

Memorandum

: Debbie Meadows
ASI Secretary

Date : June 1, 1972

File No.:

Copies : Robert E. Kennedy
Mustang Daily
KCPR

From : Everett M. Chandler *SMC*
Dean of Students

Subject: Gay Student Union

A number of students have organized themselves into a group known as the Gay Student Union. This group is requesting official recognition at the California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo. They presented a charter to the Student Affairs Council who have reviewed and endorsed the charter as satisfactory in meeting the technical provisions required for a student organization according to the Associated Students, Inc. bylaws and codes. Now, as representative of the University President, it is my responsibility to decide whether or not official recognition should be granted.

After careful review and after considering all aspects, in consultation with legal counsel, the University declines official recognition to this group.

In this regard, it should be made clear what recognition is and is not. Recognition by the University allows the opportunity to schedule facilities and to use University and Associated Students, Inc. equipment. Recognition allows the announcement of meetings to be placed in the "Pony", a weekly bulletin distributed on campus, announcing events and meetings. Recognition also involves the use of Associated Students, Inc. funds in the following manner. Recognized groups receive free accounting services at the expense of the Associated Students. This assures the groups that their funds are correctly maintained and expended as the group directs, with potential misuse of funds greatly decreased. The Associated Students own two motor vehicles which are available to recognized groups at mileage costs only with other costs being absorbed by the Associated Students. The students voted a fee upon themselves to pay for a College Union. The facility is student supported. Recognized groups use the facility without charge, a cost to the students who pay for the operations of the building. Such services as mimeographing, xerox, silk screening, and poster preparation are done on a rate schedule which covers material costs, but does not cover full labor and amortization costs which are borne by the Associated Students, Inc. Recognized groups are able to use the credit of the Associated Students, Inc. in making purchases within the community. In fact, their purchases are backed by the finances of the Associated Students, Inc. Recognized groups receive free health and accident insurance paid by student funds from compulsory student fees while on officially recognized travel away from the campus.

Memorandum - June 1, 1972 - Page 2

To: Debbie Meadows
From: Everett M. Chandler

The lack of recognition does not in any way whatsoever affect the right of a student to attend the University. Further, the lack of recognition of any group by the University does not prevent any student from joining any organization he is so disposed to join.

Recognition by the University is a special status based on a close relationship to the overall educational program of the University.

The purpose of the Gay Student Union is evident from the title of the group and in Articles I, II, and III of their proposed bylaws. The term "Gay" has become identified as synonymous with homosexual. The articles mentioned indicate that the organization is clearly intended to be a group of homosexuals. Article I states that the group is "for providing a means of unity for the homosexual on campus and in the greater community". Article II specifies the name "Gay Student Union" with the connotation that the makeup of the organization is that of homosexuals. Article III mentions a spirit of cooperation with organizations sympathetic with our aims on the campus and within the community. The use of the personal pronoun further indicates identification with the homosexual. Article III further states "to deal with the needs of the gay students that are not being met by the college". This article further adds "to protect the interests of those gay students who do not have a voice and to see that these students are made aware of their rights".

These clauses indicate that the central purpose is not directed at intellectual study of the phenomena of homosexuality, but is frankly and openly a group for homosexuals. This is made more explicit in the membership clause which states: "1. Active membership may include any homophile registered student...". A representative of the group defined "homophile" to the Student Affairs Council as being a person who is a homosexual or who has homosexual leanings or tendencies. Associate membership is provided for persons who do not meet provisions for active membership. Associate membership includes anyone, not just students. In his presentation, the group representative stated that homosexuals (homophiles) within the community who are not students were to be encouraged to join as associate members.

It should be noted that only active members, defined as homophiles, can vote or hold office in the group.

In considering this background, there are no other groups, of which we are aware, recognized on any College or University campus which have a membership policy and purpose such as the one proposed here. This is not similar to the ones called to our attention.

In addition to the above comments, it is believed that the following comments should weigh heavily in consideration of recognition for this group.

