

Student Strike 1970. Records.  
Public Statements

FOLDER 7  
BOX F.D.  
COLLECTION UA 261

Office of the President  
Michigan State University  
May 1, 1970

UNIVERSITY'S RESPONSE TO DEMANDS REGARDING ROTC

On Monday, April 27, the MSU Committee against ROTC presented the President of the university with three demands regarding the status of the ROTC program on campus.

The university administration has considered these demands and makes this response:

First, the relationship between Michigan State University and ROTC received a thorough investigation last year at the request of President Adams. Based on his request, the Educational Policies Committee and the University Curriculum Committee made six recommendations which would continue ROTC with certain modifications.

The Academic Council then discussed the recommendations and approved their implementation.

Second, the Associated Students of MSU conducted a survey last year to obtain the views of the students regarding ROTC's place on campus, and the results showed that a majority of students wanted it to remain.

Based on these two actions of less than a year ago, it would appear that the present relationship between Michigan State University and ROTC is favored by a majority of the students and the faculty. The President has reviewed the materials and supports the decisions which were then made.

It is recognized that there are minority views within the university community opposing the present relationship. It also is recognized that previously expressed views may change. If the Committee against ROTC has additional evidence that the situation has changed materially or that there are additional facts which should be considered, then there exist appropriate channels to present these views for a hearing and consideration.

One channel is the Military Education Advisory Committee which has stated a willingness to hold two open meetings in mid-May (dates to be announced) at which time any group wishing to present arguments will be heard.

Another channel is to request that the Academic Council reopen consideration of the ROTC situation, through the Council Steering Committee, or the Student Board of ASMSU.

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**PROGRAMMATIC STATEMENT OF THE BLACK LIBERATION FRONT INTERNATIONAL (BLFI)  
ON THE JACKSON STATE COLLEGE MURDERS AND THE COMMEMORATION OF MALCOLM X'S  
BIRTHDAY.**

1. The BLFI condemns all acts of murder perpetrated by the repressive racist authorities of this country.
2. The BLFI specifically condemns the brutal murder and maiming of innocent BLACK students at Jackson State College as well as the recent murders of six brothers in Augusta, Georgia.
3. The BLFI unites all members of the BLACK community of MSU to participate in a mass general meeting on Tuesday May 19, 1970 at 1 pm in room 108 B Wells hall.
4. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss such issues as black nationalism and the history of the white radical movement, the nature of demands and the level of organizational efficiency in the black student community.
5. The BLFI asks BLACK students to give this meeting priority over other commitments. We do not feel that it is mandatory to demand that the university suspend classes for Tuesday afternoon, but we feel the need for the university to reflect some degree of sympathy for the situation.
6. The Jackson State College incident is only one example of a continuing process of the institutionalized repression of BLACK people, and co-incides with our commemoration of the martyrdom of our beloved Brother Malcolm X who fell in the struggle for justice for BLACK people.
7. The BLFI will therefore hold a revolutionary cultural event on Tuesday night at 8pm in memory of Malcolm as we; ; As express its solidarity with the BLACK community of Jackson State College and with all oppressed BLACK people everywhere. The place will be announced on Tuesday afternoon and in Tuesday's "What's Happening" column in the State News.

Vandals moved across the MSU campus and nearby area again Monday night, leaving a other trail of broken windows. Those engaged in the destruction were part of a larger group which had occupied portions of the Union building earlier in the evening.

Beginning at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, police arrested 130 who remained illegally in the building after the 11 p.m. closing hour. Repeated warnings were given prior to the arrests. Those arrested were taken to the Ingham County Jail and charged with trespassing and loitering. Many were not MSU students.

This continued and determined effort by some individuals to foment violence and disorder on this campus is reprehensible. While the great majority of students go about their business of securing and education, these irresponsible few take to the night to maraud.

It is an understatement to say that they have no legitimate cause which could in any way justify their actions. As was the case with the illegal sit-in in Demonstration Hall on Friday night, provocation seems the only aim.

Unlike Friday's affair, which ostensibly concerned ROTC, the Monday meeting in the Union which preceded the destruction and illegal occupation had been called by the "Action Group Against Racism." Earlier Monday, the group had demanded that President Wharton cancel classes on Tuesday.

In refusing this peremptory demand, President Wharton called such a closure tokenism and said he had been working with Black students and faculty on a more permanent and constructive response to the needs of Blacks on campus. He noted that the majority of Black students had declined to join the radical group which engaged in the illegal acts.

2.

*Dr. A. H. H. H.*  
The university community cannot tolerate such wanton violence. It is the students who have had no part in these activities who, in the long run, will suffer the most. It is estimated that since May 1 in the last three weeks, their activities, *has amounted to more than \$1.50 per student.*

Every dollar that must be spent to repair ~~deliberate~~ deliberate damage is, in effect, a dollar out of the students' pockets. Every dollar so spent is a dollar that is not available for student aid or services.

*"For example, out of a fund-raising drive to establish an off-campus Black Cultural Center for a variety of social activities. Vandalism on campus in the past three weeks would more than pay for a year's cost of such a center."*

RE: "During these weeks, the university administration has conducted itself with two major objectives in mind: To protect life and to keep this institution operating for those who are here for educational purposes. It has sought to use restraint at all times, but the lawless few ~~apparently~~ *do not intend that of course."*

*have persistently sought to provoke the authorities into taking firm action.*

"The University sincerely regrets that such action was required. However, in the face of these ~~repeated~~ *repeated* provocations, it had no choice but to act to protect the right ~~to~~ *to* ~~continue~~ *continue* their educational activities.

