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## Campus Assembly minutes 11/27/1972

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Campus Assembly

27 November 1972

Provost Imholte, presiding, announced the 4 December meeting of the Campus Assembly; copies of the agenda will be circulated by 29 November.

Iverson moved adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved:

UMM Campus community condemns the actions of Southern University administration and police in the murder of two black students and the firing of between two and six faculty members guilty of "advising students" and also the firing of faculty and expelling students without due process.

UMM also condemns the seeming inactivity of the news media, the irresponsiveness of the American public as a whole and puts the question of racism before us all.

The motion was seconded. The following questions were discussed:

1. If the resolution is passed, what will happen? The media will be notified and a message will be sent to Southern University.
2. Should 'murder' be used in the resolution since it is a legal term and must be proved in court? The opinion was expressed that no one in particular had been accused of killing or murdering the students, only that Southern University administration and police had been involved somehow. Another opinion that the act was indeed murder was heard.
3. Could more information be given in regard to the firing and expulsion? Ahern accredited the New York Times for some sketchy but probably accurate information: After student demands for greater involvement in their education (e.g., in regard to Black Studies and housing) were not met and a psychology professor was fired, student activity on campus intensified leading to boycotts and protests. A vice-president's resignation was not accepted; four were arrested in a protest against this. When students went to the president to complain, the police were brought in and the fatal shots were fired. Iverson said that the student body president and others were expelled; Ripperger, that two faculty members were fired and up to six probably will not have their contracts renewed.
4. Do we have enough information to say what happened? Iverson indicated that the resolution directs itself to the lack of information; complaints will bring forth information. Leavitt expressed his opinion that university investigations always protect the university and that investigations held much after the fact do not touch the public. Böpp suggested that if lack of information is the problem, then the resolution should direct itself to that lack, calling for an investigation and publication of the results.

A "friendly amendment" by Ahern to delete "between two and six" was accepted by Iverson and the seconder of the motion.

Klinger moved to recess for fifteen to twenty minutes to allow an interested group to rewrite the resolution. The motion was seconded and the following discussion ensued:

1. Klinger expressed his opinion that we did not have enough information to condemn specific acts. We can protest the use of armed force on campus, an arbitrary administration, the intercession of higher powers, lack of openness, and loss of life. An investigation is underway, and an AAUP investigation of the firing is likely.
2. Iverson indicated that when the Kent State resolution was passed, the UMM Campus Assembly relied on media reports; and expressed his opinion that rewriting the resolution was the epitome of futility, for we must say what we feel; we are not discussing philosophical issues.
3. Hart expressed his opinion that catharsis---leading to feeling good--was not needed. He pointed out that recently an Indian had been shot on a Minnesota reservation, police were on the UMM Campus, and there is a Gun Control Act in the State Legislature, but had noted no concern for these events and predicted no effect from passing the resolution.
4. Ahern expressed his opinion that he was not sure a recess would help; the resolution does not assess blame for the killing. Welsh said the resolution makes unwarranted assumptions and we should not expose our own ignorance.
5. Hunt was upset because the discussion indicated that UMM "doesn't give a damn about the people." To his concern that we should "respond as a community," Grant replied that we should "reply thoughtfully."
6. Leavitt expressed his opinion that the resolution was vague, but that this was a necessary feature of a resolution, and further that the news media in the South have always blacked out news of Black restlessness.
7. Klinger stated that distortion has been a commonly used technique in putting Blacks down; we should not "erode our influence" by irresponsibly using the same technique.
8. Peterson noted that at the time of the Kent State crisis, a major issue of the discussion of a UMM resolution was whether or not the university should act in such matters, but that this issue had not arisen in this discussion.

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9. Bopp pointed out that after the events at Kent State, the persons responsible were not prosecuted. He felt we should demand that those responsible be tried and read a proposed resolution to that effect.

The motion to recess was passed: 26-19-2. The Provost appointed Klinger, Bopp, Ahern, Iverson, Hunt, and others interested to form a group to rewrite the resolution.

When the Assembly reconvened after the recess, the following resolution was moved as a substitute motion by Hennen and seconded by Lammers:

Resolved:

The UMM Campus community finds the events leading to the killing of two students at Southern University reprehensible and abhorrent and condemns those responsible. We demand that a thorough investigation by a Federal Grand Jury be undertaken and that those found responsible for the killings be prosecuted according to the provisions of the law.

The Assembly deploras the use of armed force to resolve disputes on campus, the exercise of arbitrary administrative power, the abrogation of due process, the secrecy of decision making, and the intervention of political figures in campus affairs.

It was felt that this resolution did not contain doubtful facts and expressed a positive emphasis on resolving disputes peacefully.

The substitute motion was passed: 38-3-2.

Hunt was asked to bring his concern about implementing the resolution to the 28 November meeting of the Executive Committee.

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