

May 16, 1968

George H. Williams  
Executive Vice President, New York University  
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

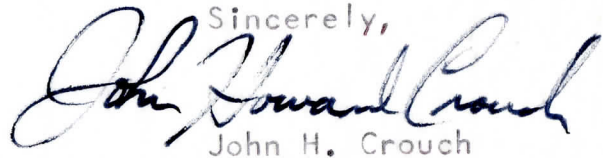
Enclosed is a list of demands for changes in administration policy at American University. This list has been compiled by a group of students on American's campus who feel the university has placed unnecessary and unreasonable bonds on their educational life. These demands were presented to Dean Van Way, Dean Billings, and Dean Neale at nine o'clock this morning.

At four o'clock this afternoon these people have been invited to meet with the students on the steps of Mary Graydon Center to respond to these demands.

If, at that time, the administration has not acted toward meeting these demands, a large segment of the student body will move toward a nonviolent, direct response.

In respect to your future position at our university, we feel it necessary to inform you of our actions and reasons:

Sincerely,



John H. Crouch

At the outset of this presentation, we would like it made clear that the actions of the past few days regarding the arrests of students, rather than being our primary issue, is no more than the straw that broke the camel's back. The oppression of students on this campus unfortunately had to reach the point of arrest before enough students became concerned with the university administration's dictatorial control of our environment. We have no one to blame but ourselves. However, no matter the reason, we have reached the point where students must show their strength in order to make this university the institution of learning it was created to be. We have prepared a list of reasonable demands, which the administration, if it is true to the American University, the students of the American University, the faculty of the American University and the American University as an American university cannot refuse to act upon. We therefore present our demands accompanied by explanatory statements.

OUR DEMANDS:

DEMAND (1):

Safeguard of personal privacy.

STATEMENT:

A room in the dormitory is private, open only to those invited by the inhabitants, other than legally authorized representatives of the law, operating under due process.

DEMAND (2):

Access to our own personal files and control over the release of the information contained therein.

STATEMENT:

We feel that any information gathered by any administrator of this university should not be released to any officials outside of the university community, without the consent of the student.

DEMAND (3):

A voice in all policies regarding all academic action, faculty assignment and dismissal.

We feel that this demand is self explanatory.

DEMAND (4):

Immediate cessation of curfew regulations.

STATEMENT:

It is our belief there should be a binding referendum held for women residents, concerning the immediate cessation of all curfew limitations in the women's dormitories.

DEMAND (5):

Abolition of all mandatory university housing.

STATEMENT:

If a student were treated as a mature adult in the dormitory system he would have less incentive to move off campus.

DEMAND (6):

We demand that all Greek organizations be allowed to run open houses at their discretion, and that those fraternity and sorority facilities within the campus environment be allowed to operate independent of university housing regulations and contract obligations.

STATEMENT:

We feel that the Greek system, as an integral part of the university community, should be granted the right to control its own environment.

DEMAND (7):

A budget published in full by the university with total explanation of sources and expenditures.

STATEMENT:

We demand to have the budget in full, consisting of:

- A. Source and amount of all funds.
- B. Explanation of all expenditures.
- C. An explanation or justification of classified sources of revenue.

DEMAND (8):

An elected student ombudsman.

STATEMENT:

We suggest that a separate, elected office of student ombudsman, be created, involving one man and a staff, to act as a liason between the student body and the administration, having no connection with the student governing body.

DEMAND (9):

A system of annual binding referenda.

We feel that this demand is self explanatory.

DEMAND (10):

Total severance between this university and the state.

We feel that this demand is self explanatory.

DEMAND (11):

A complete rundown of university personell involved in government-related activities:

- A. Purpose of activity
- B. Finances of activity
- C. Who has access to published works by these people, where are these works, and how is the university benefitting by them?

STATEMENT:

We feel that all American University personell involved in government financed research should make public the value and findings of their research.

DEMAND (12):

A student elected resident advisor system

STATEMENT:

We believe that students, being governed by the resident advisors, should have an active voice in their selection.