###



CLIFTON R. WHARTON, JR. • PRESIDENT

May 19, 1970

Vandals moved across the MSU campus and nearby area again Monday night, leaving another trail of broken windows. Those engaged in the destruction were part of a larger group which had occupied portions of the Union Building earlier in the evening. Damage included 31 windows broken in the off-campus IBM Building, nine windows in the Administration Building, and several in other structures.

Beginning at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, police arrested 130 who remained illegally in the building after 11 p.m. closing hour. Repeated warnings were given prior to the arrests. Those arrested were taken to the Ingham County Jail and charged with trespassing and loitering. Not all were MSU students.

This continued and determined effort by some individuals to foment violence and disorder on the campus is reprehensible. While the great majority of students go about their business of securing an education, these irresponsible few take to the night to maraud.

It is an understatement to say that they have no legitimate cause which could in any way justify their actions. As was the case with the illegal sit-in in Demonstration Hall on Friday night, provocation seems the only aim.

Unlike Friday's affair, which ostensibly concerned ROTC, the Monday meeting in the Union which preceded the destruction and illegal occupation had been called by the "Action Group Against Racism." Earlier Monday, the group had demanded that President Wharton close the university on Tuesday.

In refusing this peremptory demand, President Wharton called such a closure tokenism and said he had been working with Black students and faculty on a more permanent and constructive response to the needs of Blacks on campus. He noted that the majority of Black students had declined to join the radical group which engaged in the illegal acts.

"The university community cannot tolerate such wanton violence and disregard of the law," Dr. Wharton said, "It is the students who have no part in these activities who, in the long run, will suffer the most. It is estimated that since May 1 when the lawbreakers began their activities, damage on campus has amounted to more than \$1.50 per student. Every dollar that must be spent to repair deliberate damage is, in effect, a dollar out of the students' pockets. Every dollar so spent is a dollar that is not available for student aid or services.

"During these weeks, the university administration has conducted itself with two major objectives in mind: To protect life and to keep this institution operating for those who are here for educational purposes. It has sought to use restraint at all times, but the lawless few have persistently sought to provoke the authorities into taking firm action.

"The university sincerely regrets that such action was required. However, in the face of these deliberate provocations, it had no choice but to act to protect the right of students and faculty to peacefully pursue their educational activities."

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.  
President

Statement by President Wharton and the Administrative Officers of Michigan State University.

1. The support of the Faculty Steering Committee, the Executive Council of the MSU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, the MSU Association of Black Faculty, and other faculty and student groups for the proposal to conduct educational activities to demonstrate concern for American involvement in Southeast Asia and the tragic events at Kent State University is deeply appreciated.
2. All regular University classes are therefore suspended on Friday May 8 to provide an opportunity for the teach-in. Further details will be announced by the Provost.
3. The postponed meeting of the Academic Council to consider final action on the McKee Report has been rescheduled for May 12.
4. A special meeting of the Academic Council will be called during the week of May 25 at which time the sole topic of discussion will be ROTC. Prior to the meeting, it is hoped that the faculty and students will conduct appropriate referenda to ascertain the views of their constituencies for presentation at this meeting.

The University fully supports all activities which are offered in a constructive and positive atmosphere of rational debate.

all offices will be open

WJR  
WLCG  
WILK  
W

783-2494

statement by <sup>from</sup> Pres Wharton and the adminis<sup>trative</sup> officers of <sup>NSU</sup> NSU

1. the support of the faculty <sup>teaching</sup> committees, the executive council of the NSU chapter of AACP, the NSU association of black faculty, and other faculty and student groups for the proposal to conduct educational activities to demonstrate concern for <sup>SE</sup> American involvement in <sup>SE</sup> Asia and the tragic events at Kent State U. is deeply appreciated.

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idea of teach-in mentioned by Pres Wharton in his statement last night.



Whereas the United States government has chosen to pursue a policy  
of ruthless aggression on the people of Indochina, American  
college campuses, black colonies and reservations,

Be it resolved that

(1) MSU shut down formal classes and release all staff  
(with continued compensation) until such time as  
all American troops are withdrawn from Cambodia.

(2) MSU terminate all academic recognition from the ROTC  
program

MSU withdraw University funds and facilities from the  
ROTC program

(3) Under no circumstances shall any person with loaded  
firearms be allowed on campus.

In case you have inquiries concerning President Wharton's scheduled visit to Washington Wednesday, you may use the

President Clifton R. Wharton has postponed his planned trip to Washington D. C. today (Wednesday) to meet with the Congressional delegation upon many requests from students and faculty members. These members of the university community urged him to delay his trip until petitions have been circulated throughout the campus indicating concern over U.S. policies in Indochina.

President Wharton agreed with their requests that he wait to meet with Michigan Congressmen and Senators until after there is a clear expression of opinion through the simple petition process, so he may not only express his own views but those of the Michigan State University Community.

MSU President Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., said police made every effort to avoid responding with force in dispersing about 75 to 100 persons who had abandoned an illegal sit-in in Demonstration Hall.

"Those engaged in the sit-in left on police orders shortly after 8 p.m. without force being used," he said. "This was approximately two hours after the official closing time for the building.

"Once outside, however, they regrouped and began throwing rocks through windows of the hall. Even then, police withdrew in concerned students and to disperse peacefully. Only when the rock throwing resumed were the police

"It was evident from police reports that a number of those involved were not MSU students. Some were identified as having come ~~from~~ to East Lansing from other communities in the state.

is already being addressed in a constructive manner. This very day, the MSU student government conducted a campus-wide referendum to ascertain the views of the university community. The results will be known early next week. In addition, the Academic Council has scheduled a special meeting for May 26 to consider all issues involving ROTC.

