


NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 14, 1970

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students of
Northern Michigan University

From:  John X. Smith, President

During these past several weeks, there have been varied pressures placed on Northern Michigan University -- ranging from cancellation of classes for the remainder of the semester to a day off to observe the death of United States citizens, from the removal of hunting rifles from the campus to threats of property destruction. Each of these has been presented as a demand to be responded to immediately; thus we have had to expend unusual time and energy in dealing with these issues, much of this time and effort at the expense of satisfactory operation of this University.

The current set of demands requests specific action, and again immediate action, on such matters as increasing black student enrollments, guaranteeing an increase in the number of black faculty, creating a black studies program, increasing library holdings related to black studies, and extending the "black aids" program.

My response to these demands is that (1) I see them as legitimate indications of perceived needs of one group of students at Northern Michigan University, (2) the kinds of needs which are presented have already been identified by black students, by the Human Rights Commission, by our faculty, and by the Board of Control of Northern, and (3) steps have been taken in the implementation of each as part of our total University program to provide the best possible education for all of our students, for we have educational and financial needs of students from the Upper Peninsula and the Lower Peninsula which have to be met.

We have inaugurated the Black Resident Aide program in the residence halls; we have expanded the financial and work-study opportunities for black students substantially this past year; we have added black studies