

This issue of *Metropolitan Universities* marks the creation of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities under the joint sponsorship of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The new coalition's purpose is to further the interests of its member institutions at the national, state, and local level, to articulate and explore the issues of policy and procedure faced by them, and to strengthen the reciprocal relationships between these institutions and their regional constituencies. Our journal will be published under the auspices and with the support of the coalition.

The coalition was conceived in the course of the Metropolitan Universities Conference held at the University of North Texas in Denton in March 1993. Almost three dozen presidents and provosts of metropolitan and urban universities, together with Presidents Peter Magrath of NASULGC and James Appleberry of AASCU, met during that conference and developed the general format of the new organization. Further details are being worked out by the association heads and a small group of university presidents, led by Chancellor Alfred Hurley of the University of North Texas and President Hoke Smith of Towson State University.

The start of the coalition constitutes a significant milestone in the progress toward extensive recognition, both within higher education and outside, of the nature and the importance of our institutions—whether they call themselves urban or metropolitan. The coalition will spread the word, in various ways, about the crucial role that our regional, comprehensive universities can and must play as major intellectual resources for their surrounding constituencies and communities by means of a wide spectrum of instructional activities, effective outreach and interaction, and applied research closely tied to the needs of their region.

The coalition will add two important new dimensions to the current work of the national higher education associations. In the first place, it will focus on the activities and the requirements of a category of institutions not explicitly represented at this time by any of the existing organizations. Secondly, it will focus much of its attention on the state and local level, working with bodies such as the Education Commission of the States, the National Governors Conference, the National League of Mayors, the League of Cities, and other such organizations, national in scope but regional or local in their focus.

The coalition will engage in the following activities:

- It will organize special sessions and other events at the annual meetings of NASULGC and AASCU;
- It will organize its own annual national meetings;
- It will sponsor this journal as well as such newsletters and other publications as is deemed appropriate;

- It will work closely with NASULGC and AASCU to represent the policy interests of metropolitan and urban universities wherever it is appropriate.

NASULGC and AASCU have welcomed the coalition as a significant component of the urban and metropolitan interests of the two associations. The two associations have jointly appointed Judith James as a full time, senior staff member who will direct their combined urban activities and who will provide support for the coalition in the pursuit of its goals. The activities of the coalition will be financed by an annual assessment, which will be added to the regular membership fees of NASULGC or AASCU. Institutions belonging to both organizations will be billed only by one of them. Procedures for membership in the coalition by institutions that are not members of either NASULGC or AASCU will be worked out.

It is very fitting to have the coalition operate under the joint auspices of NASULGC and AASCU, and not only because almost every metropolitan university in the public sector belongs to one or the other or even both organizations. During the past decade, both associations have become increasingly focused on the issues and conditions faced by their urban and metropolitan members. NASULGC created an Urban Division in 1978, and at about the same time AASCU set up an Urban Committee. For the last several years, NASULGC has had a Commission on the Urban Agenda, and AASCU a Council on Urban and Metropolitan Colleges and Universities. In addition, the associations have given growing recognition to the role of higher education in social and economic development at the local and regional level. Both have generated a number of publications on the topic. Their interest is illustrated by the testimony of Dr. Magrath as president of NASULGC to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Technology, Environment, and Aviation, which we reprint in this issue of *Metropolitan Universities*. In it he describes the potential contribution of the traditional land grant universities to regional development. He uses terms that are very familiar to all of us interested and involved in metropolitan universities. We can only welcome that what we consider to be a major commitment for our institutions is being viewed with growing seriousness by traditional research universities as well.

The coalition will have a steering group consisting of a number of presidents of member institutions, as well as the presidents of NASULGC and AASCU, and the executive editor of *Metropolitan Universities*, *ex officio*. This body will:

- set policy and programmatic directions for the coalition;
- select the location of annual coalition meetings and work with the host institutions to develop programs;
- appoint an Editorial Advisory Board for this journal;
- review and periodically report to NASULGC and AASCU on the activities of the staff member assigned to the coalition by these organizations.

