

Black students unite to battle decision on divestment

University Park, PA—Penn State President Bryce Jordan said he "regrets very much the course of action" taken by a coalition of black students to protest University investments in companies doing business in South Africa.

A resolution by the group indicated they will not offer support to University efforts to recruit minority students.

"I have read the resolution adopted by the Black Student Coalition Against Racism and regret very much the course of action it proposes," Dr. Jordan said.

"I understand the anger and anguish these students feel. We are all sickened by what is happening in South Africa. The issue is not whether apartheid is evil, but rather how one combats that horrible situation.

"We believe the Sullivan Principles are a positive force in an

otherwise calamitous situation," Jordan said.

The University's Board of Trustees voted during their meeting on Jan. 18 not to divest financial interests in companies which do business in South Africa as long as they abide by the Sullivan Principles. Companies in compliance with the Sullivan document are considered to be a positive social force in a country where apartheid is law.

Other Board action on the matter included a directive to set in place academic initiatives, public forums and careful monitoring of Sullivan signatories in which the University has investments.

"I personally believe that the Coalition's current effort to link the call for divestment with a boycott of the minority recruitment program of The Pennsylvania State University is a choice that, if successful, will hurt

black students who would otherwise have access to the benefits of a Penn State education," Jordan said.

"Providing them that opportunity has been paramount in the University's minority recruitment program," he said.

"Penn State's commitment to minority students is strongly reflected in the programs and considerable financial support that we already have in place," according to Jordan. "These programs and the funds we have put in them have resulted in important increases in minority students, faculty and staff at Penn State during the last two years."

The University President observed that, "Such progress has been made at Penn State during a period when most institutions have seen either little progress or declines. We are committed to continuing our efforts in minority

recruitment because we believe it Commonwealth and society at is in the direct interest of the large."

BSCAR resolution:

Penn State directly supports the apartheid system through its investments in South Africa.

--Apart from the dollar value of these investments, they also provide technology vital to the maintenance of the South African government.

Penn State uses the Sullivan Principles as a rationale for their investments.

--In fact, the Sullivan Principles are inadequate to bring about real change; they affect only one percent of the Black South African workforce, and have no influence over the apartheid system.

The Board of Trustees, through its investment policy in South Africa, shows no genuine concern for the plight of Blacks in South Africa.

--Through a series of meetings, rallies, educational activities and petitions, these organizations have used all their power in an attempt to influence the University regarding divestment.

--These efforts have resulted only in a reaffirmation of the 1978 decision supporting the Sullivan Principles and the formation of an advisory committee to President Bryce Jordan. Dr. Jordan has stated that he, personally and professionally believes that divestment is an inappropriate answer to the problem.

Taking these things into consideration, it appears that a unified response is essential if there is to be any hope that our demands for divestment be fulfilled.

THEREFORE,

We, the Black community, in order to get the University to divest fully from companies operating in South Africa, and to promote a better environment for the Black community, will now take the following course of action:

1. Limit participation in University activities.
 - a. refuse to assist the University in regular freshmen and transfer student orientation
 - b. actively oppose the minority recruitment efforts mandated to the University
2. Refuse all involvement with companies that operate in South Africa.
3. Through extensive media coverage, we will voice out dissatisfaction with and opposition to, the University's attitude and actions toward the Black community.
4. We will appeal to national organizations such as the NAACP, the Rainbow Coalition, the Urban League, TransAfrica and the Black Ministers' Conference in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.
5. Ask all students to demonstrate their support by publicly displaying, for example, a black armband.

These actions, and others that we find appropriate, shall be taken to let the University and the general public know that we will not tolerate racism, or support for it, here or abroad.

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chaired by David Stuntz, music instructor, recommended that both freshmen and sophomores receive 20 percent of the scholarship pool with juniors and seniors both receiving 30 percent.

"Since 60 percent of scholarship funds are set aside for upperclassmen, the scholarships should have a positive impact and retention should improve," Gerow said.

If the recommended procedures are adopted, the scholarships will be awarded according to the following general criteria in decreasing order of priority:

Freshmen: 1) Level of scholarship: minimum 3.0 predicted grade point average 2) Letters of recommendation from high school faculty and/or administrators 3) Extra-curricular activities 4) Financial need.

Sophomores: 1) Minimum 3.0 grade point average with satisfactory academic progress 2) Intended Behrend major 3) Letters of recommendation from Behrend faculty/staff 4) Extra-curricular activities 5) Financial need.

Juniors and

Seniors: 1) Behrend major 2) Minimum 3.0 grade point average with satisfactory academic progress 3) Letters of recommendation from Behrend faculty/staff 4) Extra-curricular activities 5) Financial need.

Another matter ventilated was student attendance and classroom conduct. The Undergraduate Studies Committee, chaired by Mary Chisholm, assistant professor of chemistry, deliberated whether there should be a "need for a Behrend College statement in addition to University policy, specifying requirements for student attendance and classroom conduct."

The charge arose out of increasing concern by faculty about declining attendance and deteriorating classroom conduct. The Committee's statement advised faculty to place clear stipulations on their course outlines about attendance and conduct.

The Committee also emphasized that "Policies and Rules for Students" (the student handbook) contains a section, 42-47, which outlines the University attendance policy whereby "class attendance is important for students and class attendance by students should be encouraged."

The Committee recommended that faculty make the point clear if attendance constitutes a part of the student's grade.

Discussion on classroom conduct resulted in a clarification of University policy ("Policies and Rules for Students 1985-86" page 42.)

Pointed out was the fact that, "not only do students have a right to classrooms free from disruption, but if such disruption occurs, then faculty...have an obligation to maintain a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning." A faculty member has a right to direct a disruptive student to leave the class. The student in question also has a right to a hearing on the matter.

The reorganization of the Division of Business and Social Sciences and Division of Humanities and Communications stirred much discussion.

As a part of Behrend's MBA program accreditation, the Division of Business and Social Sciences will be realigned into the School of Business with the Division of Humanities and Communications and the social sciences organizing into a new division.

The Undergraduate Studies Committee and a designated sub-committee were consulted by the Provost and charged with developing procedures for the reorganization. Potential conflicts could arise since teachers will transfer to new and unfamiliar divisions.

"Some members of Faculty Council are concerned about the level of consultation by the administration on a major reorganization of the college," Gerow said. "The reorganization will impact on the faculty promotion and tenure process also," Gerow added.

Faculty Council Chairman, Michael Chiteman, elaborated to Council the "various steps of the consultative process that the Provost had undertaken."

Faculty Council's Research Committee, chaired by Stuart Allen, associate professor of management, also reviewed the Associate Provost's report suggesting improvements in the selection process for the Faculty Research Award.

The new procedure will ask each division to select its strongest candidate based on the following requirements: teaching, research, scholarly activity (publishing) and service to the college and community.

The next Faculty Council meeting is slated for March 19 at 4 p.m. in Nick 111. All are welcome to attend.

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