"In view of these productive developments, there was ~~absolutely~~ absolutely no excuse for anyone to provoke a new controversy on this subject."

FACULTY-GRADUATE ASSISTANT STRIKE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee voted Wednesday, May 6, to support the student strike by postponing classes beginning Thursday, May 7, until further notice.
2. We believe that under conditions now prevailing on the campus, an assumption that classes can be conducted normally is false. We therefore urge each department and other administrative units of the University to adopt a policy that will protect its students and members of its faculty if they decide as a matter of conscience, not to teach their classes or not to attend them during the strike.
3. We propose that for students who strike, or who cannot attend classes because their professors are not meeting their classes some provision be made which will enable them to avoid losing credit and an appropriate grade for their courses. (For example, an incomplete could be given to a student who is on strike on his own initiative. The instructor who is not teaching his class is responsible for making arrangements for independent study for any student who desires to attend class.)
4. The committee unequivocally condemns the Indochina war. It is clear that the present action of a large number of students at MSU has been directly provoked by President Nixon's expansion of the war and his gratuitous defamation of concerned students.
5. The murder and wounding of students at Kent State University has outraged most thoughtful members of every academic community in the world. We are proud of the action of those students at MSU who have registered their outrage. Under no circumstances should any person with loaded firearms be allowed on the Michigan State University campus.
6. We support the proposition that academic recognition of the ROTC program is inconsistent with the aims of a university and that it is inappropriate for the University to provide financial support and university-supported facilities for that program.
7. We feel that the trial of Bobby Seale cannot be divorced from the other issues in the strike. The prosecution of Mr. Seale is an example of a broad pattern of repression of dissent at home which has widened as the war abroad has escalated.

Jim Trosko  
Asst. Prof. of Hum.Dev..  
C.P. Larrow  
Professor of Economics,  
Chairman

The Steering Committee  
Pat Doyle  
Professor of Mathematics  
Bill Lovis  
Graduate student,  
anthropology  
John Masterson  
Assoc.Prof. of Math.



352-0179

The Provost, John E. Cantlon, and The Executive Vice President,  
Jack Breslin, today issued the following statement:

Although classes are suspended on Friday, May 8, it is considered a  
regular work day at the University. Faculty are encouraged to attend those  
Teach-In sessions of interest. Staff may attend any teach-in activity but such  
time ~~should~~<sup>must</sup> be arranged with their supervisors and will be counted against  
personal leave.

May 7, 1970

*Alherton*

STATEMENT OF OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Thursday, May 7, 3 p.m.

1. At a meeting last night the President and other administrative officers made a decision to encourage wider University participation in an educational approach toward resolving the issues contributing to tension on campus.
2. For this purpose regular classes will be suspended on Friday.
3. Students and faculty are invited to participate in a series of workshop sessions dealing with some of the issues contributing to continuing campus tension. Among these are:
  - a. Status of ROTC
  - b. University operations and structures perceived as racist
  - c. Relationships with campus public safety staff
  - d. Avenues for articulating personal views on Indochina
  - e. Mechanisms for effective protest
4. Locations of sessions will be made available Friday morning.
5. Classes are suspended for Friday only.

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT WHARTON  
May 7, 1970

The students and faculty at Michigan State University have, through their words and actions, expressed grave concern over the newest change in U. S. policy in Southeast Asia and over the tragic deaths at Kent State University. I share the sense of dismay and frustration over these events.

X While a university is only a single institution with limited resources and influence over national policy, the issues are of such grave contention that they cannot be ignored.

The recent events at Michigan State and on many other campuses across the nation have led to an outpouring of mail both supportive and against these ever the stands of the university administrators and the actions of the students. Tensions and emotions run high in these troubled times. But if we are to survive as a university and, even more importantly, as a society, we must confront constructively the issues which divide us through reasoned discourse. This is the very essence of education.

It was in the spirit of this objective that the MSU administrative officers and I agreed to suspend classes on Friday, May 8, for the purpose of an all-university teach-in. In a series of meetings today with a broadly representative group of students, it was decided that the teach-in not be limited to the issue of the broadening of the Asian war. Rather, advantage should be taken of this opportunity to address additional specific questions and issues which are of prime concern to the students. Therefore, in addition to the Indochina War, the students suggested such topics as campus police relationships, ROTC, racism, tools of effect protest and external pressures which bear on university decision-making.

I believe this is a productive expansion of the teach-in concept. I personally will attend as many of these activities as I can on Friday, and I strongly urge university officers and members of the Academic Council to join in these discussions. Faculty also will be available as resource persons.

May 6, 1970

The Faculty of the Department of Anthropology met at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, to clarify the stand of a majority of the Department's faculty and graduate and undergraduate student representatives to the faculty in support of the non-violent student strike at Michigan State University. (The initial statement of support contained in the State News of May 6 reflected the urgency with which a majority of the Anthropology faculty and students deemed it necessary to formulate a position in the absence of a clear-cut response on the part of the University Administration and community at large to recent national and international developments). A majority of the Department's faculty judged that it was necessary for them to take some interim action appropriate to the situation that has developed on this and other major universities until the Academic Council meets and provides direction for the entire university. It is perfectly clear that the present action of a large number of undergraduate and graduate students at M.S.U. has been directly provoked by President Nixon's expansion of the Indochina war and his gratuitous defamation of concerned students. The murder and wounding of students at Kent State University has outraged most thoughtful members of every academic community in the world; we are proud of the action of those students at M.S.U. who have registered their outrage,

Members of the faculty of the Department of Anthropology unequivocally condemn the Indochina war and support the opinion of the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that President Nixon's action in ordering the invasion of Cambodia is unconstitutional. As anthropologists, many of whom have worked overseas, we support President Wharton's judgment: "Based upon my experience in Asia, I am firmly convinced that the new expansion of the war is a serious error and miscalculation."

