

This Statement was Released to the Media on 2/19/75

In light of the actions initiated Tuesday morning by the Third World Coalition Council, the Black Faculty and Staff Association of the University of Michigan is issuing a formal statement.

For some time now, the Association's members have voiced concerns about the status of minorities at the University. Students have shared their discontent with Black Faculty and Staff members, especially over the past several months. Of particular concern has been the University's failures to achieve those commitments which were agreed upon during the 1970 BAM negotiations. Far too many Blacks at the University, including both students and staff, have questioned the sincerity of the University's efforts to achieve the following EAM commitments: 10% Black enrollment, adequate supportive services (including financial aid, tutoring and counseling), and recruitment of Black faculty and staff.

The recent controversy surrounding the handling of the L.S.&A. deanship, specifically the selection of a Black woman educator, has created an atmosphere which questions the central administration's commitment to achieve affirmative action goals.

We urge the University to give serious consideration to the just grievances and demands of the minority students now peacefully sitting in at the Administration Building.

To that effect, we support the following demands:

1. An immediate investigation of the appeal procedure within the School of Nursing and the formal procedures by which students are dismissed from all academic units so that due process may be assured;
2. That a full time Native American Advocate be appointed;

3. The establishment of an Asian-American Advocate;
4. The establishment of a Chicano cultural center; and
5. Amnesty for student demonstrators.

We encourage good faith efforts by the parties involved to effect a swift and constructive resolution of the above demands.