

May 7, 1985

Committee, (2) the majority of the Committee was of the opinion that the existing rules and regulations provide adequate avenues for relief from such discrimination if same should occur in the future, and (3) a survey of the benchmark institutions indicated only one institution included "sexual orientation" among the factors that may not be used as the bases for decisions on admission and financial aid. Mr. Griffin added that it is not the purpose of the Code to list every possible category of students which could be subject to discriminatory acts. The Student Code Committee so recommending, Mr. Griffin moved that the proposed amendments to Article II, Section 2.1 proposed by the committee of students, faculty, and administrators recognized in Section 7.11 of the Code of Student Conduct not be adopted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hershey.

The Chair then recognized Mr. Bell, Chairman of the Hearing Committee, who reported that the Committee met on the morning of May 7 to hear requests by two gentlemen, Mr. Steve Abrams and Mr. Mark Cranfill, for permission to speak to the full Board at its 1 p.m. meeting regarding the proposed amendment to the Student Code. Mr. Bell said the Committee approved the request by a vote of 4 to 1.

The Chair next recognized Mr. Mark Cranfill, a graduate student, who spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment to add "sexual orientation" to the factors that may not be used as bases for decisions on admission to the University and on financial aid. Mr. Cranfill stated that the Code already barred discrimination based on beliefs and that there was no need for the sexual orientation provision. He contended that the Trustees would be making a moral statement should they adopt the proposal, and it was his feeling the University should not be making moral statements.

Mr. Steve Abrams, Chairman of the Gay and Lesbian Union of Students, spoke in favor of the proposed amendment. In reference to the statement that the intent of the proposed amendment is covered by the beliefs clause in the Code, Mr. Abrams stated there was a difference between belief in homosexuality and being a homosexual. He added that while there were no documented cases of discrimination because of sexual orientation, he predicted that the growing social acceptance of individual choice of life-style would lead to increased numbers of documented cases of discrimination. He also noted that homosexual students have no recourse in the grievance process when it comes to admissions and financial aid. Mr. Abrams pointed out that the Student Government Senate had voted in favor of the proposal. He then expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the Board. Mr. McCowan thanked both Mr. Cranfill and Mr. Abrams for their comments.

The floor was open for discussion. There being no discussion, the question was called. The motion was voted on and carried with Professor Wilson and Mr. Freudenberg voting "nay." (See SCCR 1 at the end of the Minutes.)