The tragedy that took place at Kent State University appears to have been a result of the senseless use of firearms. Therefore, most members of the faculty support the proposal that under no circumstances shall any person with a loaded firearm be allowed on campus. Moreover, a majority of the faculty also supports the proposition that academic recognition of the R.O.T.C. program is inconsistent with the aims of a university and that it is inappropriate for the University to provide financial support and university-supported facilities for that program.

The faculty recognizes that it cannot regulate the professional conduct of each of its members, either during the strike or at other times. It has no desire to do so or to coerce either faculty or students, including students who choose to attend class despite the strike. Nor does the faculty intend that any student receive less instruction than he might ordinarily get during the present term, despite the strike. Under the conditions now prevailing, however, any assumption that classes can be conducted "normally" is obviously misleading. Most members of the faculty will not hold students responsible for material dealt with in classes this week. The faculty will reconsider this situation whenever it is appropriate and, at present, expects



that it will continue through Friday, May 9. Some faculty members have postponed certain classes today and may do so during the remainder of this week. Others have met with members of their classes who attended and will continue to do so for the remainder of this week. Apart from the needless killings of students at Kent State University, however, the war in Indochina dominates most of our attention at present. As members of the American Anthropological Association, the faculty subscribes to the Association's Code of Ethics: "The human condition, past and present, is the concern of anthropologists throughout the world. The study of mankind in varying social, cultural, and ecological situations is essential to our understanding of human nature, of culture, and of society."

Most Michigan State University anthropologists support the resolution, passed at the 1968 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, regarding cultural and social changes and the use of force:

Whereas two recent international anthropological congresses received reports from members that societies they are studying in many parts of the world are now subject to increased attacks on their integrity and well being stemming from more powerful groups,

And whereas these reports led the 38th International Congress of Americanists, meeting in Munich on August 17, 1968, and the permanent council of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences meetings in Tokyo on September 7th, 1968, to pass resolutions condemning the use of force and other forms of questionable pressure as instruments of cultural, social, and economic change,

Therefore, be it resolved that the American Anthropological Association supports these condemnations and that the American Anthropological Association joins these and other bodies in urging governments, anthropologists and others to re-examine current policies in order to fulfill their obligation to provide ethically just and scientifically enlightened programs which recognize the rights of the communities concerned to make their own free and informed choices in matters of cultural and social changes.

*Ralph W. Nicholas*

Ralph W. Nicholas  
Chairman, Advisory Committee  
Department of Anthropology

*Mon 3 P.m.*

*Consider future action*

*at rally one section*

May 7, 1970

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

FROM: The Plenary Group, African Studies Center

SUBJECT: Position of the African Studies Center on the current strike at MSU

Present: Gray, Watkins, Hanson, Petrides, Kangethe, Edison, Wilson, Reed,  
Kinyatti, Lotson, Knoke, Richardson, Collins, Bennett, Low

Action minutes of the Plenary Group meeting of this day:

1. Kangethe moved, and Reed seconded, that all business in the African Studies Center be suspended for the duration of the current strike at MSU, and that the same action be recommended to the Asian and Latin American Studies Centers. The motion carried, 11-1.
2. Reed moved, and Hanson seconded, that the Plenary Group recommended that the Interdisciplinary Course (391) on southern Africa be cancelled for the duration of the strike, and that the final decision on this matter be left to the discretion of the three instructors concerned. The motion carried, 11-1, with one abstention.
3. The Plenary Group directed the chairman to include in the action minutes of its meeting, and to make known to the community at large, the following statement:

WHEREAS the African Studies Center at MSU wishes to demonstrate its solidarity with the campus strike throughout the United States, and in particular with the goals and policies adopted by the movement here at MSU,

RESOLVED that we, the members of the Plenary Body of the African Studies Center, hereby declare that all normal and ordinary business of the Center cease forthwith and that the Center office be closed to all business. This cessation of business is to remain in effect for the duration of the strike.

BLACK FACULTY AND STUDENT TEACH-IN

FRIDAY, MAY 8th - 10:00 A.M.

ROOM 100 VET CLINIC

S T A T E M E N T   B Y   B L A C K   F A C U L T Y

THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK FACULTY AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ADVOCATES CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT OUR UNIVERSITY REGARDING KENT STATE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE NOTE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE EVENTS FOR BLACK PEOPLE ON THIS CAMPUS AND IN THE LARGER SOCIETY.

WE ENDORSE PRESIDENT WHARTON'S CALL FOR A TEACH-IN ON THE ISSUES RAISED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS. THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED AND A POSITION PAPER WILL BE DEVELOPED:

- (1) THE ISSUE OF JUSTICE IN OUR SOCIETY FOR BLACKS;
- (2) ALL FORMS OF MILITARY, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL EXPLOITATION OF BLACKS;
- (3) SURVIVAL AND COMMITMENT OF BLACKS IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL BLACKS AT EVERY LEVEL OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE.

Point of View

What about the strike, "strike now, shut it down". Shut it down, shut down the university until they accede to certain demands. Force the University into the political arena. Force the University to adopt certain issues as official University stands. Is this what we really want. A University is a place of learning, research, and discussion of ideas. Which views out of the myriad of viewpoints available on any campus is the University going to take. If MSU is forced to stand for freeing Bobby Seale can't the Univ. of Miss. be forced into standing for his immediate execution. If the University moves into the political arena, who plays God. Who decides which faction's views become "official".

