

AAUP Council
American Association of University Professors
University of Alabama Chapter
University, Alabama

December 11, 1962

Dr. Frank A. Rose, President
University of Alabama
University, Alabama

Dear President Rose:

Since our fruitful meeting in which plans for the recent faculty meeting were laid, your decision closing enrollment for the Spring term was announced. In view of the strong faculty reaction to this news the AAUP Council met twice to discuss the matter. At the meeting a sense of concern about the situation was expressed which we would like to convey to you.

The cut-off decision both surprised and shocked a significant part of the faculty. Many feel that a pall of uncertainty will hang over the University until next September, when the issue doubtless will arise again. In particular, the members of the Council felt that the action ran directly counter to expectations based on the impression, carried away by Council members from our meeting with you, that you wanted to meet the integration crisis as soon as possible and that you expected to do so with the aid of the plans which you outlined to us. This feeling was reinforced as the several resolutions were passed and announced. We were, in fact, convinced that, barring some extraordinary event, the University would voluntarily admit a qualified Negro applicant in February.

We would like to state very frankly the reaction of the Council to all this. On the basis of the evidence now available to us we have been unable to understand the actions taken in the light of the above points. We feel, moreover, that consultation with representatives of the faculty would have been appropriate before reaching this decision. Finally, we are afraid that the action may injure the University's national reputation by creating the impression that we are engaging in evasive tactics. At the same time we recognize that there may be elements in the situation, unknown to us, which motivated your decision.

In addition to considering this question we have given some thought to the future of the University. When the AAUP resolution was passed, we felt that a new rapport between administration and faculty had been established. It is our feeling that it is in the best interests of the University as a whole that such a relationship be maintained. In your letter to the Executive Committee of this Council dated November 26 you stated that you would communicate with us as to your plans on this matter in the near future. If you believe that, in the light of deep faculty concern over this matter, mutual benefit would accrue from another meeting, we would welcome it.

This letter was written on the instructions of the President's Council, the following members present and concurring: Thomas B. Alexander, Lewis F. Blackwell, Doris P. Burton, Bethel Fite, Nancy A. Fowler, John S. Henderson, Joseph E. Lane, Jr., John Luskin, Eugenie D. Martenson, Jay W. Murphy, William K. Rey, C. Dallas Sands, William C. Stapleton, Donald S. Strong, Susie Lee Ward, Frederick L. Westover. The following member dissented, James Holladay.

Sincerely yours,



John S. Henderson, President
Alabama Chapter of AAUP