

Info file
Student Protests

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
THE SENATE
MINUTES

January 15, 1969

A special meeting of the University Senate was held in the Auditorium of Murphy Hall on Wednesday, January 15, at 11:00 o'clock. President Moos presided.

The President explained that the meeting had been called as a result of the occupation of the first floor of Morrill Hall by 60 to 80 Black students when the University was unable to meet to their satisfaction the demands presented to the Administration on Wednesday, January 15, 1969. There was no formal agenda for the meeting and roll was not taken.

The President began the meeting by announcing that the vice chairman of the Senate, D. Burnham Terrell, was not present and that he had asked John G. Darley, chairman of the Senate Consultative Committee, to represent Mr. Terrell.

The President also noted that photographers were present and that they had requested permission to take some silent films prior to the meeting. The request was granted. The President also observed that he had invited student members of various Senate committees and members of the M.S.A. Senate to attend the meeting. Mr. Darley moved to have the students seated and the motion carried.

Harold C. Deutsch then asked that students, other than those invited to attend, identify themselves. Representatives from the Students for a Democratic Society, the Concerned Students, the Martin Luther King Fund, the Ivory Tower, the Commuters, and the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association were identified and seated.

It was noted at this point that representatives from the press were present and J. Edward Gerald moved that they be permitted to attend this one meeting of the Senate. The motion was seconded. Harold C. Deutsch then inquired whether the comments at the meeting were privileged. Carl Auerbach opposed the motion, observing that attendance of the press was contrary to the established rule of the Senate. The motion to admit the press carried (58-45) with the understanding that this was an "off-the-record" meeting and that the press would report the substance of the meeting and would omit names.

The President then reviewed for information the events of January 13 and 14 to 11:00 o'clock on Wednesday, January 15. He reported that seven Black students had called at the President's Office on January 13. They were informed by a graduate assistant in the office that the President had gone to lunch and that they might call on Vice President Cashman. Later, they returned to the President's Office and were then informed that the original information was incorrect and that the President was in Duluth. The students remained in the office until mid-afternoon and during that time a call was placed so that the students could speak to the President in

Duluth. A meeting was scheduled with the President for Tuesday, January 14 at 11:00 a.m. The appointment was subsequently changed to 1:00 p.m. of the same day.

At 1:00 in the afternoon between 60 and 80 students came to the President's Office and there was a discussion in the Regents' Room. The following "demands" were presented:

1. The organization of a Department of Afro-American Studies.
2. Generous University support for a Black students' conference to be held on campus in February.
3. Control of the Martin Luther King scholarship fund by an agency of the Black community.

An attempt was made to explain what steps the University had taken to meet the "demands," but the students found this response unsatisfactory, and asked for a "yes" or "no" answer immediately. When this was not forthcoming, the students left the Regents' Room and occupied certain offices on the first floor of Morrill Hall.

Thereafter, through the afternoon, civil service personnel and students within the building were permitted to leave, but no one was permitted to enter. One student who attempted to enter by the front door of Morrill Hall was injured slightly; he was examined and treated at the Health Service and released.

At about 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon of January 14, a meeting was convened in the Regents' Room to discuss the situation. Present were the chairmen of the Consultative Committee, the Committee on Student Affairs, the vice chairman of the Senate, the president and the vice president of the M.S.A., Hyman Berman, and others. Mr. Charles Smith tried to establish some communication with the Blacks on the first floor; this proved to be difficult and it was finally agreed to reduce the numbers involved to facilitate discussion.

Meaningful conversation was begun about 9:00 o'clock in the evening and a statement was drafted which those participating in the discussion signed as did the President of the University. When the statement was presented to Horace Huntley and Rose Mary Freeman, it was rejected, which terminated the negotiations for the time.

At about 4:00 o'clock in the morning of January 15, those occupying the first floor of Morrill Hall indicated they wished to resume discussion. Faculty and administrative officers agreed to continue, beginning at 8:00 a.m., but discussions were not resumed until about 10:30. The negotiators were still in session when this special meeting of the Senate was convened at 11:00.