Homosexuality, although studied in the curriculum in psychology, for example,

To: Debbie Meadows

From: Everett M. Chandler

is not part of the central educational mission of the University in any sense. Homosexuality is not recognized in Title 5 as an activity pursued in the normal channels of student activities. Consequently, a homosexual organization merely uses campus facilities without specifically relating to the educational functions. The activities declared as purpose and objectives can be carried on off-campus, using community facilities.

There is another issue worth deep consideration. In any large gathering of people, there are a significant number of persons who are on the borderline between heterosexuality and homosexuality. If the University provides an approved organization which publicly advertises and attempts to make homosexuality attractive, these individuals may be led in the direction of homosexuality. In this regard, there are available solid research studies which indicate that many homosexuals are persons who are basically unhappy with their sexual choice. Of course, there are exceptions but the research studies indicate substantial significance in feelings of unhappiness over homosexual choice. It does not appear to be sound educational practice to provide an organization which will encourage those borderline persons to make decisions that they will later regret.

It should also be noted that the proposed bylaws provide for an associate membership which is defined in such way as to include anyone on- or off-campus, student or non-student, and criminal or psychiatric history or not. It does not appear to me to be judicious of the University to provide for such wide-open membership.

As an additional consideration, some homosexuals are attracted to children and actively seek them as objects for their practice of homosexuality. It is inconceivable that any college would support behavior which may tend to jeopardize children in such manner. As a result, the University cannot accept an organization which attracts people, on-or off-campus, who well may have the potential of child molestation.

Finally, it is clear that the laws relating to homosexuality have not been changed. It is true that there is discussion in various quarters about modifications of such laws, but in California and in San Luis Obispo, the changes have not been made. Therefore, it would not seem appropriate for the University to approve of an organization which may cast students into situations in which they become violators of existing laws. In explaining the objectives of the organization, a proponent declared that an objective was to organize parties and other events for homosexuals. Such parties and events may lead to law violations even though not intended to do so. This is in reference to the Article referring to the needs of homosexuals which are not explained. To be honest in reviewing the matter, this issue must be raised.

In conclusion, the University, after long and careful consideration, does not accept the Gay Student Union as an officially recognized organization of the University.

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93401

June 5, 1972

Miss Debbie Meadows
Secretary, Associated Students, Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Dear Miss Meadows:

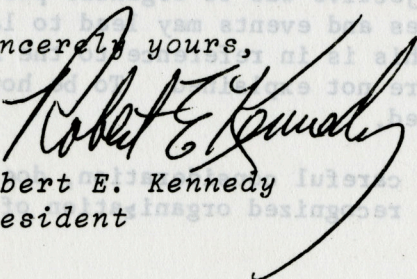
On May 26 you notified the College administration that the Student Affairs Council passed a motion requesting a reply to additional questions and proposals relating to my reply to the original resolutions of the "Dorm Congress."

At my request, Dean Everett Chandler has reviewed the additional recommendations and provided me with further information as a result of these additions.

Again, I am providing you with 30 copies of my response for distribution to members of the Council. In this report as in the first, I have responded as specifically as I could to each of the proposals. I have signed the report to indicate my approval of the items indicated.

In making my response, I would like you and the Council members to know that I am sincerely trying to be responsive to student needs and at the same time administer the housing program on campus in light of the total needs of the University.

Sincerely yours,



Robert E. Kennedy
President

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE TO STUDENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL
MAY 26, 1972, REQUEST REGARDING RESIDENCE HALLS

I am providing you with 30 copies for distribution to SAC members. I have tried to reply specifically to each of the additional items which have been raised. As I analyzed the new statement, there were seven items which were mentioned.

1. STATEMENT - Quarterly Contract

"We are fully aware that the quarterly contract proposal requires more study"

Response:

Study of this issue is underway. It is complicated and involves people both on this campus and off campus in other State offices. I thought you would like to know that it is being examined currently.

