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**THE LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY**

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600 CALIFORNIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO 8, CALIFORNIA • GARFIELD 1-3344

January 23, 1972

To: Members of the Stanford Faculty

This letter is written to you on behalf of the Board of Trustees to express our deep concern that the decision on Saturday not be construed as any lessening of the Board's continuing commitment to academic freedom at Stanford.

The report and decision of President Lyman dated Jan. 8, 1972, specifically recognizes that chief among the freedoms essential to an academic institution is "the freedom to hold and advocate whatever views one's conscience and knowledge may lead one to have, no matter how unpopular or disturbing to orthodoxy or downright outrageous those views may appear to others, and no matter how large may be the majority that dislikes them." The Board of Trustees concurs with President Lyman in this regard, and we assure you that the principles of academic freedom will continue unimpaired at Stanford University with the wholehearted support of the Board of Trustees.

We believe that the Stanford community should recognize that, as stated by the Advisory Board in its decision, "The real issue in these hearings is Professor Franklin's behavior on the offenses charged, not his political views."

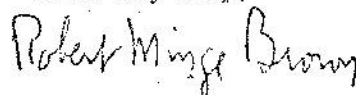
In this regard it should be understood that the Statement of Policy on Appointment and Tenure does not contemplate a hearing before the Board of Trustees or the receipt and weighing of evidence by the Board. Rather the procedure is one in which the faculty itself, through its elected representatives, has the responsibility to hold a hearing, take evidence, and to make findings and a decision in the light of that evidence. The Advisory Board held such a hearing for 33 days and made its decision. President Lyman reviewed that decision and reported to the Board his reasons for accepting the Advisory Board decision.

Prior to Saturday's meeting, copies of the Advisory Board decision, together with briefs attached to it from the Faculty Political Action Group, the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and several other interested parties, the written decision of President Lyman, and the written comments of Professor Franklin were distributed to all trustees.

In accord with the tenure policy, the Board of Trustees was in no position to reweigh the evidence or to hear new evidence. After a thorough discussion, the Board of Trustees was convinced that a full and fair hearing was held on the charges against Professor Franklin and that in the light of the findings of the Advisory Board and the report and decision of President Lyman, the penalty of dismissal was appropriate. This was the view of twenty of the trustees who attended our meeting. However, two trustees, Messrs. Ira Hall and Denis Hayes, have asked me to inform you that they do not concur in the Board of Trustees' decision and accordingly they bear no responsibility for this letter.

I assure you that the Board of Trustees deeply regrets the necessity to discipline any member of the Stanford faculty. However, there is some satisfaction to be derived from this demonstration that procedures devised by the faculty for the discipline of its own members can be made to work. I am sure that the quality of the Stanford faculty itself is the best guarantee of the continuance of academic freedom at Stanford.

Yours very truly,



Robert Minge Brown,  
President