

# STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

April 1, 1970

The Board of Regents reaffirms its solemn commitment of March 19, 1970, to do everything within its resources to provide equal opportunity at the University for all minority and disadvantaged groups. The Regents' policies with respect to this country's largest racial minority and other minority groups did not begin last month nor will they end when and if the admissions goal is achieved. Since the beginning of the Opportunity Awards Program for disadvantaged students, six years ago, large sums have been spent on recruiting, scholarship aids, and supportive services, and the number of minority students has tripled. In addition, substantial progress has been made in recruiting black and other minority employees both in academic and non-academic positions.

In accepting an admissions goal for black students of 10 per cent for the academic year 1973-74, the Board sought to eliminate all doubt that it was clearly committed to inclusion of qualified students from America's largest racial minority. Unfortunately, the strength of the Board's commitment was lost in a torrent of angry words when the Board sought to be perfectly frank in accompanying its commitment with a careful appraisal of funds available in the next four years for this project, based upon financial information then available to it. Since then, by cooperation of the various deans and the governing faculties, funding of the admissions goal has been assured.

Sources of these funds include grants, gifts, and loans as well as federal and state assistance. The Regents will immediately request special assistance from the legislature in carrying on this program.

In the last ten days, as a result of a serious misreading of the Regents' commitment, a strike was organized on the Ann Arbor Campus which produced disruption. The notion that discipline within the University is of solely internal interest is nonsense. The people of the State of Michigan, who so heavily subsidize the education of every student at the University, have a right to expect that an atmosphere free of coercion will prevail. The demand of students and faculty that classes be resumed is now accomplished. The Regents and the administration intend that this right shall remain secure.

The discussions between the administration and the Black Action Movement have involved a number of related subjects many of which are not new. These include recruitment of both students and faculty, some revisions of financial aid practices, support of the Afro-American Center, expansion of counseling and other supporting services in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, as well as the 10 per cent admissions program.

The Regents have carefully reviewed with the President the extent of his discussions with members of the Black Action Movement, and find that these discussions have been aimed at implementing the Regental decisions of March 19, 1970. The President will announce the procedures and programs which have been discussed and which the University plans to follow in these respects.

We reaffirm our previous position that tuition waivers are impractical and should not be instituted.

Similarly we do not believe it is proper to collect a \$3 assessment from every student on the basis of the student referendum relating to the Martin Luther King Fund. The Regents do not believe that student fees or compulsory assessments can be established on the basis of student referenda.

There was a discussion of an alternative possibility under which the University might have collected voluntary contributions to a new, student-operated Martin Luther King Fund. Without questioning the propriety of such a fund, we do not believe the University can properly serve as a collecting agency. Solicitation and collection of contributions would be a matter for the organization to handle. If the Office of Student Organizations can aid in obtaining voluntary contributions to a non-University fund without making the University a collection agency, well and good. It must be noted, however, that if a non-University fund called the "Martin Luther King Fund" were created while the University still received contributions to a fund bearing the same name, considerable confusion could be created. We would hope that this would be avoided.

The Regents are opposed to the establishment of University financed special student centers on the basis of race, religion, or ethnic considerations. If there are to be centers, the Regents believe they must be justified on other grounds. We are open-minded about possible alternatives, perhaps related to the city or community, and are willing to have such alternatives explored.

The Regents are aware that there will doubtless be cases arising out of some of the incidents which have accompanied the strike. Amnesty in such cases is unwarranted. Insofar as there are questions associated with a fair hearing, the president and the schools and colleges are authorized to make available the option of outside hearing officers to be appointed by the president on request. The president is authorized to announce procedures in this respect.

The Regents expect that teaching personnel who were on strike and chose not to hold class will make up the work missed in order that students may complete their academic program for the term. They ask deans and department chairmen to assume responsibility for assuring that this is accomplished.

They further ask that a committee of deans and faculty, in consultation with the Executive Officers, be appointed by the President, to prepare for submission to the Regents at the May meeting, a set of proposed University policies and procedures to deal with problems arising from possible strike and boycott activities of the future.

The question of disruption of the University is one which deeply concerns the Regents. It should be made clear that this question is only incidental to recent events involving the black students. Indeed, the public should take note that the black students have, unlike many of the white radicals who seem bent on destruction for its own sake,

been pursuing the legitimate objective of trying to make more educational opportunities available for their people.

Faculty and student groups have worked for some months on revision of rules and enforcement procedures. This the Regents welcome because they understand that a key element in rule enactment and enforcement is participation by those who will be governed thereby. Nevertheless, and until such procedures can be perfected, it is essential that there be more effective internal sanctions. We are instructing the President to issue immediately an interim procedure involving the use of impartial hearing officers.

The University of Michigan has unequalled resources of

mind and spirit; it will contribute to the resolution of today's profound social tensions as it has served so many needs of the state and nation in the past. To assist a new generation of able, energetic black men and women to move into positions of responsibility and leadership will be an aspiration worthy of our greatest efforts. And the requisite attention to individual needs and problems can well become a model for more sensitive and personal relations in higher education as a whole.

During a difficult situation President Fleming has acted with great patience in carrying out the policy adopted by the Regents and the schools and colleges. He has our complete confidence.