This is a dangerous precedent. It's happened before in Germany and Czechoslovakia. And when it's happened, the University becomes a arena of competing groups each seeking to "shut it" down so their views are taken as the truth. The real question is whether we want an open, free forum or whether we are willing to force the University into the political arena. If so, whose arena, and what are the consequences of that action.

Please consider this issue carefully.

Thank you.

Students for Rational Action





# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## A Report from the President

May 11, 1970

### TIME FOR CLARITY

The past 10 days have been unsettling and, in many ways, traumatic on the Michigan State University campus. The period has been one of mass meetings, rhetoric, rumors, and confusion, punctuated by one serious incident of property damage. Over all, however, the great majority of students have conducted themselves with good judgment and a sincere effort to cope intelligently with issues which far transcend the normal educational activities and responsibilities of this university.

Throughout, as is typical during times of emotionalism and confusion, the garbled word about what is happening is more easily come by than facts and reason. Rumors, innocent or insidious, gallop across the campus. Anyone with access to a mimeograph puts out a leaflet. During this time, the University administration has sought, in every way possible, to keep the campus community informed of its position. We have given statements to the State News, distributed them through the residence halls, addressed some mass meetings and on one occasion, used closed-circuit television.

Yet, many questions regarding the issues and their possible import for the University appear to be unanswered in the minds of both students and faculty. This special information bulletin is intended to state the administration's position on these matters as clearly as possible.

### THE CALL FOR A "STRIKE"

The University recognizes the sincere concern, deeply felt among many faculty and students at Michigan State, over the issues which have arisen. It is evident that there is a wide range of opinions both over the issues themselves and the propriety of a "strike." As a public institution, however, the University cannot subscribe to a single viewpoint on issues and policies outside its jurisdictional sphere.

Therefore, the University cannot endorse a political "strike" which would close its classrooms. Nearly 40,000 students have come voluntarily to this campus to receive a formal education. More than 3,000 faculty members are employed at MSU to provide this instruction. That is the function of this State institution. That is what is expected of it by the Legislature and the taxpayers of Michigan who finance the greater part of the University's operating costs. That is what is expected by the students who pay tuition.

We recognize that there is divided opinion on the campus regarding this issue. Nevertheless, the University's responsibility to the State of Michigan to provide educational opportunities is very clear and cannot be abdicated. Students who are here for that purpose cannot morally be denied their right to attend classes because some of their fellow students may feel that a closed university somehow will hasten an end to the war in Indochina. Similarly, faculty members with appointments to teach at MSU have their responsibility clearly defined by the Code of Teaching Responsibility adopted by the Academic Council and the Academic Senate in 1969.

There are many students and faculty members who wish to attend class. The University has an obligation to do everything it can to provide educational services.

## CONSEQUENCES OF A CLOSED UNIVERSITY

Those who would advocate that the University be closed must consider the consequences of such an action. The effects would go far beyond what is viewed as a symbolic protest against the war. For example:

1. The school year necessarily would have to be extended beyond June 14 to make up for those class days lost to "strike" action.
2. Closure would mean an end to all normal services, with the result that students would have to be sent home.
3. The ability of the University to continue to pay wages and salaries during such a period is questionable, at best.
4. Veterans benefits received by students probably would be halted by the Federal government.
5. Financial assistance, such as work-study, fellowships and research grants, would be placed in serious jeopardy.
6. The State Legislature currently is considering the University's 1970-71 budget, and a forced closure could not help but adversely influence those vital decisions.

These are not sanctions; these are consequences. They are not matters left to the University's discretion.

Therefore, it should be clearly understood that the effect of any course of action which forces closure of the University is to make the university community the target and the victim, not the policy makers in Washington.

## CONSEQUENCES OF A PARTIAL "STRIKE"

Everyone is responsible for his own actions and the consequences of those actions. Students, graduate assistants and faculty are bound by established codes of conduct. Individuals boycotting classes must arrange with their various instructors for handling course grades. The Code of Teaching Responsibility, adopted by the Academic Council and approved by the Academic Senate, requires instructors to meet their classes. This pertains both to faculty and teaching assistants. Instructors who do not discharge their responsibilities can scarcely be recommended for continuation of pay during their absence from duty. The same principle applies to non-teaching duties. The University cannot abrogate codes of conduct or individual responsibility by granting a general exemption from the established rules.

It also follows that those who boycott or strike have no right to coerce or intimidate the many who wish to conduct their activities on campus in a normal manner.

## PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY

There has been every evidence that the great majority of MSU students abhor violent confrontations and destruction. This appears to be true of the "strike" leaders as well as of those who may feel just as deeply about the issues but who wish to continue their education. Yet, the night of May 1 showed that violence, even though instigated by a few, can break out.

The campus police responded responsibly and with restraint. Outside assistance from local law enforcement agencies was called in only after the campus force found that the random destruction had spread beyond its means of control. Such assistance has not been deployed on the campus since.

None of us wants our campus to become an armed camp. The tragedy of Kent State must never occur again. Human life is too dear, and the protection of it will always be our first objective. But to suggest that the only way to prevent another Kent State is to remove the means by which the campus police can protect the university community is illusory. The campus is public property. The University has no authority to exclude city, county and State law enforcement agencies when they are in performance of their duties. Disarming the campus police could thus very well have the effect of increasing outside police activity on the campus.

