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Director of Public Affairs

SCAS BECOMES UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

DALLAS --

The Southwest Center for Advanced Studies became a primary degree-granting unit of The University of Texas System on September 1. Joining the state University System after some seven years of operation on a private-support base, the basic research and graduate education center was designated The University of Texas at Dallas.

Acting President of UTD is Dr. Francis S. Johnson, who headed the SCAS' Atmospheric and Space Sciences Division from 1962 until the past summer.

First programs at UTD will be restricted to graduate level, principally doctoral, in such fields as physics, geophysics, and biology. Multidisciplinary research will continue in space, earth and biological sciences, as well as mathematical physics.

The faculty of approximately 50 is supplemented by some 20 research scientists and post-doctoral students.

The 61st Texas Legislature, approving an enabling act that permitted acceptance of an estimated \$14 million in physical assets as a gift to the state, restricted UTD to graduate offerings until September, 1975. After that, according to the act, junior and senior-year undergraduate courses may be added.

UTD will continue its present co-operative graduate programs with other institutions. These have led to the award of 11 doctoral degrees, granted by "home schools" including The University of Texas at Austin, Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, Oklahoma State University, and Emory University, within the United States. Other awards have been made by The University of Brussels, Tokyo Metropolitan University, The University

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of Brazil, and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

First steps in the transfer were taken more than a year ago, through joint approval of the SCAS trustees and The University of Texas System Regents. The trusteeship includes the co-founders of the SCAS, Mayor Erik Jonsson, Cecil H. Green, and Eugene McDermott.

Former SCAS functions in private support of education will be continued by a private organization, the Excellence in Education Foundation; EEF will not engage directly in teaching and research. Its assets include more than 900 acres of land in the north Dallas area, a portion of which is occupied by industrial research organizations.

TAGER (The Association for Graduate Education and Research of North Texas) will continue its private operations in graduate education, with Ross C. Peavey as Executive Director. Mr. Peavey, who joined the SCAS administrative staff in 1962 at the request of founding President Lloyd V. Berkner, went to his new assignment on August 1. TAGER's offices will remain on the EEF property.

TAGER is an association of private and state schools through which resources are brought together for teaching. A principal activity involves interconnection of seven college and university campuses, plus more than 40 in-plant classrooms at industrial sites over a 3,000 square mile area. Six microwave-cable circuits with multiple branches are used to carry graduate course work by television, with return audio lines from students to teachers. Mr. Green is Chairman of the TAGER Board of Trustees.

The Southwest Center for Advanced Studies was first chartered on February 14, 1961, under the name Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. President Berkner was succeeded by President Gifford K. Johnson, March 17, 1965, but continued to serve as Chairman of the SCAS Board of Trustees until his death in Washington in 1967. Dr. Francis S. Johnson assumed the Acting Presidency of the SCAS July 1, 1969.