

COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE LIFE

May 1, 1963

Scott Hall, Room 217

Present:

Roland J. Hinz, Chairman  
Barbara A. Caulfield  
Karl de Schweinitz  
R. Barry Farrell  
Richard S. Hartenberg  
Laura L. Lee  
John C. Maloney

Trudy A. Porter  
Richard T. Schaefer  
Douglas J. Serdahely  
Patricia A. Thrash  
Edward T. P. Watson  
Seward Weber

Absent:

Fred L. Hemke  
Edward Victor

Guests:

Doug Behr  
Steve Nisenbaum  
Phil Lehner  
Ann Gohlke

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. in Room 217, Scott Hall, with Dean Hinz presiding. Mr. Hinz directed the Council's attention to a letter from the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority formally requesting a chapter on this campus. Miss Thrash moved that the Council respond favorably to the letter and grant a chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha to come on campus. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lee. Mr. Farrell asked if the group was open to any student. Mr. Hinz explained that the group was not exclusive of white students even though its membership was primarily Negro. Mr. Farrell suggested that the Council wait to act on the motion until they had received a letter from the National Headquarters of the sorority stating that it did not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, or national origin. There was discussion by the Council on the discrimination policies of any fraternity or sorority on campus. Miss Thrash explained that in 1965 she had asked to have a letter from each sorority stating that it allowed its members to choose members without discrimination. She stated that these letters were on file in her office. Mr. Weber said that he would check on the fraternities, but that he thought that there were letters from the fraternities stating that the individual chapters at Northwestern University could choose to ignore the national rules if such rules permitted discrimination.

It was mentioned that recommendations from alumni in the sorority system are a "built-in" discrimination system. The Council decided that the important thing at present was to have on file a letter from each house stating that it did not discriminate. Beyond that, it was suggested that a committee investigate any discrimination in the Greek system.

The motion was restated to read: "The Council approves the granting of a charter to Alpha Kappa Alpha upon receipt of a letter assuring the University that members of Alpha Kappa Alpha are free to choose their members regardless of race, creed, or national origin."

The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

Mr. Hinz mentioned the two bills passed by the Student Senate on April 25, 1968. One concerned the arming of the campus security force which is going to be discussed with Mr. Arndt next Thursday at the Senate meeting. The other was a proposal by the Senate that an increase in allotment be granted to the Student Senate to defray the costs of their operations and programs.

Mr. Maloney expressed his concern over the weapons in the residence halls. Mrs. Lee said that it was now a problem of the individual residence halls and the supervisory associations and ultimately U.D.C. Mr. Nisenbaum explained that all action should come from the house boards. He also said that the Senate had received 22 constitutions from the living units and that they expected more very soon.

Mr. Hinz then discussed the Ultimatum of the Black Students with the Council. The statement concerned admissions, financial aid, housing, curriculum, counseling, student facilities, and open occupancy. He commented on each issue and explained the response the administration had made to each item. He also told the Council of the U.D.C. statement and recommendations made to the December 2 incident of racial trouble on campus.

Mr. Maloney asked if Mr. Turner, the author of the Statement really represented the Black Students. Mr. Hartenberg wanted to know if the Black students identified with Mr. Lou Gregg. There was concern expressed for the financial problems of the Black students. Mr. Behr explained that the Black students have a deficit in their backgrounds which hinders them when they try to work and study also. Mr. Hinz explained that 80% of the Black students are receiving grants of \$2,000 or more. He said that they were, in general, performing at a more successful level than most of the groups at other schools. Mr. Schaefer asked if these demands made by the Black students were similar to those being made all over the country. Mr. Hinz explained that this was true but it did not make it any less real for Northwestern University. Mr. Serdahely suggested that the Council invite several Black students to come to the next meeting to educate the Council on their concerns. Mr. Hinz explained that the students are looking not for talk but rather for action.

Mr. Hinz read the three concluding paragraphs of the Ultimatum to give the Council a picture of the situation. He explained that Mr. Turner planned a press conference to explain his plans for confrontation. Mr. Serdahely expressed concern that these problems are not just for the administration, but rather they are meant to be dealt with by the entire community. In response to this statement Mr. Nisenbaum explained that the Senate was concerned with the problem and had re-activated its Human Relations Council to study the problems. Mr. Hinz explained that the University was forming a Human Relations Committee soon also which would study the Negro problems in a community structure.

There was discussion of curriculum and the Experimental College. Mr. Nisenbaum explained the Experimental College system. Mr. Hinz explained that the University is currently teaching a course in History of the South.

Mr. Watson said that the meaning of racism had changed. Now the Black students want to build a community of Blacks and then move out into the rest of the community.

The Council considered the Bill of Rights, Section 5, of the last sentence for the remaining time. There was a difference of opinion as to the meaning of the wording. The question was raised if the students felt that they had to be represented on every committee in the University. Mr. Watson asked if "represented" meant "in on the vote." The Council questioned the feasibility of having student representation on every committee which made policy decisions. The students explained that it was important to pick students who had interest

in the particular issue and who had working knowledge of the campus. They requested the right to be able to nominate students through the Student Senate. Mr. Maloney suggested that students should be heard as a matter of course. Mr. Nisenbaum said that the sense of the idea was that students would participate in the policies making even if they did not have a vote.

Mrs. Lee suggested that the last sentence read, "Students have a right to expect their views and welfare to be considered in the formation of University policy and to be consulted and represented in an advisory capacity on University committees which affect their roles as students."

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Winship