

December 17, 1969

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STATEMENT

During this past year and one half, Northern Michigan University -- its faculty and students, and Board of Control -- have devoted considerable time and energy to the development and refinement of campus governance procedures which would assure just and equitable consideration of matters relating to individual freedom and campus regulation. The Task Force recommendations have been translated into a new Academic Senate, a revised Student Government, a Student Code of Conduct, and a full dress judiciary process for students, a Faculty Affairs Committee, a Faculty Committee to hear faculty and student grievances. The newly developed instrumentalities have begun to operate to the satisfaction to all.

I as president have indicated my fullest commitment to the basic principles of personal freedom and faculty and student participation in campus governance. The procedures developed through our labors cannot be abandoned at the whim of an individual or a group. We must remain committed to these principles and procedures if our goals are to be achieved.

This University, and I as its president, will not sit idly by to see the seat to no institution of higher education in the region. We have strived in this direction and in the direction of

the fullest support and consideration of minority groups within the student body and the faculty. We are proud of our Human Rights Commission, our tutorial program for disadvantaged students, our work and financial aid levels for minority group, our efforts in black studies.

The present situation, involving the rule infraction by one of our students has been taken up in fullest accordance with the established procedures and has been acted upon promptly. The Student Judiciary has rendered its decision of "guilty." This decision is being disputed by the student as not just, and it is being disputed on the grounds that the Student Judiciary was not representatively constituted and that certain procedural errors existed during the hearing.

The Student is now in a position to appeal the decision to the Faculty-Student Judiciary, the next level of judicial processes on the campus. Also, the question of procedure has already been placed before the Human Rights Commission which at this moment is considering this matter and bring forth a recommendation for my consideration.

The Faculty-Student Judiciary, if called upon to consider the appeal, stands ready to meet and hear the case.

In every respect we are following, promptly and carefully, the established procedures with the conviction that this is what we have worked to develop as the basis for a well administered university community. Force and coercion do not have a place

in this setting.

I have indicated to the black students the above commitments on my part, and they are fully aware of these procedures being utilized. Their decision to demonstrate a coercive force in an effort to modify the decision arbitrarily is not acceptable.