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Faculty challenge vote for Preston resolution

Denison University

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RESOLUTION

We believe that the overwhelming vote against the Preston resolution on Monday night does not adequately or fairly represent faculty sentiment. It is apparent that many people who voted against the resolution did so reluctantly, having been forced to say no to the whole package for one or both of the following reasons:

(1) They could not with integrity guarantee the implementation of the demands without careful consideration of all factors involved in making the decision to do so.

(2) They perceived the demand for a right of approval with regard to faculty hiring as constituting a subtle but real threat to the academic freedom of the Black instructors involved.

In considering the substance of the major demands of the Black Student Union, we find no major demand which is unreasonable. It is our belief that we should supplement our action of Monday night by charging the college to implement certain of the demands within the time schedule proposed in the Black Student Union Demands and by inviting representatives of the Black Student Union to participate in the consideration of the remaining demands.

Specifically, we ask the faculty to charge the task force appointed by President Smith to recommend a course which will accomplish the following:

(1) A substantial increase in the number of Black students on campus for the academic year 1970-71.

(2) The hiring of a full-time Black recruiter for the Admissions Department, to begin work as soon as possible but not later than September 1970.

(3) Maintaining the offices of Black student advisors to men and women.

(4) The hiring of at least five Black faculty members by September 1970, understanding that other criteria than degrees earned may be used to evaluate the usefulness of such professors to the Denison community.

(5) The establishment of a strong Black studies program for White and Black students. Whether such a program can best be administered by a separate department of Afro-American studies requires considerable thought, though it is clearly a possibility.

(6) The implementation of all demands listed under the major heading, "Departmental Commitment."

We further believe that it is a matter of urgent necessity for the faculty to find a means for students to have a substantial voice in the making of decisions which affect their lives, while at the same time protecting the intellectual and academic freedom of all individuals in the Denison community.

WE URGE PRESIDENT SMITH TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FACULTY TO BE HELD BEFORE MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE ABOVE RESOLUTION.

Richard Kraus
T. R. Burkett
Robert Toplin
Milton Emont
Joseph Armas
Quentin Kraft
John D. Kessler
John Miller
Paul L. Bennett
Tony Stoneburner
Kenneth B. Marshall
Herman Nibbelink
Frederick Jacobs
Nancy E. Lewis
Tom Gallant
David Gibbons
David Goldblatt
Rod Grant
Jeffrey Jalbert
R. A. Roberts
R. Darby Williams
Clark Wilhelm
Al ~~KKEX~~ Lever
Ron Santoni