The President observed that the Students for a Democratic Society had called a sympathy meeting the previous evening and that later some members were admitted to Morrill Hall. He also reported that the building was now barricaded, although secretaries and administrative officials had been permitted to enter. The President also observed that the problem had escalated and there had been hardships (e.g., some employees might not be paid on schedule) but that the academic functions of the University had not been disrupted.

Following the presentation by the President, there were various questions from the floor. Professor Anderson asked for the contents of the statement which had been signed. He was informed that the statement was

semi-confidential and could not be released until an accord had been reached. A paraphrased version of part of the document was given.

There were other questions and observations. Among them was an inquiry as to when is the University "disrupted"? Were students who received financial assistance from the Martin Luther King fund promised a "free ride" although they received a loan instead of a full scholarship? Why are there only two Black students and no Indians on the Board of Control of the Martin Luther King fund while there are five white students? It was observed that there were many misunderstandings to be resolved.

The Senate was informed that there might be a break-through in the negotiations taking place in Morrill Hall.

At this point, the meeting was adjourned with the remark that another meeting might be called for the afternoon depending on the course of the negotiations.

W. DONALD BEATTY
Clerk of the Senate

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

THE SENATE

MINUTES

January 15, 1969

A second special meeting of the University Senate was held in the Auditorium of Murphy Hall on Wednesday, January 15, 1969 at 3:00 o'clock. President Moos presided.

This meeting was convened after an accord had been reached with the Afro-American Action Committee which had occupied the first floor of Morrill Hall for nearly 24 hours.

The President thanked the Senate for assembling for the second time in one day. He also expressed his gratitude to members of the Black community and the University staff for their efforts to resolve the conflict. He also announced that he had asked D. Burnham Terrell, vice chairman of the Senate, to read a statement which had been approved by both the University and the A.A.A.C.

J. Edward Gerald then moved that the press, which was already in the Auditorium, should be seated for this meeting of the Senate with the understanding that it was an "off-the-record" session and under the conditions which prevailed at the morning meeting. The motion was approved (47-44).

The vice chairman then read the following statement:

In responding to the demands made by the A.A.A.C., we have come to the following understanding:

1. Concerning the Development of a Curriculum Leading to a Degree in Afro-American Studies

a. The President's Office will support fully the development of a program within the University which will achieve the curriculum and faculty needed to bring a full reflection of the experience of Black people in America. We believe the target date of fall 1969 to be attainable, and that immediate action on development of a program leading to the B.A. degree can be taken. We will further support the development of graduate programs leading to the M.A. and Ph.D.

b. We propose immediate establishment of a committee with four students and four faculty members jointly to develop recommendations for curricula and staff developments needed. We agree that the A.A.A.C. should name the four students, and should respond to our suggestion for faculty representatives, with the understanding that these suggestions will be discussed by the A.A.A.C. and the President's Office before final membership is reached. In addition, Cynthia Newerdon from the University staff and Milton Williams from the community have agreed to serve on the committee. Consultants could be invited.

c. It is understood that the faculty of the college has the final decision on establishing a new curriculum and degree program, and that the committee will work, not only to develop the curriculum, but to work on the process for getting this established.

2. Concerning the Proposed Black Students' Conference

a. The President asks that immediate discussion between A.A.A.C. and Mr. Briggs and Mr. Zander be undertaken to specify the program for a conference, including

the speakers and musical group proposed to be brought in, and to specify the budget.

b. In the presence of an effective plan and budget, \$5,260 will be made available for the budget through the Union.

3. *Concerning the Martin Luther King Fund*

- a. The student-faculty board administering the fund cannot in faith to contributors turn management of the fund over to another group.
- b. Solicitation for the fund has been confined to students, staff, and faculty of the University. Solicitation in the community is now proceeding by action of the board. Seven community representatives will be appointed to the Martin Luther King Fund Board from the poor communities of Minnesota. Four of the seven community representatives and four of the seven student representatives will be named by A.A.A.C.

