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Barnard College
Columbia University
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New York, New York 10027

Office of Vice President for Student Affairs

April 10, 1985

To All Barnard Students:

Because a number of you have asked about the response of the administration in regard to the current protest activities at Hamilton Hall, and because many more of you may have similar questions, I want to give you what information I can.

First, let me state the obvious: none of us has any sympathy for the policy of apartheid in South Africa, and all of us claim for ourselves and for others the right to express personal views and to disagree publicly with existing policies. We recognize the depth of commitment shown by those who have chosen to demonstrate, and it is because we do appreciate such legitimate commitment that we also feel the responsibility to tell all students, particularly those who may be acting illegally, what risks they are facing.

The Rules of University Conduct, which apply to Barnard students, list among prohibited actions those that prevent or attempt to prevent free access to university buildings. (Others include interrupting University functions, harming persons or property, and failing to comply with reasonable requests of a university delegate.) Any student who disregards a regulation may be censured, suspended, or expelled. Attached is an outline of the disciplinary procedures that can be applied to Barnard students.

In addition to internal disciplinary procedures, the university has initiated legal proceedings and has obtained a restraining order against blockading university buildings. Ignoring a restraining order or a court injunction may result in a fine or a prison sentence. Such procedures are independent of internal disciplinary processes.

It is important, I think, that everyone appreciate the college's strong opposition to South African apartheid, but also that everyone understand that the college cannot endorse the violation of rules that have been established to protect the rights of all.

I hope that we can listen to and respect each other's positions in this matter as we do in so many others.



Barbara S. Schmitter
Vice President and Dean
for Student Affairs

P.S. Copies of the longer detailed official description of the "Rules of University Conduct" are available in the Office of the Dean of Studies or the College Activities Office.

BARNARD

OUTLINE OF PROCEDURES

Barnard students who are alleged to have violated the Rules of University Conduct with respect to demonstrations, rallying and picketing, are subject to the following disciplinary procedures, any of which could result in sanctions including disciplinary warning, censure, suspension or dismissal:

1. Upon receiving a written complaint that a student has violated the rules, Michael Mooney, Associate Provost of the University acting in his capacity as Rules Administrator, will investigate the complaint and request an interview with the student. If he determines that there is no reasonable cause to believe a violation has been committed, the complaint will be dismissed.

2. If Rules Administrator Mooney determines that there is reasonable cause to believe a violation has been committed, he will refer the student to Barnard's Dean for Student Affairs, Barbara Schmitter, to attempt to reach an informal settlement of the matter, establishing the appropriate discipline for any violation under the circumstances of the individual case. This informal procedure is not public.

3. If the Rules Administrator determines there is reasonable cause to believe a violation has been committed, and if the student fails to speak with him or opts not to attempt an informal settlement, or if informal settlement efforts fail, the Rules Administrator will issue a charge and initiate formal University hearing procedures. Such hearings will be conducted by an impartial Hearing Officer designated by the University Senate Executive Committee, from outside the University community. The Hearing Officer will make findings of fact and law and, if he finds a violation of the rules, will determine the discipline to be imposed, depending on the circumstances and severity of the violation. The student may be represented at the hearing by an advisor from the University community, and the formal hearing is open to the public.

4. At any time prior to commencement of the hearing, a student may opt to accept Dean's Discipline in lieu of the formal University hearing. In such case Dean Schmitter will determine the appropriate action in light of relevant circumstances. This determination, at the student's option, may be appealed to Barnard's Judicial Council. Barnard's proceedings are not public. The procedures of the Judicial Council are more fully set forth in the Barnard Guide.

5. In the case of a student who goes through the formal University hearing procedures, the Hearing Officer's determination may be appealed to the University Judicial Board by either the student or the Rules Administrator.