

John

October 6, 1992

I talked with Dick Thomas from DCE about this external degree business. I don't think that the Physical Science major is the one we want for this external degree. Labs at the upper division are the problem plus all of these minors would have to be bought on at accept courses from other places. I have done some of this on a piece-meal basis for individual students and we will continue to do this. But, we can't advertise that we do it. Dick and I have both talked with Rod Oldehoeft and he has asked Thomas to get the names of CS folks at other institutions that would be the contact persons for an external degree. Thomas has not gotten all of the names for him as yet. One of the problems that RO faces is the lack of SURGE classrooms available to him so that they could start teaching their intro classes (which are sort of large) and get those students on track. The other possibility is the Math degree. Thomas wants to know what it would cost to have some faculty member work on courses - get released time- that could be delivered via tv, correspondence, etc. He is going to talk with Gaines once more.

The big issue is that the students who would be part of this program would have taken 75-90% of their course work somewhere else. No department wants to authorize a degree from their program without having had some contact with the student. Right now, we don't have enough (any) courses that they can take via long distance. Likewise, no other schools in the consortium are willing to give a degree from their depts. for the same reason. I think this issue is a long way from being resolved. People will continue to play with it for years at this rate. The social science degree is far from being resolved as well. Right now we can only sit back and watch.

Tom