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STATEMENT ON DISCRIMINATION IN FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

The recent statement by Commissioner Kepple of the United States Office of Education on the subject of discrimination in college fraternities and sororities and the regulation of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission on this same subject are here quoted for the information of Bucknell fraternities and sororities.

Commissioner Kepple's statement of June 17, 1965, indicated specifically "that an institution which maintains a fraternity system as a part of its activities and overall program is responsible under the Civil Rights Act requirements for assuring that discrimination is not practiced by the fraternities in the system". Institutions, such as Bucknell, which receive federal grants for research, for institutes, etc., are required by the Civil Rights Act and its regulations to annually certify as to compliance with the requirements of the Civil Rights Act.

Regulation 403 of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission provides that it shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any institution "to give official school sanction to any social, honorary or professional fraternity, sorority or other student organization, if such student organization excludes or discriminates against any individual on account of race, color, religious creed, ancestry or national origin.....".

These two quotations should make it obvious that the University cannot tolerate improper discrimination or improper discriminatory practices within the campus community. Even without such legislation, however, it should be obvious to all Bucknellians that improper discrimination is contrary to the liberal spirit of the institution which was evidenced from its very beginning in the charter provision on religious liberty. This spirit is summarized in a policy statement approved by the Executive Committee of the Bucknell Board of Trustees in December, 1960, and ratified by the full Board at the annual meeting on June 3, 1961, which provides in part as follows:

"It is Bucknell's aim to teach its students to be properly and wisely discriminating -- to discriminate only on the basis of sound values, the development of which is one of the chief aims of the University. It is likewise Bucknell's aim to teach its students to recognize and reject improper discrimination based on unsound values, bias, prejudice, superstition, myth, illogical assumption, confused application of fact, or failure to recognize reality. Bucknell deplores improper discrimination based on race, sex, national origin, social status, religious belief, or

other mistaken or faulty basis of judgment. Any such improper discrimination within the University is to be strongly discouraged."

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These statements should make it obvious to all Bucknell fraternities that the University cannot countenance any discriminatory practices. Specifically, a social organization such as a fraternity or a sorority which engages in a discriminatory practice or refuses to accept into its membership a qualified student of the University because of race, national origin, or religion will be required to forfeit its standing and terminate its existence on the Bucknell campus. It is likewise the policy of Bucknell University that membership in any social fraternity or sorority recognized by Bucknell University shall be determined by a majority vote of the undergraduate members of the organization and that membership in such organization shall not be denied because of regulations or controls imposed from beyond the campus. In order that Bucknell University may safely certify its full compliance with federal and state requirements, Bucknell fraternities and sororities will be required to certify annually to the University that (1) no qualified student was denied membership because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry or national origin and (2) no qualified student was denied membership because of regulations or controls imposed from beyond the campus. Appropriate forms to be used in the submission of such statements will be issued annually on or about April 15 and are due in the Office of the Dean of Students Affairs on or before May 15 in order that the organization may be recognized by the University for the ensuing academic year.

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