

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORT OF EMERGENCY SESSION IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO WORK OUT
THE DETAILS OF THE SUSPENSION OF CLASSES DURING THE WEEK OF
APRIL 8, 1968.

Saturday, April 6, 1968 - 10:00 A.M.

Dr. George W. Gore, Jr., President of Florida A. and M. University called an emergency session of the Cabinet, Academic Council, and other officials on Saturday, April 6, 1968 at 10:00 a.m. in his office to work out the details for closing university classes and dormitories for one week. This action, which was authorized by the Chancellor of the University System and Governor, came about as a result of widespread tension among students because of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

President Gore noted that the press had prematurely indicated that the university was closed prior to any announcement by university officials or himself. The official letter from Chancellor Robert B. Mautz was read to the members present.

Details of the closing of the University are as follows:

1. The University will officially close at noon on Saturday, April 6.
2. All dormitories are to be vacated by 1:00 p.m., Saturday, April 6. Any cases that cannot meet this deadline will be handled by the personnel Deans, but all students must be out of all dormitories by the evening of Saturday, April 6.
3. Classes will be suspended during the week of April 8.
4. Dormitories will re-open on Sunday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m.
5. Classes will resume on Monday, April 15 at 8:00 a.m.
6. Classes will be held on five Saturdays during the Spring Quarter in order to make up the time out during the week of April 8.
7. All faculty and staff members are to remain on duty during the week classes are suspended.
8. The meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held as scheduled on Tuesday, April 9.

Individuals Present

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Dr. George W. Gore, Jr. | 6. Dr. M. O. Alston | 11. Dr. B. L. Perry |
| 2. Dr. L. J. Shaw | 7. Mr. J. L. Thomas | 12. Mrs. E.J. Burgess |
| 3. Mr. M. S. Thomas | 8. Mr. Nelson Bennett | 13. Mrs. A.L. Cooper |
| 4. Mr. H. R. Partridge | 9. Mr. E. L. O'Rourke | 14. Dr. C.E. Walker |
| 5. Mr. D. C. Collington | 10. Dr. M. C. Rhaney | 15. Mr. E. M. Thorpe |

AN OUTLINE OF THE REPORT BY THE FACULTY-ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

ON THE CURRENT FAMU CRISIS

I. Background Factors

- A. The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968.
- B. Precipitation of a chain of emotionally-charged events on the campus which led to closing FAMU.
- C. Doctor King's assassination not seen as sole cause of campus crisis; thus, opportunity to re-examine ourselves and the total institutional structure with the view to improving administration-faculty-student body relationships.
- D. Overriding aim to strengthen FAMU as an institution of higher learning in the State system and to provide for quality education within a framework of academic freedom for both faculty and student body; constructive change sought without disruption of university operation.

II. Price of Disruption

- A. Damaging consequences both for individual student as well as for the University as a whole:
 1. Discontinuity of the teaching and learning processes.
 2. Loss of credit for the quarter and postponement of graduation (Note: The institution is required by law to remain open for an average of 50 days per quarter.) FAMU cannot lose more days without seriously jeopardizing its position.
 3. Loss of work-study funds for students who are employed through this means.
 4. Regional and national accreditation in jeopardy (Visitation by a team from the Southern Association during the week of April 19; NCATE accreditation also pending).
 5. Imminent possibility of accelerating proposed merger with FSU.
 6. Widespread demoralizing effects (adverse effect on school spirit, student enrollment, retention and recruitment of personnel, and fund-raising operation).

III. Awareness of Student Problems and Concerns

A. While some efforts have been made to solve many of the most pressing problems identified by students, the administration and faculty further pledge themselves to work more closely with students to solve problems and concerns with the greatest possible speed. Some of the responses to current student requests are shown below:

1. On such matters as (a) non-compulsory class attendance, (b) honors program, (c) faculty evaluation, (d) student exchange, (e) student elections, and (f) student health, faculty-student committees with equal representation have been appointed to study and make recommendations for implementation. A joint Student-Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee is now studying the problem involving the ROTC.
2. Concern for the health needs of students continues to be vigorous as evidenced by stepped-up work of the University Student Health Committee.
3. A number of courses involve black history and black culture, and efforts are in progress for implementing new and existing programs in black culture.
4. An honors house for female students has been established.
5. Lockers for commuting students have been ordered.

