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Campus Assembly, "Campus Assembly minutes 04/20/1972" (1972). *Campus Assembly*. 140.
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Campus Assembly Minutes
April 20, 1972

Provost Imholte chaired this special meeting of the Assembly to read a statement which he defined as clearly his own as a response to the Assembly action of April 19.

Provost Imholte read the following:

"I am aware of and understand your concern over the recent escalation of the bombing in North Viet Nam. I share with you that concern. The maxim that violence begets violence is being painfully and powerfully demonstrated and proven.

"I am also aware of the action of the Morris Campus Assembly yesterday recommending the suspension of 'business as usual' over the period from April 20 through April 23.

"I cannot accept this action by the Assembly. Provisions are available under the Statement on Academic Freedom and Responsibility passed by the University Senate that are, I believe, relevant to this situation. To quote from that statement:

'Each individual faculty member must have reasonable latitude to cancel their scheduled class or other scheduled activities for reasons including more effective means of presenting the materials, illness, engagement in some other professional activity, or even the desire to express individual conscience or conviction. But then the teacher has an obligation to arrange for substitute or make-up instruction in a manner most convenient for all of his students, since consultation with faculty is not a student's privilege but every student's right.'

"I realize that some of you find it difficult, if not impossible, to accept my statement, and that you will continue to feel frustrated and concerned---to say the very least. I understand the feeling that the closing down of the campus could have symbolic significance. Yet the statement passed by the Assembly yesterday can achieve some, if not all, of that same impact. I am in a position where I must evaluate the damage to us that the closing of the campus might accomplish.

"Finally, I urge you not to interfere with the rights of others. I further urge you to use restraint and to direct your protest toward positive goals."

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Ted Underwood on behalf of the Executive Committee read the following statement as a response to be forwarded to President Moos:

"The Executive Committee of UMM Campus Assembly appreciate the fact that you share the deep concern and opposition of many of our faculty and students to the renewed air war in S. E. Asia.

"However, we believe that the suspension of 'business as usual' proposed for the UMM Campus for the period, 8 a.m., April 20 to 8 a.m., April 24, is a peaceful, reasonable, and desirable way to express this concern, and therefore, we wish to support the action of the Assembly in passing it's resolution on April 19.

"As a committee, we also affirm the right of each individual to act according to the dictates of his conscience, and also affirm that such individual decisions deserve the respect of every member of this campus."

Bob Morris moved to have the following statement adopted by the Assembly as a response to President Moos' statement concerning the UMM Assembly action to declare a moratorium from April 20 to 23:

"The Campus Assembly of the University of Minnesota, Morris, acknowledges the concern of the President of the University that no cause would be served by a 'closing of the University.' We submit that that phrase does not describe the intention or the letter of our resolution of 19 April. We see no inconsistency with the larger aims of the University in our resolve to devote these four days to study, contemplation, and the expression of conscience.

"Our purpose is to facilitate the free exercise of conscience in this most troubled period of the national life and we feel, as we did on 19 April, that there is no need to remind this community that coercion serves no useful purpose.

"We hereby reaffirm our determination to devote extraordinary effort during this time to allow our colleagues to more freely exercise their consciences. While we see this reaffirmation as an entirely positive one, we must acknowledge that it answers an unusual circumstance and cannot be called a plan for 'business as usual.'

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"Again, we thank the President for his sympathy. We hope this serves to allay concern that our principled protest of a national policy might be obscured by an interpretation of it as antagonistic to either the aims of the University or those in whose trust it has been placed." .

An editorial change was made in paragraph three from "to assist our colleagues" to "to allow our colleagues." The motion as seconded passed by voice vote.

The question of the President's authority to veto UMM Assembly action was clarified by the reading of the UMM Constitution, Article I, Section I.

Provost Imholte announced that he would be available to discuss with individuals or groups any matters of concern relating to the recent Assembly actions.

The Assembly then adjourned.

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