



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 30, 1969

TO: Members of the Board of Regents
President Smith and Colleagues at Northern
President Spencer and Colleagues at Sangamon State
Dr. Matsler and Colleagues at Springfield

FROM: Samuel E. Braden *Sam*

1. House Sub-committee on Higher Education Hearing. On December 18, Representatives Philip W. Collins, James D. Nowlan, and Robert F. McPartlin together with members of their staff, held an open hearing on the ISU campus. Our local representatives, Harber Hall and Gerald Bradley, made brief statements. The other non-University witness was Mrs. Violet Hamilton, a Bloomington resident who is active and concerned about the apparent "radicalization" of the contemporary university. Deans Hermanowicz, Bond, Johnson, and Hulet, and I fielded most of the questions, supported ably by John Sealock (Budget Officer), Harold Burns (Business Manager), Marshall Miller (Business Manager for Athletics), Jerry Hess (Space Analysis), and various other members of the staff. The probing mainly revolved around the disposition of overhead funds received on contracts and grants, the future of the laboratory schools and the tenure status of their faculty members, budgeting procedures for student fee income, the process for land purchase including the Foundation's role therein, the utilization of building space, and the number of guest rooms in the president's house. I was proud of the competence and candor exhibited by the ISU staff in responding to the questions.

It was clear that the status of overhead funds was a key issue, and I felt the discussion about them was the least satisfactory. Representative Collins' position seemed to be that overhead funds received should be applied to the overhead costs associated with each grant or contract. Basic to the concept of "overhead" or "indirect" costs, of course, is that they are not identifiable or allocable to specific projects. If all the costs of an operation could be identified and segregated, there would be no "indirect" or "overhead" costs, but rather all costs would be classifiable as "direct." We calculate that on the average the costs of utilities, security, general administration and the like amount to about one-fifth of the total costs of any program or project, and this is the average charge included in our grant and contract applications. These we plow into the regular operation of Faculties and Administrative Services and thus they help bear the overhead costs of University operations.

2. Academic and Athletic Association of State Universities in the Midwest is the tentative designation for the new interinstitutional alignment of which both Northern and ISU are members. On December 8 and 9 about 50 of the academic deans from the five universities (including also Southern Illinois, Indiana State, and Ball State) met in Watterson Towers to explore and identify areas of academic cooperation. The meeting was fruitful and therefore successful. Leadership for the program and arrangements was taken by Dean Bond and his assistant Paul Wisdom. At the same time, the five vice presidents for student services met to familiarize themselves with the similarities and differences among their institutions and programs, and to formalize cooperative arrangements. For example, means of cooperating with the six private black institutions in the Texas Association of Developing Colleges were discussed. Dick Hulet, Dean of Student Services at ISU, was appointed to set up the next meeting of the group.

3. Ewing Museum. The Foundation Board, by resolution on December 18, accepted the trusteeship of the Ewing Museum, and the next day the Court made final the assignment. I have appointed a coordinating committee of Messrs. Gibson (Special Assistant to the President), Wilkins (Foundation), and Sands (Associate Dean of the Faculties) to work out operational arrangements and get started on a program.

4. ISU Constitution. Having established a progressive momentum by voting to recommend to the Board the Constitution now in its hand, and having accepted my judgment that it would be safe to move forward, both faculty and students at ISU are actively working to set up the election procedures which will result in the formation of a new Academic Senate. This process will begin to produce results in March, and I would hope that the Board might find it possible to take whatever action it deems appropriate not later than the March meeting. We are holding up committee appointments, moving toward a reconstitution of the Student Senate, and starting to draft new by-laws on the assumption that we will be governed by this Constitution. In other words, the gestation stage is well underway, and we should act either to abort or legitimize the developing embryo.

5. Black Demands. The two weeks before the Christmas vacation constituted the longest nightmare in my experience. I can generate no enthusiasm for the prospect of a repetition. It started off with one student's reaction to the killing of Black Panther Fred Hampton by the Chicago police: acting on his own, and on impulse, he lowered the campus American flag to halfmast. While the tolerance by the University community of various manifestations of student dissent is and I think should be wider than that of the community at large, treatment of the national flag is not an area where the University is granted license to set its own rules. By threatening to invoke the State's criminal trespass statutes, I was able to force the student to release the rope so that the flag could be raised. In doing so I gave him and the suddenly coalesced black student community the occasion for making a series of demands that included the naming of a building for a black man considered by the black community to be a leader in the movement to "liberate" blacks from the repressions of the majority culture. Other demands called for actions that probably can be accommodated within the regular processes of the institution.

