

Statement of The Voting Faculty, Teaching Staff and Administration

The changing relationship of the urban university to its surrounding community, the profound changes in college students have confronted Columbia University with complex problems during the past few years. The University did not respond to these changes with sufficient sensitivity and speed. This sluggishness created a climate which fostered extremist actions: the forcible seizure of the buildings, the use of unwarranted police force.

In order to avoid the recurrence of such extremist actions, the Barnard faculty, teaching staff and administration recommend more active participation by Barnard in its community. We specifically urge that all those affected by the decisions of Barnard -- its own students, faculty, administration and its neighbors -- be given adequate ways and means of expressing their views.

We commend the Barnard student body as a whole for the manner in which it has met its social and academic responsibilities during the crisis.

We recommend a two day suspension of classes, May 1 and 2, to express our deep concern over recent events. We recommend that Barnard remain open on these days to allow opportunities for meetings of members of the college for discussion and evaluation.

We hope that a better college will result.