Relationships between the campus police and the rest of the university community are good, but they can be improved. One of the items on the agenda of the next Academic Council meeting is a proposal to create a Faculty-Student Standing Committee on Public Safety, which could advise on these matters.

The responsibility for preventing threats to life and property is not one-sided. Everyone on this campus shares the duty of assuring an atmosphere where dissent can be articulated in the same rational terms as the formal educational process.

## **ROTC**

On April 27, the MSU Committee Against ROTC presented a set of demands to abolish ROTC from the campus.

On May 1, the administration responded to the demands by suggesting that the Steering Committee of the Faculty, which sets the agenda for the Academic Council, was the proper channel if there was a genuine desire to have ROTC's status on campus reconsidered. (The Academic Council had considered the issue at length only a year ago, making several recommendations which were implemented.)

On May 6 a student representative to the Council asked the Steering Committee to bring ROTC again before the Council. The committee agreed and set a special Council meeting for May 26 to consider the topic.

Meantime, ASMSU, COGS and the appropriate faculty bodies plan to poll students and faculty on their views regarding ROTC. The University reiterates its support of the survey and underscores its importance in reflecting the current views of students and faculty. The results of the survey will be carefully weighed by the Council in its deliberations. Recommendations by the Council for substantive changes in the ROTC status will be brought before the Board of Trustees.

## **BLACK ENROLLMENT**

The University has attempted to develop an intelligent and realistic program of steadily increased Black enrollment, rather than set arbitrary quotas or ceilings.

The percentage of Black students enrolled in the Freshman Class has increased as follows: 1967 - 2%; 1968 - 5%; 1969 - 6% and in the Fall of 1970 we expect to reach 8%. The University has sought to achieve annual increases within its capability to insure that those admitted remain and receive the full benefits of their educational opportunities. To enroll unrealistic numbers, merely to achieve high percentages, would be unfair to the students so admitted if the educational services available are deficient. Rather than make a hasty response preventing the University from marshaling its full resources, the University has sought to coordinate the accelerating rate of annual increases in enrollment within our ability to provide any special services and academic changes required.

The University's overall policies regarding the admission of minority students is already on the agenda of the President's Commission on Admission and Student Body Composition. Any group or individual who wishes to present their views to the Commission are urged to do so.

Closely related to the Commission are the recent discussions which the university administration has had with the Mexican-American organization MECHA and with the new Executive Board of the Black Liberation Front regarding their proposals for improvements in the University's handling of minority students in such areas as recruitment, admission, financial aids, tutorial, general support services, counseling and advising. These discussions began before the events of last week and will continue.

## **POLITICAL TRIALS**

It is obvious to all that the University clearly has no power to control the trial of Bobby Seale or others, regardless of the feelings held by many individuals on the campus. We can only state that the University strongly supports the right of responsible dissent and the Constitutional right to a fair trial. Within the areas of its direct responsibility, the University has attempted to live by this principle of rational debate and due process. It will continue to do so.

## **INDOCHINA WAR**

The expansion of the war in Southeast Asia obviously did much to accentuate the deep concern over the Vietnamese situation long felt on this and other campuses. The reaction of students, faculty and administrators was electrifying, and anyone who doubts that this message wasn't heard in Washington seriously underestimates the voice of the people. But the point to remember is that it is in Washington where the decisions are made, and not on the MSU campus. However, these decisions can be influenced constructively.

Many persons have stated their individual views, both for and against the latest action. The suspension of regular classes on Friday for the conduct of a teach-in on this and other issues provided an intelligent and reasonable forum for debate. The teach-in was not meant to be a one-shot catharsis for the emotions; rather, it is hoped that coming out of those sessions will be further actions which will result in clear-cut position statements.

Additionally, it is gratifying to note that many students are supporting the suggestion that petitions be prepared containing the views of the MSU community on this issue. The offer to take these petitions to the Michigan Congressional Delegation in Washington still stands.



Statement by  
President Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.

May 11, 1972

It is with great personal sorrow and regret that I must report the necessity to use police action on the campus of Michigan State University this afternoon. This was done with the most extreme reluctance and only after there was no other alternative.

The occasion was a deliberate and apparently well-planned move to take over and totally disrupt the university's administration building. This effort went far beyond anything that can be termed a "peaceful demonstration."

The demonstrators ripped doors off their hinges, broke onto the roof, forced their way into the cashier's and registrar's offices, sought to enter rooms occupied by a \$1 million computer and intimidated many employees.

Despite this extreme provocation and damage, every attempt was made to avoid the use of police. I personally walked from floor to floor with a loud-speaker, telling the demonstrators to leave the building or else face arrest. Everyone, including those on the roof, had more than ample warning and opportunity.

To their credit, most did leave voluntarily in response to my request. Yet, as always in such situations, there were those relatively few hard-core disruptors and agitators who demand physical confrontation. They refused to leave the building until escorted by police.

At this point it was obvious that no alternative remained but to summon police. It should be made absolutely clear that the State Police, who had come to the campus to lend assistance, remained several hundred yards away from the building until it was absolutely necessary for them to move in as a last resort.

And it was a last resort. There was no way in which responsible administrators of this university could have permitted this group, some of whom had already shown that they were bent on physical destruction, to have control of the building. Police used a minimum of force to clear the building and left the scene within an hour after their arrival. There were no arrests.

I have noted that the effort appeared to be well-planned. This is based on the obvious fact that literally within seconds after the rally had "voted" at Beaumont Tower to "take over" the administration building, members of their group had entered the building, had physically blocked employee efforts to lock the doors, and in certain instances had keys to selected sensitive rooms.

