

3-23-1970

Draft of Joel P. Smith's commitment to the objectives of black students

Joel P. Smith

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President Makes
Statement

I am committed to the objectives which I understand underlie the black student demands, although I disagree with several points in the demands. While we work toward the resolution of those differences, I urge you to join with me in a pledge to restore our community and to work toward these other objectives:

An understanding of our past failures -- including mine -- in creating a climate in which black students can live and learn with confidence and dignity;

Honoring our obligations as faculty and students in order to restore the integrity of the academic process; and as we do so to build upon a new spirit which will promote change as well as a more complete engagement for all of us in our academic program;

Sustaining standards of personal integrity and decency which will permit humanity to flourish in our community, will tolerate disagreements which are honestly and conscientiously expressed, and will rule out the use or abuse of others;

Resuming our reform of the governance of the College so that we may have more confidence in our capacity to make decisions.

It is true that we must be more humane -- all of us and each of us. I join you in that commitment.

— President Joel P. Smith (3-23-70)
~~March 23, 1970~~