

Regents
University of California
2200 University Avenue
Berkeley 4, California

I urge the Regents to reject the proposal of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate of December 8, 1964. The FSM has intimidated the campus, placing it in a position where a fair and rational decision could not be reached. It seems the faculty was more concerned with appeasing student agitators than actually considering the true validity of the "free" speech objectives raised by the movement. The campus was in a state of almost constant turmoil for months. People were sick from the chaotic atmosphere of the campus and hoped to return to normal academic life. I fear that adoption of the proposal of December 8 would result in a virtually helpless position.

Frightened observers realize that if the Regents accept this proposal it is a violation of the public trust granted to keep the University autonomous in nature. If the University is left without power to regulate on-campus advocacy and organization of off-campus political activity, this will cause it to succumb to external forces from the State Legislature, law enforcement, and the public in general. Only then will people realize that the very essence of academic freedom, that is its independence from partisan interests, will have been forsaken under the guise of free speech.

In addition, if the Regents approve the proposal it will have allowed certain agitating forces to set a tradition of illegal disruption of the campus in order to assert their will in controversial matters. This will open the door for unreasonable and irresponsible settlement of further controversies. Another similar group will then have the precedent of chaos and pressure tactics to take upon themselves control of administrative and academic affairs, such as: 1) the selection of course curriculum, what they want to teach and what they do not want to teach; 2) the selection of instructors, who they want to teach and who they do not want to teach; 3) the control of fees and finances, to which they subscribe or do not subscribe; and 4) the selection of those admission requirements they care to have. We cannot allow such a tradition to be set.

The adoption of the Academic Senate proposal may provide a false and temporary peace on this campus. I believe that in the interest of the long-run dignity and greatness of the University of California the Regents must exercise their legitimate responsibility by rejecting the Academic Senate's capitulation to illegitimate pressure and by implementing a policy designed to accommodate maximum freedom and proper regulation.

Signed,