This senseless episode was another unfortunate display of how a militant few seek to use genuine concern over such major issues as the Indochina war to wage their own war of confrontation and disruption. Typically, they included those who are not students at this university.

I, as president of this university, have sought in every way over the past few days to be as responsive as is humanly possible to the genuine issues raised by the anti-war groups of students and faculty.

Within limits beyond which I cannot go and still retain my accountability to our students and the people of Michigan, I have taken every step I can to meet the legitimate suggestions which give expression to the sentiments which most of our students and faculty obviously feel.

But this is not enough -- or perhaps I should say that anything would not be enough -- to satisfy those few who seek aimless confrontation and purposeless disruption as their price. The events of the past few nights on Grand River Avenue, and this afternoon on campus, give ample evidence of this.

One can say only in their behalf that they were for the most part non-violent. Yet, any acts which needlessly and physically deprive others of their rights, cannot truthfully be called "peaceful."

Fortunately, the great majority of our students and faculty have remained calm and have gone about their business of education during this trying period. Despite what I know are intense feelings on the part of many regarding the war, they have seen the ridiculousness of seeking to use this institution as the scapegoat to express those feelings.

I am sure they join me in denouncing these distressing events and will continue to help in maintaining the integrity of Michigan State University as an educational institution.

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5/13/70

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The march is on for today and tomorrow, according to strike headquarters.

Both will begin at noon at Beaumont Tower.

The Wednesday rally is sponsored by SIAM (Student Liberation Action Movement). The idea, says strike headquarters is to present demands to the Governor. Some 10,000 "brothers and sisters" from campuses across the state were expected for Wednesday. The weather has lowered the estimate.

The Thursday March is cosponsored by the Student Mobilization Committee and the Lansing Area Peace Council. That march will take in:

- The Telephone Company where a list of war tax resisters will be presented

- The Capitol Building to support Jackie Vaughn's bill that would enable Michigan men to refuse to fight in an undeclared war.

- The Federal Building to picket and protest the waste of lives and money in Indochina

Both rallies will be preceded by speeches. Speeches are also planned at the Capitol. The visitors are invited to stay over for a rap session tonight.

5-15-70

MSU President Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., said police made every effort to avoid responding with force in dispersing about 75 to 100 persons who had abandoned an illegal sit-in in Demonstration Hall.

"Those engaged in the sit-in left on police orders shortly after 8 p.m. without force being used," he said. "This was approximately two hours after the official closing time for the building.

"Once outside, however, they regrouped and began throwing rocks through windows of the hall. Even then, police withdrew inside the building to allow concerned students and faculty members to attempt to persuade the demonstrators to disperse peacefully. Only when the rock throwing resumed were the police required to use tear gas to break up the crowd.

"It was evident from police reports that a number of those involved were not MSU students. Some were identified as having come ~~from~~ to East Lansing from other communities in the state.

"This was a senseless incident. The question of ROTC on the MSU campus is already being addressed in a constructive manner. This very day, the MSU student government conducted a campus-wide referendum to ascertain the views of the university community. The results will be known early next week. In addition, the Academic Council has scheduled a special meeting for May 26 to consider all issues involving ROTC.

"In view of these productive developments, there was ~~absolutely~~ absolutely no excuse for anyone to provoke a new controversy on this subject."



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News Bureau  
Telephone: (517) 355-2281  
5/15/70

The following statement was adopted unanimously by the Michigan State University Board of Trustees in the first order of business at a meeting Thursday afternoon.

"On behalf of the entire university, the Board of Trustees expresses its profound shock and sorrow over the tragic injuries to several persons who were struck by an automobile today while exercising their right to peaceful dissent, and to the policeman who was attempting to protect that right.

"If we have learned one lesson in these last several weeks, it is that we must all, students, faculty, administrators and citizens in the community at large, act with restraint, and above all to attempt to prevent violence and personal injury."

WELCOME TO DEMONSTRATION HALL - HOME OF ARMY ROTC

AS FELLOW MSU STUDENTS WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

BECAUSE YOU HAVE COME TO DEM HALL, WE ASSUME THE ROTC ISSUE IS YOUR PRIME CONCERN. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FACTS ABOUT ROTC WE FEEL HAVE NOT BEEN ANALYZED:

1. MSU CLEARS A SUBSTANTIAL PROFIT THROUGH ROTC:

MSU EXPENDITURES ON ROTC

General Budget Expenditures	\$35,000
Rental Facilities	\$47,000
Overhead	\$11,000

INCOME TO MSU FROM ROTC

Credit fees for ROTC classes and uniform deposits	\$23,000
Dept. of Defense scholarships to MSU ROTC students	\$104,000

THE ARMY HAS REQUESTED CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS TO ENABLE IT TO PAY EVEN MORE OF THE COST.

THESE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE:

1. The use of the ROTC rifle range which makes the NPK Hunter Safety class possible.
  2. The \$74,000 appropriation MSU receives from the Legislature through the Morrill Act, which requires an institution offer training in Military Tactics.
  3. The \$281,000 in salaries paid by the Army to MSU ROTC instructors.
2. ALL ROTC INSTRUCTORS ARE PAID BY THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE AND ARE APPROVED BY MSU BEFORE THEY ARE APPOINTED.
3. 47% OF THE CREDITS REQUIRED IN THE ROTC PROGRAM ARE TAUGHT BY CIVILIAN FACULTY IN REGULAR UNIVERSITY COURSES IN PLS, HST, MGT, ECON, AND GEO

KENT STATE:

We, like you, were shocked at the Kent State Massacre. It is tragically ironic that one of the students killed was an outstanding ROTC cadet. We would point out, however, that there are no ROTC officers in the National Guard.

