

File - Griffis Case

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MEMORANDUM

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 9, 1969

To: Mr. Melvin O. Payne  
Mr. David Williams  
Mr. Charles M. Griffis  
Mr. Vernon E. Smalls  
Mr. Arnold J. Avant  
Other Members of the Black Student Union

From: John X. Jamrich

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*John X. Jamrich*

This is with reference to the sit-in carried out by your organization and with which you were involved in a leadership role. At the time of the sit-in and during our meeting the next day, I indicated to you very clearly the fact that your action was contrary to university regulations and disruptive of a regularly scheduled university event. Subsequently, we discussed the nature and extent of disciplinary action which might be taken.

Each of you recognized, it seems to me, the potential seriousness of any action the university might take and the consequences such action might have on your continuation in college. It was your personal plea that action with reference to this particular event be properly tempered in order that the continuation of your education would not be jeopardized.

I have considered that plea very seriously, and I have considered the implications of the action which I am taking with reference to your participation and leadership in the sit-in. This letter is an official reprimand and censure for the action on your part. On the basis of your personal plea that no punitive action be taken which would jeopardize your education, no other disciplinary action is being recommended.

Although on the surface this action on my part may appear to be allowing you to "get off easy," it does, in fact, carry with it much more serious implications for your future conduct, with reference to similar events, than are immediately apparent. Similar violations of university regulations will require me, in the interest of the entire university, to adhere to the letter of the law. I recommend that you see this decision as the result of understanding rather than weakness. You have now, in my opinion, an opportunity for you to demonstrate your ability and willingness, in the future, to approach problems of mutual concern through established channels and in an undisruptive manner.

If there are any questions regarding the implications or interpretations of this letter of reprimand, do not hesitate to discuss them with me.

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