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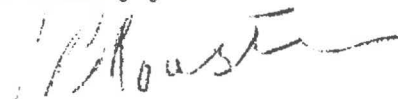
May 15, 1970

Dear Parents,

I am sending you the enclosed resolution of the faculty and administration of the College to inform you of the recent unprecedented action we have taken and to reassure you concerning the basic educational integrity of the College. As you will see from the document, we have - after very long, searching debate in faculty meetings, meetings of the administration, and in community meetings with the vast majority of students attending - made the hard decision that only such action as we have taken can maintain the integrity of Bennington College in our present society.

I am fully confident that the overwhelming majority of the students support the substance of the action taken by the faculty and administration. Indeed, what I believe is of major significance is the unity among students, faculty and administration that has been achieved by our action. Neither the students nor the faculty are "striking" against the college. Rather we all are mobilizing our energies and resources to continue our basic educational operations and to protect the college as an institution in the larger society.

Sincerely yours,



Edward J. Bloustein  
President

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Resolution of the Faculty and Administration of Bennington College

Adopted on May 12, 1970

On May 5, 1970, the Faculty and Administration of Bennington College voted the following resolution\*:

"The Faculty and Administration of Bennington College deplore President Nixon's decision to extend the Indo-China war. The constitutionality of that war is, in the first place, dubious, its consequences in world affairs have been wholly negative, and its effects on the fabric of American life have been catastrophic. The recent decision to extend rather than conclude the war is shocking. As teachers and educational administrators, we are directly concerned with the demoralization this policy is bringing about on American campuses. We are horrified by the grim events at Kent State University and regard them as the latest extension of a policy of repression which has already wreaked havoc in other white and black colleges, as well as in the streets and ghettos of America.

We are profoundly disturbed by the divisive and inflammatory statements made by President Nixon, Vice President Agnew, and other members of the national administration. We feel these statements have distorted, misrepresented and suppressed expressions of dissent by concerned citizens, and especially by members of the academic and professional communities."

In the light of the events and concerns stated therein, we recognize an extraordinary situation exists and therefore now resolve as follows concerning the educational operations of the College in the remainder of this term:

\*Presented here as amended at a meeting on May 12, 1970, and adopted by a majority of the faculty and administration with a few dissenting voices heard.

## I Student Options

The following options are open to a student for the next five weeks:

- (A) He may, after having conferred with his instructors and having submitted a written statement of intention to the Dean of Studies, choose to leave campus to work politically for the remainder of this term. \*
- (B) He may remain on campus to pursue an academic program in accordance with the provisions outlined below in paragraph D. This program may be undertaken, if he so desires, in conjunction with local political activity.
- (C) In regard to present seniors specifically, they may chose to postpone graduation until December in order to pursue alternative activity for the balance of the term. Such seniors must propose a plan for such action to the ECC at the earliest possible opportunity and the ECC shall then evaluate the academic sufficiency of the plan offered.

Seniors who wish to graduate in June and to pursue activities other than their courses in part or whole must conform to the following: (i) All projects and theses must be completed by at least October 1; If they are to be completed after June 19, the degree will be granted on a conditional basis; (ii) A brief plan setting out the student's program of activity for the balance of the term should be submitted as soon as possible to the ECC, which shall then evaluate the academic sufficiency of that plan.

\* He may make these arrangements with his instructors and the Dean of Studies by mail.

- (D) (1) Each instructor, in coordination with the Secretary and Recorder of the College, will call together his class at the earliest opportunity to discuss the nature and conduct of the course for the remainder of the term. For each class, the SEPC representative, in conjunction with the instructor, will post a notice of the action at this first meeting.
- (2) Each student is urged to make specific, as soon as possible, his course of action for the remainder of the term to his instructors and to the Dean of Studies. This statement shall consist of a brief indication of the arrangements he has made with his individual instructors.
- (3) The Divisions and the ECC will continue to consider sophomore and junior plans. Any sophomore or junior may choose to withdraw a plan already submitted and/or defer the submission of a plan until October 1, 1970. It is understood that students with plans in abeyance may return at least for the fall term. Transfer students may choose to have course credit contingent on completion of requirements by October 1.
- (4) A student may choose to discontinue any course in which he is presently enrolled. Under these circumstances, the instructor will have the discretion to record/as dropped or to record a pass credit. A student may also, with the permission of the instructor, enroll in another course and make arrangements with that instructor for its completion.



- (5) Specific details of a student's effective completion of a term's work on each course will be worked out by the student and his instructors. We recognize that such completion may take a variety of forms. It shall be the sense of the college community that any work handed in or presented by October 1, 1970\* shall be received and considered without prejudice. A student shall have the choice, under these circumstances, to have a pass/fail or transcript grade.
- (6) Any student who feels that he cannot work out an adequate arrangement with his instructors should bring his concern to the FEPC. For these purposes the FEPC will be enlarged to include a number of students equal to that of faculty and administrators, such students to be chosen by the SEPC from among its own members.\*\* (Adopted by the Faculty and Administration

with a few dissenting voices heard.)

## II Faculty Responsibilities

- (A) Faculty members will maintain their customary college obligations, including their current teaching loads.
- (B) Each faculty member, consistent with his beliefs and abilities, accepts the obligation to extend his commitment to the College, using his talents and his energies as seems most appropriate

\* Under extraordinary circumstances, and by application to instructor with notice to the Dean of Studies, this deadline may be extended to no later than the end of NRT, 1971.

\*\* All student members of the FEPC shall vote on these matters.

in our new situation. Such activities might include seminars and discussions devoted to the major issues we confront, these to be arranged through the Strike Committee's subcommittee on Lectures and Seminars. (Adopted by the Faculty and Administration with a few dissenting voices heard.)

We associate ourselves with the national movement of protest against the continuation of the War and oppression on the campuses and streets of America. (Adopted by the Faculty and Administration with a few dissenting voices heard.)

Re-drafted on May 13, 1970 by the faculty sub-committee on drafting.

The provision in the text concerning pass-fail grades is subject to a vote of the faculty to be taken within the next ten days.