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Letter from Ronald Banks, Assistant to President Libby, on Recommendations by the Civil Rights Committee, 1968

Ronald F. Banks
University of Maine

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE • ORONO, MAINE 04473

Office of the President

Civil Rights

October 18, 1968

TO: Philip Brockway
Robert Cobb
Franklin Eggert
Vernon Elsemore
James Harmon
Howard Keyo
Carl Porter-Shirley

Mark Shibles
William Wells
Harold Westerman
Robert Worrick

FROM: Ronald F. Banks, Assistant to the President

Some of you will remember that the University was visited by a civil rights compliance review team on September 24-25. While we have been given their blessing in respect to our compliance with the letter and spirit of the law, they did write President Libby asking us if we would seriously consider certain recommendations for the future. President Libby, after reviewing these recommendations, asked me to bring to your attention the following recommendations which he believes we should make every effort to comply with, if we are not already doing so. They are:

1. "The recruiting and admissions material utilized by the University should contain a clear statement of the University's policy to accept all students without regard to race, color, or national origin."

"The statement should also appear in a prominent position in the college bulletin, catalog, athletic booklets, application forms, financial assistance brochures and all other material directed to the prospective student or to duly enrolled students."

For the sake of consistency, perhaps the following statement would serve as a model:

"The University of Maine fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and does not discriminate in any way in any of its policies on the basis of race, color, or national origin."

2. "The University of Maine, and every other college receiving Federal financial assistance, must assure

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itself that off-campus housing is available to students without regard to race, color, or national origin. The most effective way to obtain such an assurance is to have the landlord or homeowner certify to nondiscriminatory rental when listing housing with the University. The present statement of policy on the current housing form is not sufficient for this purpose."

3. "The University of Maine, and every other college or university receiving Federal financial assistance, must assure itself that student teacher assignments are made without regard to race, color, or national origin and that patterns do not emerge whereby white students are assigned to predominantly white schools and negroes to predominantly negro schools."

In addition to the above three recommendations the team made the following observation and recommendations:

"We expect to visit the University of Maine in approximately one year. We would appreciate it if the following material could be maintained for our review at that time:

- (1) The names of high schools with a high minority enrollment visited by members of the Admissions Office, the dates of these visits, the names of high school officials interviewed, and the approximate number of minority group students interviewed;
- (2) The names of organizations particularly in urban centers to whom invitations had been extended to visit the University;
- (3) The names of high schools with high minority group enrollment visited by recruiters and scouts from the varsity teams and the names of coaches and athletes interviewed at these schools."

Would you kindly assume the direction for implementing those recommendations or portions of those recommendations for which you have a special responsibility.

Thanks.



Ronald F. Banks
Assistant to the President

cc: ✓ President Libby
Vice Presidents Clark, Fowle
Deans Devino, Hill, Nolde, Poulton, Stewart, Zink
Paul Dunham, Harry Gordon, Prescott Vose