



City University of New York
Medgar Evers College
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March 30, 1982

Dear Members of the Faculty:

On March 25, 1982, the President of the Student Government Association, Rayon Wright, and the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Faculty Organization, Dr. Roderick Loney, announced the formation of a STUDENT AND FACULTY COALITION TO SAVE MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE. The objectives of the Coalition are to:

1. Force Dr. Trent to resign as president of Medgar Evers College; and
2. Rebuild the College in the way the College mission suggests.

Students joined this Coalition (The Coalition of Students and Faculty to Save Medgar Evers College) and called off their strike because they were convinced that the faculty, having issued an overwhelming vote of no confidence in Dr. Trent, would fulfill every possible task and join with the students to force Dr. Trent's resignation.

Although the faculty and students temporarily resolved the crisis in view of Dr. Trent's inability to meet with the student body or accept the recommendation of the College's faculty, students have stressed the fact, again and again, that business will not return to normal at Medgar Evers College. The students have vowed to continue to leaflet, picket and possibly recall the strike in order to ensure Dr. Trent's resignation.

The Coalition, representing the views of the MAJORITY of students and faculty, has issued statements that Dr. Trent can no longer offer the leadership necessary to advance the institution. His refusal to meet with the student body so that the College could iron out the student demands and continue the educational process shows Dr. Trent's lack of concern for students and student retention at the College.

Dr. Trent's response to the continuing crisis is to create further crisis by using others to cause division, instead of accepting his responsibilities of leadership. Examples include having a spokeswoman to deal with the press, an anti-strike committee to deal with the students, a women's coalition to deal with the faculty organization and his deans to intimidate students, staff and faculty. However, this handful of people cannot alter our resolve to save M.E.C.

Further, College business has come to a screeching halt. Dr. Trent has canceled two meetings of the College Council, a Community Council meeting and the meetings of college-wide committees involved in the promotions process. Obviously, matters at Medgar Evers College are not back to normal.

In view of the faculty's overwhelming vote for Dr. Trent's resignation, our statement of support for the student issues, and the students' willingness to temporarily accept our suggestion to return to classes, the Coalition is requesting that the faculty show their support of students by:

1. Making every possible attempt to postpone exams until after the spring recess, thus giving students an opportunity to catch up on class work. Students are not requesting that we alter our educational goals and standards. They are asking that we see the links between the educational process in the classroom and the educational process that they underwent for the duration of the strike. They are asking that they be given time and the opportunity to "catch up". According to them, they are "fighting to save this institution, to retain students and to have quality education". Therefore, they ask us to resist any actions which would fail students and cause the College to lose more students.
2. Participating on the daily picket line and encouraging students to demonstrate at the Board of Higher Education on Thursday, April 1, from 10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. We are certain that our faculty can be creative enough to utilize this demonstration as a learning process which can be an extension of students' class work.
3. Joining one of the many committees established by the Coalition in an effort to have broad input from members of the College in resolving the current crisis.

We are certain that you will remain committed to the resolution calling for Dr. Trent's resignation passed by the Faculty Organization. Medgar Evers College IS STILL IN A CRISIS! The strike is temporarily over, but we remain committed to a change, determined to win! Therefore, we are urging you to do all within your power to help us achieve victory... to BUILD A COLLEGE IN THE IMAGE OF MEDGAR EVERS!

Sincerely,

STEERING COMMITTEE
STUDENT AND FACULTY COALITION
TO SAVE MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE

"MEDGAR EVERS BELIEVED IN HIS COUNTRY: IT NOW REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER HIS COUNTRY BELIEVES IN HIM"

"...IT IS FOR US, THE LIVING, RATHER, TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO THE UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY WHO FOUGHT HERE HAVE THUS FAR SO NOBLY ADVANCED. IT IS RATHER FOR US TO BE HERE DEDICATED TO THE GREAT TASK REMAINING BEFORE US-THAT FROM THESE HONORED DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION; THAT WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN; THAT THIS NATION, UNDER GOD, SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM; AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH"

From For Us, The Living, by Mrs. Medgar Evers