May 12, 1968

Board of Trustees
Northwestern University

Gentlemen:

As chairmen of the departments of the College of Arts and Sciences, we venture to express our concern over the welfare of the University during the present crisis. We respectfully urge the trustees of this great University to support the Administration's resolution of the crisis caused by the student sit-in. The atmosphere is presently such that if the agreement reached is qualified, in spirit or content, or if the trustees fail to back up President Miller and the Administration, we anticipate that many of the faculty will react with disappointment and dismay. Highly valued Professors will probably leave, at a time when they cannot easily be spared or replaced; even more serious, however, will be the general loss of confidence in administrative decisions, from those made by the President down to those made by us. The intricate fabric of the University, which depends upon a hierarchy of responsibility, will be perhaps irreparably torn. And the resultant disruption and uncertainty will be just what the President and his staff have labored so desperately to prevent.

The Board of Trustees has an opportunity, however, which transcends the avoidance of trouble. We hope that the Board will respond to these events by recognizing the remarkable opportunity provided the University for distinction as a private institution, which is pioneering in the achievement of viable solutions to the racial problems which beset this nation.

Lawrence Gilbert

Donald D. DeFord

Arthur J. Freeman

J. Allen Hynek

Ralph P. Boas

Arthur L. Howland

Biological Sciences

Chemistry

Physics

Astronomy

Math

Geology

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[Signatures]

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