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## Minutes, October 12, 1969

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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Held at Hotel America, Hartford

October 12, 1969



The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p. m. by Chairman John J. Budds. Those present were: Mrs. Bailey, Messrs. Benton, Bishop, Budds, Gill, Marcus, Maxcy, McCormick, Nielsen, and Waller.

Also present were: President Babbidge, Mr. Gant, Provost and Academic Vice President, Mr. Evans, Vice President for Financial Affairs and Mr. Bailey, Assistant to the President.

All actions taken at the meeting were by unanimous vote of the Trustees present.

1. Members of the Board welcomed President Babbidge upon his return to the University and also complimented Provost Gant for his most effective role as Acting President while President Babbidge was on leave of absence.
2. THE BOARD VOTED that this special meeting would take the place of the October 15th meeting at the Waterbury Branch.
3. THE BOARD VOTED to go into executive session to hear President Babbidge's and Provost Gant's reports on recent racial incidents on the campus.

(A) After a lengthy discussion, THE BOARD VOTED to approve the following public statement:

The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut met today in executive session to hear the President's report on

the incidents which took place on the campus last Thursday night. The circumstances as reported indicate that while the number of persons involved was small and the property damage small, it is beyond question that issues of a raw racial character were involved.

The Board endorsed the President's statement that the University cannot and will not condone property damage done for whatever reason, and that it also cannot and will not condone damage to person by racial insult, for whatever reason. The Board wishes to stress that such insult is unacceptable and that violence is an unacceptable response to insult.

In contemplating an appropriate institutional response to the incidents of last week, the Board is conscious that these cannot be treated in an oversimplified context of campus misconduct.

The Board has therefore instructed the President to continue his study of appropriate University action in an effort to ensure that any disciplinary action taken will have the effect of educating the University community to the importance of responsible, sensitive conduct by all of its members.

The Board recognizes the efforts of a substantial number of the members of the University community, both black and white, to achieve better racial understanding on the campus.

The Board recognized also the existence of a number of areas of University life in which causes for racial unrest may be seen to lie. It urges the President to give the highest priority to the following:

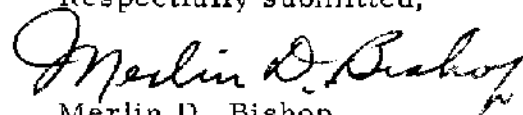
1. The Board believes that no member of the University should any longer be allowed to claim ignorance or lack of understanding of the special perspectives brought to the community by many of its students. It reaffirms as well the fundamental obligation of the University to educate its students of all races with respect to the implications of racial variety in our society.

The Board also acknowledges the University's efforts to that end undertaken since the opening of college. It accordingly directs the Division of Student Personnel to enlarge purposefully that orientation effort, especially in the living units, so that no student may claim inadequate

understanding of the complexities of interracial relations. This should be accompanied by an expansion of the Division's staffing capabilities, concentrating on the development of staff arrangements that display special understanding of racial relations.

2. A Committee for Racial Respect has recently been formed by the University's Council on Human Rights and Opportunities. This new Committee, to which individuals or groups may bring specific problems of racial character, has as its charge to "foster racial understanding by working with groups or individuals involved in conflict or tension." The Board authorizes the President to designate a staff member to work full time with this committee as a kind of ombudsman.
  3. The President reported that the appropriate faculties of the University will be requested to develop a range of curricular changes which will enhance racial respect and understanding by fully and adequately reflecting the experience and contribution of minorities.
  4. The Board heard a report from the President regarding his views on reform in housing arrangements. The President also reported that he expects to present his views to the Committee on Housing. The Board reaffirms its earlier position that reform of housing arrangements is a matter of high priority and expresses the hope that new arrangements may be in effect for the opening of the next academic year.
  5. The Board authorizes the administrative officers of the University to give highest priority in budget preparations for the 1971-73 biennium to the resources needed for the further advancement of both academic and non-academic programs in the field of human rights and opportunities.
  6. The Board requests that the Trustee-Administration-Faculty-Student Committee undertake to review regularly all actions which are being initiated and carried out throughout the University designed to advance racial respect and racial justice.
4. No other business appearing, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Merlin D. Bishop  
Secretary