The presidents or chancellors of the following institutions acted as an interim organizing group and were the first to commit their universities to the coalition:

University of Arkansas at Little Rock
 University of Central Florida
 University of Louisville
 University of Maryland System
 University of North Texas
 Sacramento State University
 Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg
 University of Texas at San Antonio
 Towson State University
 University of Wisconsin at Parkside
 Wright State University

As of the current issue, *Metropolitan Universities* is being jointly published on behalf of the coalition by Towson State University in Maryland and the University of Massachusetts at Boston. The undersigned, as executive editor, is supported by the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Towson State University acts as fiscal agent for the journal and has assigned overall project management to John Brain, who will be the publisher. The coalition will support all additional expenses of publishing the journal.

All the universities joining the coalition and supporting the publication of this journal are highly interactive, regionally oriented institutions, responsive to instructional and other knowledge needs of their contiguous constituencies. Some of these institutions focus on the core city; others take a more inclusive view of a metropolitan area of which all parts are interdependent. Some call themselves urban, others prefer the label metropolitan. All share the same philosophy of developing a symbiotic relationship with their surroundings by means of involvement and outreach.

The founders of the journal as well as its editor have always taken the word *metropolis* in its expansive sense. They view a modern urban agglomeration as a multiply connected and interdependent web. From that perspective, using both urban and metropolitan appears redundant, because each implies the other, and the latter includes the former. Yet one cannot ignore the historical struggle that a number of institutions, and individuals within them, have waged over the years to put urban issues on the academic agenda. They have struggled for many years to draw attention to the challenges faced by urban institutions. Whether we consider ourselves to be in a metropolitan university or in an urban one, we have all benefited from the work of the Association of Urban Universities and its fight for Title XI. We also have much reason to be grateful for the earlier labor of those who brought about the establishment of an Urban Division at NASULGC and an Urban Committee at AASCU.

Our collective task is too important to be weakened by a semantic disagreement. Whether we call ourselves urban or metropolitan, we all share the same philosophy and the same objectives. That is why the

individuals meeting in Denton decided to give the new coalition a name that included both adjectives, so as to remove any doubt and avoid any discussion regarding the strength of our collective commitment to the entire city-centered region: urban core, adjoining municipalities, and further suburbs.

With the creation of coalition, this journal takes on an amplified role as a means to give ever greater visibility to the purposes of the coalition and to the interests of its members, in addition to continuing its ongoing task of helping to clarify and to articulate policies and procedures conducive to the mission of metropolitan and urban universities.

As the journal begins its operation under new sponsorship, we want to express our gratitude to Wright State University and to its outgoing president, Paige Mulhollan. Paige began the movement that led to the creation of the coalition. At his initiative and under his leadership, Wright State University hosted the first national conference on Metropolitan Universities in Dayton in March 1991. Wright State University has also provided all but a small fraction of the funds needed to publish this journal for more than three years. Beginnings are the most difficult: thanks to Paige Mulhollan and to Wright State University, both the coalition and the journal can move ahead on a solid base. Throughout most of its affiliation with Wright State University, the development of the journal was greatly furthered by Chuck Hathaway in his capacity as senior editor. In his new position as chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Chuck will continue to play a key role in the coalition and with the journal. We are grateful, as well, for Mary Ellen Mazey's and Jane Dockery's more recent contributions as senior editor and associate editor, respectively.

The strong commitment of the group meeting in Denton to the continuation of the journal under the sponsorship of the coalition is a welcome indication that the publication is fulfilling a useful role in the clarification and promulgation of the metropolitan university concept. We intend to move ahead, hoping to continue to improve the journal, and to become of ever increasing interest to our readers—the number of which we also hope to see grow. The journal will continue to publish articles intended to be of interest and utility to individuals both within and outside academic institutions who have a stake in higher education. It continues to seek contributions on a wide range of pertinent subjects.

The current issue is the second to be devoted to student services and activities. It could not have come into being without the devoted and prolonged efforts of its two guest editors, Dean Nancy Stoll of Suffolk University in Boston, and Dean Larry Benedict, who was at the University of Southern Maine when he undertook this assignment, and who has since moved to Johns Hopkins University. I am most grateful to them and to the authors for their work.