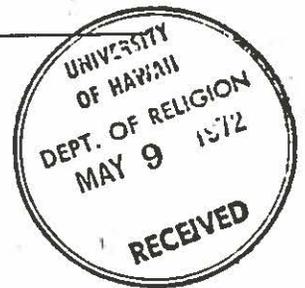


UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Department of Speech-Communication
May 5, 1972



President Harlan Cleveland
Chancellor Richard S. Takasaki
Dean David E. Contois
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Gentlemen:

On some occasions there is something to be said for minding one's own business. In the academic affairs of a university, however, John Donne expressed the appropriate view. I am not sending to find for whom the bell tolls, that is clear enough in the local press. Rather, I am sending to ask why the bell tolled and who actually did the tolling.

I have been concerned about the Ethnic Studies Program since it began on this campus. You will recall that the first director, Dennis Ogawa, was a member of this Department, and incidentally one that I had personally recruited. Thus, I have had a kind of tangential relationship to the program since its inception. It is an area that raises some critical problems for a university, and it has the capacity to subvert the legitimate purposes of an institution of higher learning unless care is exercised in its administration.

The recent show of force by the rabble "concerned" with Ethnic Studies was a sad spectacle. The publicly quoted comments reflecting militant racial chauvanism rather than academic concerns was even sadder. And saddest of all was the gutless capitulation of the administration of this University, thereby negating all the honorable traditions of academia.

Now, all of this has been topped by a seemingly inexplicable action, the naming of Mr. Kamakawiwoole as Director. Perhaps I am incorrect, but Mr. Kamakawiwoole's academic credentials were not apparent in the newspaper article. Is there somewhere that I can see a copy of his CURRICULUM VITAE? Surely there must be extensive writing, research, rich experience, or other facts that justify such an appointment. Gentlemen, I believe you do gross insult to the faculty of this University unless the bases for this appointment are made known.

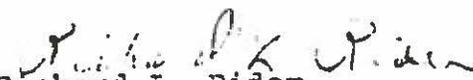
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Or do you seriously expect us to believe that the proper road to academic excellence is the appointment of graduate students to the directorship of major programs? At least it could have been a graduate student in an area related to the program over which he would preside.

In all truth, Gentlemen, what are we about at this University? What are our objectives? Are we to abandon "Prospectus For The Seventies", ADP II, and other noble documents and adhere to a policy of accomodation, convenience, and capitulation? That is a lesson easily learned. Are we all to use that strategy in the future?

I sincerely hope that the Faculty Senate will use this instance to raise the whole question of academic standards, faculty standards, and the control of academic affairs. I am perfectly aware that the faculty often decides matters quite opposite from my view, but if they so decide I am bound to abide by the decision. When the administration seems bent on destroying the very nature of higher education, I cannot accept it with grace.

I am sick at heart.


Richard L. Rider

Ms. Ruth Iams, Chairman
Senate Executive Committee
Richard Larson, Chairman
Agenda Committee,
College of Arts & Sciences Senate
Department Chairmen
College of Arts & Sciences

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