meeting.

Series II: Correspondence is comprised of both incoming and outgoing correspondence in the form of letters, memos, and handwritten notes. Notes written by the secretaries within the Office of the President and notes addressed to the secretaries by the President, may also be found interleaved with the official DPEC correspondence.

Series III: Subjects is a group of records that were not foldered by the secretaries within either meeting materials or correspondence. The series includes reports drafted by DPEC to Delaware State authorities, finance and budget records, a handbook of Delaware colleges, records of commission membership, executive orders pertaining to DPEC, and more.

Administrative History:

On June 13, 1974 the Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission (DPEC) was created by Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt’s Executive Order Number Forty-Seven and persisted through successive executive orders in 1977 and 1991.

The purpose of the Commission is to prepare and compile comprehensive studies of all public and private postsecondary educational resources in the Delaware. The Commission additionally ensures the coordination, improvement, expansion and alteration of available
financial and educational resources so that Delawareans have the opportunity to benefit from postsecondary education.

The Commission originally consisted of eleven members; however, after numerous amendments the number of members was increased to 21, all appointed by the Governor. There were initially six non-voting institutional members. They included: the president of the University of Delaware, the president of Delaware State College, the president of one of Delaware’s independent colleges, the president of Delaware Technical and Community College, the president of one of the proprietary schools of the state, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The voting members of the Commission were representative of the general public.

The commission is empowered to apply for, accept and disburse grants, gifts and contributions from the federal government for the purpose of furthering the objectives of the Commission. The commission oversees state program authorities of the U.S. Higher Education Act.

In June 2001, the General Assembly formalized the relationship between the Department of Education and DPEC, thereafter called the Higher Education Commission, in statute. The law expanded on provisions of existing executive orders, added new responsibilities and reduced the number of members from 21 to 13. Five members represent the general public, 4 represent public institutions, 2 represent private institutions and 2 represent state departments. Members are appointed by the governor to 3-year terms and legislative consent is not required. While the Commission is not a cabinet department, the Commission is a division of the Department of Education, which is a cabinet department.


Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are foldered according to the original order imposed by the secretaries serving under President Mishoe. No alterations or additions have been to each individual folder to modify their organization. The exceptions are the items found within the Subjects series which were found loose outside of the folders or otherwise not designated. The collection breakdown into the Correspondence, Meeting materials, and Subject series were created by the archivist in order to assert greater intellectual control.

Series I: Meeting materials is ordered chronologically and the folder composition is representative of individual meetings. Series II: Correspondence is also ordered chronologically. Incoming and outgoing correspondence are foldered together. Series III: Subjects is organized by alphabetical order.

Box and Folder Listing:

Series I: Meeting materials

Box 1:

Meeting materials, July 15, 1974
Meeting materials, August 21, 1974
Meeting materials, September 18, 1974
Meeting materials, October 16, 1974
Meeting materials, November 20, 1974
Meeting materials, December 18, 1974
Meeting materials, January 15, 1975
Meeting materials, February 19, 1975
Meeting materials, March 19, 1975
Meeting materials, April 30, 1975
Meeting materials, May 21, 1975
Meeting materials, June 18, 1975
Meeting materials, July 16, 1975
Meeting materials, August 20, 1975
Meeting materials, September 17, 1975
Meeting materials, October 15, 1975
Meeting materials, November 19, 1975
Meeting materials, December 17, 1975

Box 2:
Meeting materials, January 21, 1976
Meeting materials, February 18, 1976
Meeting materials, March 17, 1976
Meeting materials, April 21, 1976
Meeting materials, May 19, 1976
Meeting materials, June 16, 1976
Meeting materials, July 21, 1976
Meeting materials, August 18, 1976
Meeting materials, September 15, 1976
Meeting materials, October 20, 1976
Meeting materials, November 17, 1976
Meeting materials, December 15, 1976
Meeting materials, January 19, 1977
Meeting materials, February 16, 1977
Meeting materials, March 16, 1977
Meeting materials, April 20, 1977
Meeting materials, May 18, 1977
Meeting materials, June 8, 1977
Meeting materials, July 20, 1977
Meeting materials, August 17, 1977
Meeting materials, September 21, 1977

Box 3:
Meeting materials, November 10, 1977
Meeting materials, January 12, 1978
Meeting materials, March 9, 1978
Meeting materials, April 13, 1978
Meeting materials, June 8, 1978
Meeting materials, November 30, 1978
Meeting materials, December 1, 1978
Meeting materials, November 8, 1979
Meeting materials, November 29, 1979

Series II: Correspondence
Box 3 Continued:
Correspondence, 1974
Correspondence, January-March 1975
Correspondence, April-July 1975
Correspondence, August-December 1975
Correspondence, January-July 1976

Box 4:
Correspondence, August-December 1976
Correspondence, 1977
Correspondence, 1978
Correspondence, 1979

Series III: Subjects
Box 4 Continued:
Annual Issues Conference, September 28-30, 1979
Commission Members, 1974-1977
“Composition of the Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission,”
June 30, 1975
Council for Postsecondary Education DPEC finance request, November 1975
Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission Outline, n.d.
DPEC Executive Director job descriptions, n.d.
Estimates of financial aid requirements for Delaware’s postsecondary
Students, October 1975
“Fiscal 1981 budget reviews: Delaware’s major postsecondary agencies
plus perspectives and trend data for in-state and out of state
comparisons, 1981”
Lease of DPEC offices, July 15, 1975
Executive orders pertaining to DPEC, 1973-1975
Long-Range issues workshop, September 29-October 1, 1978
Policies, standards, and procedures for approving degree granting
institutions of higher education, June 14, 1972
“Postsecondary Education Commission Newsletters,” January-May 1980
“Private Business and Trade Schools in Delaware: Delaware Code, Title
14, Chapter 85 and rules and regulations of the Delaware State
Board of Education,” August 1, 1978
Proposed budget for the Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission
for fiscal year 1977, September 25, 1975
Title I grant award at Delaware State College, 1976
Title VI instructional materials grant application, 1974-1976
Transfer of college credits, November 16, 1977
Transfer of college credits, May 1978

Colophon: Collection was processed in July, 2017 by Rejoice E. Scherry. Original order was
maintained throughout the collection to the fullest extent possible. The source of acquisition is
presumably the Office of the President with the recognition that the records are largely addressed
to, or signed by, President Luna I. Mishoe and aggregated by his secretarial staff. However, it is
unknown for certain as no records transfer documentation exists and collection was found within
the William C. Jason Library prior to the formation of an archive.