Note: A recent issue of the FAMUAN summarizes the progress of SGA-backed efforts.

B. While efforts have been made to solve many of the most pressing problems, we feel that much more must be done. Among such efforts are that:

1. additional funds be made available by which to make more frequent the publication of the FAMUAN (twice weekly?);
2. students be actively involved in the control of allocating and budgeting funds for such things as the FAMUAN, the RATTLER, and other Student Activities funds;
3. an administrative-faculty bulletin board be erected to help disseminate information about the institution and/or individual members of these groups (put board in close proximity to Student Union Bulletin Board);
4. cooperative efforts be established to work with students in setting up and operating machinery by which grievances may be brought before proper authorities (with provisions for appeal when indicated);

5. efforts be made to understand the new "student mood" and (administration and faculty) try to support insofar as possible the legitimate needs and aspirations of the students;
6. steps be taken to see that polite and courteous treatment prevail in all offices and units at all times;
7. hours be scheduled so that the crucial offices, particularly the Business Office, the Office of Admissions and Records, the Post Office and the Bookstore, can remain open between 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m.; and
8. student-faculty committees be set up to implement the early achievement of solutions to these problems.

While the above concerns are by no means exhaustive, the administration and faculty should be mindful of these and should help students identify and find solutions to the whole array of problems affecting them.

IV. Principles of University Operation

- A. Students must become acquainted with basic documents under which the University operates:
 1. Board of Regents Operating Manual (especially the section on Student Activities and Academic Freedom)
 2. The FAMU Constitution
 3. Other policymaking documents (e.g., standards of accrediting agencies)

V. The University's Position

- A. Administration and faculty share grief and trauma caused by Doctor King's death.
- B. Administration and faculty are sensitive to other problems and concerns of black people across the nation, and some are actively involved.
- C. FAMU is a public institution supported by public funds and therefore belongs to the citizens of the State. In addition, as a land-grant institution, it has responsibilities to the Federal Government.
- D. As institutions supported by Federal funds, all State universities in Florida have a mandate to desegregate their faculties and student bodies. FAMU operates within this framework.
- E. As a state-supported institution, FAMU, and all state universities, must operate within a clearly defined legal framework.

- *F. The concept of academic freedom encourages the University in all its branches--faculty, administration and students--to enthrone the intellect. Our political structures, both on and off the campus, provide for ordered change resulting from rational discussion.

The health of our society is predicated upon the positive benefits which flow from wide ranging, scholarly exploration of ideas, however extreme. For this to be so, our society requires observance of law. Violence and force deny this intellectual philosophy; they are the antithesis of a university and must be rejected and avoided.

Membership in the academic community carries with it no immunity from ordinary legal process. As between force and reason, the latter is supported by this process. The University community will defend and protect the right of its members and political structures to operate through orderly process with the same vigor and devotion which it would use upon those who would bring an infringement upon academic freedom.

Members of the Committee:

Dr. L. W. Neyland, Chairman
 Dr. Joseph C. Awkard
 Dr. Lua S. Bartley
 Mrs. Johnnie F. Blake
 Mr. T. W. Bonds
 Mr. Leonard C. Bowie
 Mr. R. H. Cavanaugh
 Mrs. Annie L. Cooper
 Mrs. Laverne P. Davis
 Mrs. Irene C. Edmonds
 Mr. Joseph E. Gibbs
 Mr. Hoke S. Griffin
 Mr. Gerald F. Hooper

Dr. Frederick S. Humphries
 Dr. J. Arthur Jones
 Mr. Zubie W. Metcalf
 Mr. Carlton Mollette, II
 Dr. Oscar A. Moore
 Dr. Clarence B. Owens
 Mr. Robert S. Scarbough
 Dr. Charles U. Smith
 Dr. Charles J. Stanley, Jr.
 Dr. Ralph W. Turner
 Mr. Peter Wilson
 Mr. A. W. Wright

*Based on a statement of Chancellor Robert B. Mautz, April 10, 1968.



FAMU - Student
president

Addressing student
body after ASSASSINATION
of Dr. M. L. King

see Eaton for student
Name

JOB *not* promises
ALL EMPLOYMENT NEED
SEPT. 4, 1964

JOB *not* promises
ALL EMPLOYMENT NEED
SEPT. 4, 1964

Martin Luther King Jr.

CENTER
FOR
SOCIAL
CHANGE