We can move forward together on these goals through a spirit of mutual trust.

After the statement had been read, the vice chairman made the following observations:

1. That all of the topics included in the statement had been under development and discussion for a long time and that it had been recognized much earlier that there was need to understand the Black experience.
2. That the Black students' conference had also been under consideration for a long period and that the topic was not new.
3. That the Martin Luther King Fund had also been under discussion and that it was appropriate to consider it further on the birthday of that distinguished American.

The vice chairman also stated that the students had a right to be involved in a discussion of the foregoing topics. He stated that the circumstances leading to the accord were tense but that the three major items in the accord were defensible on their own merits. He observed that it was necessary to bring the established procedures of the University to the attention of the students, and that the students now understood what is possible under the regulations of the University. He stated further that what has been accomplished is desirable and that the accord was not in response to force.

The President then commented that the accord which was finally reached is similar in substance to the statement which he had signed the previous evening.

Carl A. Auerbach then inquired into the source of the funds which will be used to support the Black students' conference. He was informed that they came from private sources.

William E. Parham asked for an identification of the "we" used in the accord. He was informed that "we" included Vice President Smith, Vice President Cashman, Assistant Vice President Lukermann, Hyman Berman, James Reeves, Gene Briggs, Donald Zander, and seven students including Joe Kroll, Rose Mary Freeman, and Horace Huntley.

Robert C. Morris inquired whether the University would be able to meet the deadline of the fall of 1969 for the program in ethnic and racial studies. Hyman Berman replied that the resources are available and there are members of the faculty who can teach and do teach in the area. Carl A. Auerbach asked whether Afro-American studies are consistent with the educational policy of the University and whether we can have degree programs

for Swedish-Americans, Norwegian-Americans, Jewish-Americans, and others. Hyman Berman replied that this will develop into a graduate program in comparative racial and ethnic studies; that attention will be focused on the racial experiences of all groups and that the Blacks have been ignored too long. Allan Spear defended the program and mentioned that a center for the study of immigration has existed on this campus for several years. Vice Chairman Terrell commented that considerable progress has been made in removing the suspicions between the Blacks and the whites.

Robert L. Scott observed at this point that, as he viewed the developments, we have not been engaged in black "problem-solving" but in "black-mail." He said also that we would have trouble communicating the position of the University to the community.

Bryce Crawford, Jr., noted that Yale University now offers the M.A. degree in racial studies and Hyman Berman stated that although resources are now available at Minnesota for the B.A. degree, he could only speculate when Minnesota would be able to move into the graduate area. He observed that we now offer the Ph.D. degree in a discipline but with a concentration in Afro-American Studies. He added that we might operate with the degree in a discipline and also grant a certificate in the area of concentration.

A question was then asked whether point 1b meant that the four students would exercise a veto power over the four members of the faculty. Vice Chairman Terrell commented that the new program should represent a joint effort, that it was the intention to stress cooperation, and that the students would not have a veto power.

There was then a question about future developments. It was observed that while there might be satisfaction in the disposition of the present situation, at some future meeting serious thought should be given to how to prevent future demonstrations and sit-ins. The President replied that a serious attempt should be made to define disruptions.

At this point, J. Edward Gerald moved to accept the report and forward it to the Board of Regents for action. The motion was seconded. William E. Wright observed that if the accord had not come as the result of force the preamble should be rewritten. There was another observation that force had compelled the accord and that the fact should be recognized. Burton Paulu observed that we should in the future operate the University so that there will be no more demonstration. Joe Kroll stated that the Black students had felt frustrated and that this frustration had compelled them to act as they did. Robert L. Scott asked whether there would be an amnesty for the participants. The President replied that he had said nothing about amnesty and had no comment to make at the present time.

Various suggestions were made about the wording of the motion. Dean Warren Ibele then suggested that the Senate "receive" the accord and comment those who had drafted it. The original motion and other amendments were withdrawn and the suggestion of Dean Ibele was accepted in the form of a motion and carried.

The meeting adjourned.

W. DONALD BEATTY
Clerk of the Senate