CAMBODIA:

The cadets of Army ROTC, like the rest of the nation are divided on the military and political implications of the recent US-S. Vietnamese military operations in Cambodia. As future Army officers, our personal interest in Vietnam and a desire for peace is matched by few student organizations.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, THERE ARE CADETS CIRCULATING AMONG YOU WHO WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES WITH YOU.

5-18-70

President Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., today issued the following statement:

The recent tragic events in Georgia and Mississippi have accelerated awareness within the University community, among both Blacks and whites, of the nature of the protracted struggle of minorities in the United States to be free of all forms of repression and discrimination. Michigan State University is deeply aware of its responsibilities in this struggle, and it has sought to be in the forefront of public institutions in developing greater educational opportunities for Black students and in being responsive to their needs on campus.

In a new examination of the situation in the wake of the Georgia and Mississippi deaths, many individuals and groups on campus have proposed various courses of action to show their concern. Obviously, it is the Black community which feels these events most deeply, and in our efforts to help see that something constructive emerges from these tragic circumstances, we look to that community to guide us.

→ The Black Liberation Front International has proposed a general meeting of the MSU Black community Tuesday afternoon and a cultural event that evening. The University administration respects the BLFI's wishes and offers its full assistance in facilitating the two meetings. University flags will continue to fly at half-mast through Tuesday as a mark of its respect for those who died at Jackson State.

The University also is very interested in moving forward in new, meaningful endeavors which would positively affect the lives of Black students and faculty on this campus. ( One creative suggestion developed from recent deliberations with the Black community is the need for a meeting place and cultural headquarters for members of the Black campus community. || (Those persons included in recent discussions have included the Executive Board of the BLFI (Lamar Thomas, George Flemming, Bill Powers, and Tony Martin); Prof. Irving Vance, Chairman of the Black Faculty Caucus; Dr. Robert F. Green, Director, Center for Urban Affairs; Mr. Nolen Ellison, CUA; and Dr. Thomas Gunnings, Counseling Center.)

I believe this is a very worthwhile proposal on which action has been long overdue, and which would be a permanent monument to the causes for which Blacks have lived and died.

→ Consequently, I am proposing a major fund-raising drive among faculty, students and alumni to finance an off-campus Black Cultural Center. Such a center would serve as a hub for the Black community's social and student activities. Discussion regarding the type of center desired by the Black students and faculty will be initiated immediately.

The first major step will be to secure funds for the rental of adequate space to initiate the center as rapidly as possible, pending the development of a more permanent structure. The MSU Development Fund has been asked to establish a separate account for this purpose and will receive the funds contributed. A fund-raising committee will be established to give the campaign direction.

I am hopeful that all concerned persons in the area, whether connected with the University or not, will support this effort so that the center will be a tangible response of the total community to a determined attack against minority oppression.

April 17, 1970, Introduced by Rep. Vaughn and referred to the Committee on  
Military and Veterans' Affairs

A bill defining the rights of a person of the state inducted or serving in the military forces of the United States; and prescribing certain powers and duties.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Sec. 1. A person of this state inducted or serving in the military forces of the United States shall not be required to serve outside the territorial limits of the United States in the conduct of armed hostilities not an emergency and not otherwise authorized in the powers granted to the president of the United States in section 2 of article 2 of the constitution of the United States, unless the hostilities were initially authorized or subsequently ratified by a congressional declaration of war according to the constitutionally established procedures in section 8 of article 1 of the constitution of the United States.

Sec. 2. A person of this state serving in the military forces of the United States or serving in an area in which armed hostilities are being conducted may give notice thereof to the attorney general. The attorney general, upon receipt of the notice, shall on behalf of the person, and in the name of the state, take any action he deems necessary to enforce and defend the rights of the person under section 1.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chairman Mahalak (D)	Room 19	373-2575
Vice-Chairman Novak (D)	Room B 1	373-0106
Maj. Chip O'Neill (D)	Room 12	373-0152
S.J. Davis (D)	Room 110	373-0822
Steven Stopczynski (D)	Room 14	373-2277
Philip Pittenger (R)	Room 220-B	373-1770
Dively (R)	Room 220-S	373-1789
Robert C. Stites (R)	Room 220-M	373-0828
Varnum (R)	Room 220-O	373-2629

These are the people who are bottling up the bill. See them and talk to them!!!!

NOTE: IN INTENSE POLITICAL PRESSURE



5/2/70

~~Q. A~~ A tiny minority of violence-prone students and non-students have engaged in wanton destruction on the campus of Michigan State University. The superficial excuse was a campaign against the presence of ROTC on the campus. But despite the administration's reasonable response, there obviously had been a prior decision to precipitate acts of violence.

It is estimated that fewer than 200 persons were involved. They appeared to move in well-organized clusters throughout the campus, breaking windows, throwing rocks and at least one fire bomb. Damage was done to several campus buildings, primarily glass breakage.

Earlier in the afternoon, a group of persons attempted to take over the International Center with a non-violent sit-in. Part of these left about 10 p.m. and started the senseless rampage through the campus. The few remaining in the building were removed after the posted closing time of 10:30 p.m.

The damage to the University buildings can be repaired. The greater damage is that which is done to the good name of the more than 37,000 students at MSU who did not participate in these events, yet who unfortunately cannot be distinguished by the public from the small minority.

The University totally condemns these acts of violence and calls upon all students to join in the constructive efforts to build a finer university and to isolate the destructive few who have no goal but the ruin of a great institution.

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13 2:34 3:1  
H4 4:05