CYBERNETICS AND EDUCATIONAL CHANGE

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The California State University and Colleges (CSUC) embarked in January of 1971 on a sustained program of educational innovation. Dr. Gleen S. Dumke, Chancellor of the CSUC, set out the basic principles for this educational program in a speech he made at that time.

> "Students and faculties and public alike have been questioning the educational results of our current systems, and many of us have serious doubts about their continuing efficacy. The necessary changes will ... be brought about by ... institutions like ours, young enough to be flexible, historically teaching-oriented, and not afraid to try something new".

Proposals for time-shortened degree programs, greater attention to general education, reassessments of the meaning of the baccalaureate and needed fiscal and procedural reforms were the main thrusts of his statement. In the following weeks a Task Force on innovation was organized to initiate innovation and change within this framework. The basic objectives of a program for planned change for the CSUC system began to take shape.

These objectives may be stated (to a degree in retrospect) as follows:

First to provide stimulus to faculty in a system where teaching loads are high, working conditions perceived to be below par, and mobility increasingly difficult.

Second, to develop increased options for students beyond the conventional classroom/laboratory teaching situation while reducing wasteful course content repetition.

Third, to pursue alternative approaches to instruction and certification which can be justified on a cost-beneficial basis.