

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17837

JUL 29 1968

OFFICE OF
THE DEAN OF MEN

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

July 26, 1968

Memorandum to: President Watts

From: John P. Dunlop *JD*

Subject: Racial/Religious Discrimination in Fraternity Pledging

As you requested, I am here indicating my thinking concerning discriminatory practices in social fraternities and proposing certain steps we might take.

As Dean Hayward previously reported, precise, factual information on the question of fraternity discrimination is not plentiful nor easy to obtain. I suspect that the information he relayed in memoranda dated July 20, 1965, and January 4, 1966, is still essentially correct. The dean indicated in the first of those that although "none of our fraternities has in its charter, bylaws or ritual, racial or religious requirements for membership," several of our groups would be subjected to considerable pressure from their nationals and alumni if they attempted to pledge a negro student. I am certain that still would be the case.

Therefore, any new effort we might make to assure that our local chapters can select their members free of external influence or pressure might well invite some furor, not to mention publicity.

Be that as it may, it seems to me that in view of the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Regulation 403 of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, we have no choice other than to attempt to secure the necessary assurances with reference to discriminatory practices.

To that end, I recommend that with a minimum of fanfare and on an individual basis, we apprise our fraternity presidents of the requirements of the above legislation and request from them written assurances that their chapters are free of external restrictions in the selection of members.

*Ev. Case first
Prepare necessary
statements to
J2 issues?*

President Watts
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Further, I believe we must take the position that we cannot continue to recognize any local chapter whose national is in a position to restrict membership; that we will drop any group who is unable to give written assurance that it is free to comply with the laws that bind us.

Lastly, I believe we should be prepared to offer and give assistance to any local chapter who experiences difficulty from its national in this area, if such assistance is desired.

/jfd

cc: Dean Hayward

P.S. Thanks for the story from the Item. I saw it Friday evening after this was dictated. - was going to send you a copy.

It looks to me as though their investigation is going to be a fairly superficial one however, it will be only a matter of time before someone looks deeper. Therefore, I feel even more certain that we should get about the recommendations contained in this memo fairly quickly.

J.