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LONDON TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT COLUMN

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California's vast system of public higher education has been ~~by almost every measure~~ a model for the United States. The 1.4 million students now enrolled in the state's college and universities account for 13 percent of the nation's entire enrollment in higher education. Further, ~~California's 1960~~ *that structured California's system in 1960 also* master plan ~~for higher education~~ set the framework for the ~~quality and equality debate in this country.~~ *planning*

For over a quarter of a century the assumptions of the California master plan, which established a three-tiered, integrated system ~~of higher education,~~ were rarely challenged. The University of California, with its nine separate institutions, would be highly selective, and carry the primary responsibility for doctorate education and research. The 19 campuses of the state university system would be less selective, ~~they would offer masters but no doctorate degrees and be a blend of teaching with~~ *support* more limited research. The 106 community colleges would be the point of entry for most students but provide ~~transfer to senior~~ *that embraced* institutions. Thus, California designed a system ~~with~~ elitism and openness, selectivity and mobility as well.

But in recent years reality overtook the neat design. The community colleges, ~~a model for open admissions~~ became less

transfer and more terminal in their focus, serving adults, Hispanic and Black students who ^{frequently did not} ~~were unwilling to~~ cross the shaky bridges that link the two-year and four-year institutions.

The State University campuses, precluded from offering doctorates, ^{degrees} encountered frustration among professors who worried that without students in Ph.D. programs they could not adequately pursue advanced scholarship.

The University of California ~~campuses~~ ^{the jewels} in the crown, emphasized research so heavily that ^{Nita} their commitment to undergraduate education was challenged.

It was in this context that the ^{state of} California recently completed a comprehensive review of its celebrated master plan. A prestigious Commission, ^{after months of study} concluded that a ~~more effective~~ ^{more effective} system ~~was~~ ^{needed}. The basic ~~cause~~ ^{was} for concern is rooted in the changing demography of the state. By the year 2000, Hispanics will make up one-third of the population in California and by 2020 Hispanics, Blacks and Asians will ^{form} ~~be~~ the majority. What the Commission found especially troubling was that Black and Hispanic students ^{were} ~~are~~ over represented in the community colleges and ~~disproportionately~~ ^{the} under-represented at four-year colleges and universities. ^{was the intent} ~~in~~ ^{in fact} ~~was~~ ^{breaking up into separate tracks.}

The Commission strongly recommended that the historic ^{relationship} ~~of the separate sectors~~ be reaffirmed in order to serve more effectively the transfer function of the community colleges. ^{well-educated} ~~It~~ ^{about} ~~was~~ ^{and} ~~urged~~ ^{that} students be fully informed ~~as to which courses are transferable, with credit,~~ ^{procedures and about which courses are transferable} to the four-year institutions. ^{Special priority was given to}

Further, the Commission proposed that the state-wide community college governing board be given more authority. Currently the ^{to lead} ~~in the setting of~~ ^{strengthening} ~~the~~ ^{the}

two-year schools are largely under the control of independently-elected, local boards of trustees.

California's initiatives for community colleges will be closely watched since ^{the mission of these institutions is being debated nationwide} in many states. ~~These institutions offer~~ ^{the 2-year colleges} short-term community-based programs ~~for adults and students.~~ ^{have, as in California, expanded and reduced} The traditional higher education function ~~has diminished.~~ Reflecting a national concern ^{of} the Ford Foundation recently awarded grants to a network of community colleges committed to encouraging more minority students to ^{complete} ~~continue~~ their education after completing their two-year degree ~~and transfer to a senior institution for~~ ^{upper level work.} ~~Another concern was the growth of~~ remedial education, which provides high school level work to college students ^{who are academically} ~~of deficient academic background.~~ This practice is widespread in California, as it is throughout the United States.

~~Specifically,~~ the Commission called upon the four-year campuses ~~to improve the retention rates of students academically deficient to at least two-thirds of the rate for regularly-admitted students.~~ ~~The goal is to phase out remedial education programs by 1995.~~

~~For~~ For this to be accomplished, the new master plan stresses the interdependency of the schools and higher education. The four-year institutions were urged to give special credit to faculty members who work with ^{colleagues} ~~colleges~~ in the public schools. This would be a notable shift in a faculty reward system that ~~has~~ relied on research and publication as the chief criteria for tenure and promotion.

The Commission also focused on the quality of undergraduate teaching. "There is evidence that teaching is not given appropriate priority," the Commission said, and it ~~pointed out the~~ ^{singled out the} ~~California State University and the University of California~~ ^{focused especially on the four-year institutions}. The Commission recommended that teaching be given equal consideration with research in judging the performance of faculty members.

The Commission then turned to the curriculum. It concluded that the courses selected by students often do not add up to a worthwhile education. ~~It~~ ^{It} recommended that faculty join with governing boards to create a general education curriculum with both breadth and coherence. Further, the Commission proposed that students ^{attended colleges & universities in California be expected to} achieve competency in a second language and earn academic credit for voluntary service. ^{also be given the opportunity to}

Finally, the touching ~~issue~~ ^{considered} of doctorate education was ~~examined~~. After heated debate, ^{about the mission of the Calif. State Univ. system,} the present arrangement was left pretty much intact. The University of California would remain the doctorate granting sector. However, the ~~panel~~ ^{commission} did propose that an Intersegmental Degree Programs Board be established ^{this board would have the authority} to authorize and extend joint doctoral programs between ~~a campus of~~ the State University and ~~a campus of~~ the University of California. ~~or a private university.~~

What we are left with in California is a reaffirmation of the three-tiered ~~system in~~ ^{structure of} American ^{public} higher education, ~~one that~~ ^{a system} seeks to maintain a balance between access and quality. The ^{conviction that is widely shared,} ~~urgent appeal,~~ however, is that this system must work better for Black and Hispanic students. And the claim is made that if

colleges and universities do not respond to the dramatic social

and demographic changes in this nation, they run the ^{risk} danger of

~~reinforcing the already existing gap between the winners and the losers.~~ ^{separating still further the}

~~causing generation on the basis of race and class~~

~~California's higher educational system has been a model for~~

~~America. After a careful examination of the system, a state~~ ^{review} ~~Commission has concluded that~~ ^{leaders in California have concluded}

~~that America's most refined public higher education system can,~~ ^{that America's most refined public higher education system can,}

~~can continue to~~ ^{with proper adjustments, the model} meet the needs of future generations.

By focusing as much on quality as on structure, Californians
revised master plan has thoughtfully established new priorities
for ~~American~~ ^{in California} higher education and once again provided a model for
the nation.

January 1988

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