As I see it, the role of the president is to try to respond to such demands so as to maintain at least the semblance of a rational community. He cannot afford to lose either the whites or the blacks. Instead hopefully an orderly educational dialog can result in which irreversible polarization is avoided, and in which both whites and blacks come to have greater insight and therefore greater tolerance of the problems of majorities and minorities. Indeed it was to try to grapple with this problem that more than two years ago we set up the University Task Force on Intergroup Relations. But white learning is slow and young blacks are impatient.

My special, personal problem is that my basic sympathies lie with the attempts of the blacks to achieve full status in our society. However, in my mind only the long run black objective of real and full integration can justify the forcing tactics currently being used by black students. This, of course, is not the way the demands, the confrontations, and the rejections read, and if I am forced to take sides in the arena of competitive racism, I am neither fitted by experience nor permitted by blacks to be anything other than white. Thus in my responsibility to my conscience, I am impelled to pay attention to black aspirations. In my accountability to my legal superiors on the other hand, I am duty bound to react only to reason and not to show favoritism. I realize that I cannot lose the respect and support of the white community and continue to be effective as president.

How far and how fast can the president go in acceding to black demands? How far and how fast can you go or can you permit him to go? I will be out of the country (more on this later) from January 8 until January 31. Thus during this period, which is also the period of final exams and registration, there can be no further black student confrontation of the president. At the same time active consideration will be taking place by both the Task Force on Intergroup Relations and the University Council of the building naming proposal already endorsed by the Student Senate. It is possible that when I get back on January 31 I will find an ostensible University consensus that the Regents should be requested to name a specific building or one of several buildings for a given black leader or one of several black leaders. There might also be a demand that this be done immediately. If under these circumstances you should ask my recommendation, my dilemma would be how to respond without losing my effectiveness with the blacks or with the whites, or both. I will have to assess the situation when I return, and in executive session I may ask your guidance, also, for this could be a real personnel problem for me.

A word about the Task Force on Intergroup Relations. This is a body of 42 members, of whom 16 are students, composed of black and white representatives of all the colleges and reflecting a cross section of the political spectrum of the University, appointed by me to deal with the improvement of facilities, programs, and processes especially in the area of racial tension. I have asked this group to consider the question of what names of black leaders are commensurable with what buildings yet unnamed.

6. Professional Ethics. Dr. Carrol Cox, Assistant Professor of English, who is

faculty sponsor for the SDS, has been involved in two recent incidents of a particularly sensitive nature. In the first incident Dr. Cox has been charged with a violation of professional ethics because of his distribution of a flier alleged to slander a colleague. A Professional Ethics Hearing Committee established by the University Council is commencing hearings on that charge on January 6. More recently Dr. Cox was charged by the Director of Libraries with disorderly conduct pursuant to a disruption in the University Library. The charge has been made that he used loud and abusive language to a library employee. Although this charge is being pursued in the local courts, it is probable that that matter too will come before the faculty hearing committee. A decision concerning the advisability of initiating dismissal proceedings against Dr. Cox will probably depend upon the findings of this hearing committee.

7. Student Fees. In July, 1969, the Board approved for all students an activity and service fee of \$41.50 per semester. Because the graduate catalog had been published in January, 1969, with a stated fee of \$26.50 per semester, this is what was charged in 1969-1970. The new graduate catalog now being published will carry the \$41.50 fee. The undergraduate catalog carried the \$41.50 for 1969-1970 and this amount was charged. A more detailed description of how student fee income is budgeted and for what purposes will be included in the March letter to the Board.

8. Majorca, Here We Come! I am chairman of the Board of the Council on International Educational Exchange, whose members are educational and service organizations which conduct programs involving the moving of thousands of college and high school students and teachers to or from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Its members sponsor scores of programs in Europe, and in January the directors of these programs come together with representatives of their host European universities to discuss problems of overseas students and the problems of higher education generally. The Council expects me to be there, and I intend to take Beth along on a 21-day excursion ticket. In addition, I have commitments to inspect programs in Madrid and Seville, and to meet in Paris with the Rector of the University of Paris. We will return to Chicago in time for the February Board meeting.

Happy New Year.

SEB:DWK