

Memorandum for the Files
December 17, 1969

Subject: Charles Griffis Problem

On Tuesday evening, December 16, 1969, Pat Williams called me at midnight to indicate that there was a real problem developing because of the "suspension from school given to Charles Griffis as a result of a trial," that the trial was held unjustly, that the trial was held in the Sioux Room by the Student Judiciary Board, that police kept all the students out, and that no Griffis witnesses were heard.

I then called Dean Kafer, indicating to Pat Williams that I would call him back after I had obtained the information as to what the situation was regarding this.

Dean Kafer indicated that Griffis was charged with the rule relating to having a member of the opposite sex in his room. The accusation is that two R. A.'s came to the door of Charles Griffis' room and knocked on the door and eventually were let in, and there they found a nude girl standing in the closet.

The case was referred to the Student Judiciary which met today. The hearing was an open hearing, but it was decided they would limit the number of people who would be in there just to keep the situation orderly. In order to do this, a police officer was kept outside the door to restrain students from entering forcibly.

Charles Griffis was told that he could have counsel and witnesses. Griffis had witnesses. One of the witnesses was Bill Brown; his counsel was David Williams; and he also had Vernon Smalls and another student as observers.

Dean Kafer indicated to me that the Student Judiciary had found Charles Griffis guilty. They voted suspension from school. The announcement was to have been made on Wednesday morning at 8:00, and Dean Kafer wondered how anybody knew what the decision was publicly.

At that particular moment when the Student Judiciary trial was ended, the Human Rights Commission was in session. Charles Griffis, Vernon Smalls, and David Williams went directly to the Commission meeting to present a case of unjust and biased treatment.

Memorandum for the Files - 2
December 17, 1969

Subject: Charles Griffis Problem

The Commission has appointed an ad hoc committee to look into the matter. Charles Griffis was told that he could also appeal the Student Judiciary decision to the Faculty-Student Judiciary Board which is the next level of appeal.

The way Dean Kafer summarized the matter, the situation stands as follows:

- A. The decision has been made but was not announced and was to be announced at 8:00 Wednesday morning.
- B. The Human Rights Commission is looking into the matter and will investigate the procedure.
- C. It has been made clear to Charles Griffis that he can appeal the decision, and this appeal has to be filed with the Faculty-Student Judiciary within 48 hours of the announced decision. The Faculty-Student Judiciary would then consider whether it will look into the matter, and if it does, it will run the entire trial completely over as it is specified in our Student Code.

I then called Pat Williams back and indicated to him what I had as the facts and especially the three facts regarding the notion that the decision had not been announced, that the Human Rights Commission was investigating, and that an appeal could be made by Charles Griffis and that, as in all cases of this kind, while the appeal is pending, Charles Griffis would continue at school.

Pat Williams then indicated to me that he was meeting with his advisory board of the B. S. A., and that he would call me back. He called me back in about an hour indicating that they would like to meet at 7:45 a. m. on Wednesday morning in the Charcoal Room and would like to have included in the meeting Dr. Rombouts, Dean Kafer, Mr. Firley, Dr. Hefke, and Mr. Maust.