

BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11210

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

M E M O R A N D U M

To all members of the student body

From the acting president

I want all of you to be aware of the seriousness with which I view the disruptions which have recently taken place on the Brooklyn College campus. Last Thursday and Friday roving bands of vandals broke into offices, terrorized staff members, damaged college and student property, threw smoke bombs, set fires and generally interfered with the normal operation of the college. In my judgment those acts went beyond the critical point at which it was absolutely imperative that some counter action be taken immediately.

At its last meeting, the Faculty Council delegated its former CIAS responsibilities regarding discipline to the Student Government of CIAS. I agree with the Faculty Council that, with regard to all but major infractions, the Student Government has full authority. The transferred responsibilities also give Student Government an equal voice in due process appeal and review and in recommending disciplinary action in cases of suspension. The actual power and responsibility to suspend devolves only upon the deans and the president, but suspensions are temporary, and subject to immediate review. The Student Government may itself prefer charges and make recommendations. No such charges were made by last Friday. Dean Wiepert's action was necessary, and it is essential that the faculty and student committees stipulated in the legislation sit immediately so that the suspended students will be assured of due process. The Student Government has designated the student committee, and by this afternoon the faculty committee will have been named.

I would like to point out that action was taken only after repeated warnings and in the face of persistent acts of disruption. In addition to warnings given in recent weeks, a regulation passed last May, and published in various communications that reached all students, specified that any student who disrupted the normal functioning of the college would be subject to suspension.

If Brooklyn College is to continue to meet the needs and respond to the desires of the great majority of its students, the administration, faculty and student governments have a moral and legal obligation to take action against persons whose actions disrupt the functions of the college and pose a danger to staff and students alike. I am not passing judgment on the expressed goals of the protesters. We must distinguish between goals and actions, and I emphasize that what has been done is based on actions. My previous statements on the objectives of the Concerned Students Coalition still stand and I trust that necessary changes in college policy and curriculum can be worked out when tranquil conditions prevail for the discussion of the problems. It is futile to attempt discussions in an atmosphere of violence and disruption, but steps are already being taken to implement a number of the "demands" that the college believes are just and for which it has -- or expects to get -- the resources necessary for implementation.

May 5, 1969