

EVALUATION OF THE ECUT CONFERENCE

The Conference was started at 9:00 a.m. During the introduction, the purpose and history of ECUT (Estudiantes Chicanos Unidos de Tejas) was explained. ECUT was formulated to act as a means for communication, organization, and promotion of the general welfare of all Chicanos. It was formed as a result of a Chicano caucus against racism held at the University of Texas at Austin in April of 1975. The Chicanos of UT feared the Ethnic Studies on their campus would not be funded.

After the introduction, we had a communications exercise in which we divided into small groups and exchanged ideas about our personal goals, the status of our club, and about the minorities on our campuses.

A full presentation of ECUT was then given by Joe Alvarez of the University of Houston. One of the first attempts to establish communication among the colleges was held at Albuquerque, NM in July. This conference, entitled "Access to Higher Education for Chicanos," was sponsored by H.E.W. and included mostly professional staff people and a few students. They asked each state to go back and organize in the state level.

As a result, a meeting was held in San Antonio on August 7 & 8, and the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) was formed. The purpose of this organization was to carry out the goals proposed at the Albuquerque conference. They drew up a constitution and elected officers.

On September 20, a conference was held in San Antonio as a follow-up of the Chicano caucus that had occurred in Austin. ECUT was formed at this conference. The state was divided into six regions. It was then decided that U. of Houston would draw up the constitution for ECUT. The finished constitution will be voted on by all six regions at the State Conference of ECUT to be held on Feb. 13 & 14 at Trinity University.

Sylvia Garza then presented a report on the Chicano State Leadership Conference held in Lubbock on Oct. 10 & 11.

After lunch one delegate from each school was chosen to present a report on their respective campus, the status of their club, and their expectations and problems. Fourteen schools were represented: San Angelo State, Our Lady of the Lake, Baylor, College of the Mainland, Odessa College, Southwest Texas State, Trinity, Texas Tech, West Texas State, St. Phillips, San Antonio College, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Sul Ross, and UT at Austin.

We then divided into two workshops entitled: (1) Communications and (2) Organization. In the Organization workshop, three essentials were established: (A) the organizer, which would be one person, (B) the organized, which includes the members, and (C) the organization. The organizer must be willing and able to listen and share his time and skill to formulate a broad-based group. He should know himself, get to know the enemy, and find

out make-up of faculty and administration. He must also meet constituents and members of the organization. This is accomplished by meeting with members of classes and members of the community. He needs to ask questions everywhere and he constantly has to be learning. He should remember that he is the organizer, not the leader. When he calls his meetings, he should have good organization and this stems from good planning. When he plans his ideas, he should also plan alternative ideas in case the original idea is not accepted. In planning ideas, he should have a purpose, issues, and priorities.

Under the organized (b), the mobilization of resources comes in. Everyone needs to have a particular interest and idea. The group should be able to identify with the leadership. They should also have someone with connections. The leadership needs to be established and kept up. The students should ask of themselves, "Who am I?" Chicano students are elite, thus, we have a lot to offer. We also have many resources available to us. By attending college, we are taking advantage of one of these.

(c) There are two types of organizations: (1) broad-based, which is ill-defined, and (2) goal-organized, which is a specific interest group. One needs to approach oneself and make an image for himself. In order to approach oneself, one needs to clarify his purpose and define what it is that we want from the organization. One needs to commit himself to the group idea and organization. There are two essential things to be successful: (1) having a viable action-type group, and (2) involving campus with community and community with campus. The goals of the organization should be objective issues, and to obtain a good education.

The purpose of the Communications Workshop was to put together a regional structure to establish communications with all schools in the state. TACHE divided the state into six regions geographically, not necessarily by the amount of schools in the area. The State Communications System cannot be run only by mail, but regular meetings need to be held. There are two essential ideas: (1) a mandate that each region have a monthly meeting where only one or two people from each school need to be present, and (2) regular communications, which is written, giving people an idea of what is going on in the state and region.

The communications will be established in each particular region. Each school is responsible for submitting to that regional headquarters a detailed campus report of its activities. Each region will then write two reports. The first is a general report of the activities in each region. The second report will be a detailed report of the activities within the particular region which is known as the specific report. In the specific regional report, the news needs to be specific to the areas. The activities of all the schools will be included, with each region deciding which news is regional and which is state-wide. The State needs to be aware of all happenings, but may not need all the specifics. Both reports will then be submitted to the state headquarters. They will

will compile all the regional reports into a state packet, and send each regional headquarters the amount of packets it needs in order to send each school in the region one. With the regional report will be a copy of the specific report. The regional coordinator, who is located at the regional headquarters, is responsible for making sure each school submits its campus report to the headquarters. The only connection the individual schools have with the state is through the regional coordinator.

Region II proposed an outline through which their region would operate which is called the Steering Committee. The steering committee would consist of two to four members from each organization in ECUT. Their steering committee was divided into three subcommittees: (1) fund raising, (2) research, and (3) communications. The fund raising committee is responsible for finding a means to cover costs of the mailing, telephone calls, and other material needed to run the region. The fund raising subcommittee will decide how much each school will contribute. The research subcommittee was to cover any ideas that a particular organization wants researched. The communications subcommittee will be responsible for defining the structure of the report, what it will contain, when the reports are due and what particular day telephone calls to all schools will be made.

The conference was then concluded with delegation meetings. The delegations that were at the Lubbock conference met separately from the Region II delegations. We then reported to our schools on the workshops and filled out an evaluation on the conference which was turned in.