



LORAS COLLEGE

DUBUQUE, IOWA 52001

LORAS COLLEGE FACULTY STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 12, 1969

I

Since every man of whatever race, condition, and age is endowed with the dignity of a person, he has an inalienable right to an education corresponding to his proper destiny and suited to his native talents, his sex his cultural background, and his ancestral heritage.

(Second Vatican Council, Declaration on Christian Education, Sec. I)

In accord with the tenor of the above quotation, we the faculty of Loras College believe that a college should be concerned with the welfare of all its students. When Loras College made serious efforts to recruit black students, it did so in the belief that as a Christian college it has the obligation to make its contribution to the well-being of a segment of American society which through past and present injustices has been placed and kept in an underprivileged position. We subscribe to that belief.

When we accept black students, however, it should be understood that we are accepting students who, in many cases, bring with them styles of thinking, emotional make-ups, patterns of living, and educational backgrounds which differ from those of many whites and differ at least in part due to the experiences they have had precisely because they are black members of contemporary American society.

II

We firmly assert that physical force or the threat of physical force is, at best, a court of last resort, and is never acceptable in an academic community. Even though we understand that for some the use of physical force is a tempting alternative, and that for some it seems to be the only apparently viable course for men who have been repeatedly frustrated and consistently ignored, we hold that such physical force is never to be sanctioned. We reaffirm and uphold the provisions of the Loras College Student Handbook, 1969-1970 (IV, 15, p. 16) concerning methods for the redress of grievances. We condemn physical force or the threat of physical force that in turn violates the rights of others. In an

FACULTY STATEMENT

2-2-2-2-2

academic community, physical strength is not a standard for the definition of truth or right. Let it not be thought that disruptive physical force or the threat of physical force can be used at will with impunity.

We recognize that the Committee on Discipline, in weighing cases presented to it is faced with the difficulty of avoiding a mechanical semblance of justice. We further realize that among the guilty there are degrees of responsibility. These considerations do not, however, affect in any way the fact of guilt.

Nevertheless, the faculty understands the extreme duress to which the President was subjected in forming his reversal of position on Sunday, November 9.

III

Recognizing all that the College has done for black students in the past and recognizing also that it must do more, we recommend:

1. That Loras College endorse a Culture Center. The Culture Center should be a place where black students can experience some of the positive influences of the environment to which they are accustomed and which they now miss. The Culture Center could, we hope, also further an understanding and appreciation of black people and black culture by all the people of this area. We recommend that the feasibility of a tri-college Center be investigated.
2. That we continue our strenuous efforts to recruit black, professional, full-time staff members.
3. That the individual faculty members continue to establish personal relationships with black students. For these relationships to be established and thrive, it is also necessary for the black students to want them and to take initiative in forming them, and we urge the black students to do so.

Addendum to the Loras College Faculty Statement 11/12/69:

The above statement represents the faculty consensus to date. However many related problems remain to be faced. Therefore, the Loras College faculty intends to continue its deliberations at this time in order to more fully address itself to the crucial issues which confront this college.