2. STATEMENT - Decorations Inside of Hall Rooms

"Regarding decorations within confines of private rooms, we feel that any item acceptable to both residents should be allowed by the college". Reference was made to the use of the phrase "redeeming social value" indicating that it is difficult to judge.

Response:

My original response paraphrased the law and its interpretation regarding obscenity. Since one of the requests in the original five resolutions was to observe the general laws in this regard, my reference to "redeeming social value" was merely to emphasize the law and our willingness to abide by and use it as a reference point. Certainly two students living in a room are the principals in deciding what is acceptable. Indeed it would be a rare instance when other parties are called upon to even consider appropriateness of such decorations within a room.

3. STATEMENT - Decorations of Windows so that Outside Displays Are Created

"As far as window displays are concerned, we feel hard pressed to find any possible environmental damage ensuing from a relaxation in that area."

Response:

It is realized that there may be reasonable differences of opinion on such matters as window displays. As I explained in my first response, I believe that uncontrolled window displays would create an unsightly situation. I am sorry that some students may feel that I am not responsive to their needs in this regard, but I truly wonder how seriously the ruling limiting window displays affects the majority of students living in the halls.

Many young people today do express a deep interest in ecology and the environment. Many of these people consider proliferation of road signs to be an obtrusion on the environment. It seems to me that a proliferation of signs of various types and without any planning or arrangement would obtrude on the campus environment. As yet I am not convinced that this rule should be changed.

4. STATEMENT - Hall Architecture

"It is the consensus of this group that the halls, with the exception of Yosemite, are basically neither aesthetically pleasing, nor architecturally award winning".

Response:

I recognize that Yosemite and probably the North Mountain halls are usually considered as being more pleasing than the South Mountain halls. Plantings are softening the outlines of these brick halls and it is hoped that they will become more pleasing in time. It is my belief that they would not be improved by a variety of uncoordinated window displays which in turn might make the total effect even less pleasing.

5. STATEMENT - Coed Living Experience

Reference was made to an article in the May 1972 issue of the Journal of College Student Personnel entitled "Anatomy of a Coed Residence Hall." This article described an experience of coed living in a five-story hall on another campus. The article explains that coed living seemed to create a stronger feeling of belonging, people were freer in actions, and there were fewer cliques.

Response:

There are no five-story halls on this campus and other situations on that campus are not likely to be exactly parallel to this campus. However, the article has been read by Dean Chandler who reports that it does have many valid points. These points are being considered by him and the Housing staff in their evaluation of the total housing program. After evaluation pertinent recommendations concerning housing will be made to appropriate groups.

6. STATEMENT - North Mountain Halls - Coed Living

"It is the feeling of this group that a better proposal would be to separate men and women by quads. . . rather than by upper and lower floors." My original response indicated that at least two North Mountain Halls would be used for coed living. I suggested use of upper and lower floors.

Response:

In regard to the coed living arrangements in the North Mountain Halls, my proposal was to make coed living a reality. The proposal to use quads on each floor, in increments of eight students instead of thirty two is a perfectly satisfactory alternate to the upper-lower floor concept. Of course, the other priorities stated in the first response still stand such as students who have lived on campus longest having highest priority to reside in the North Mountain halls and all students in these halls should be 18 years old or more.

7. STATEMENT - Room Check and Inspection

"It is also our feeling that we cannot and will not accept the denial of our rights" in reference to room checks. "Room checks shall be made only while the resident is present, and an appointment is made in advance."

Response:

Again I would like to make clear that constitutional rights are not being abridged by room checks. There are court cases which uphold the right of the University to make such checks. Also, as I stated previously, the statement of "Student Rights and Responsibilities" as recommended by the Student Body Presidents Association, agreed that the University has a reasonable right of inspection to protect health, safety, maintenance of applicable rules and regulations and, as provided in the applicable license agreement entered into by the occupant.

In this regard I stated that the procedure of room check would be carefully reviewed this summer. It is anticipated that problems which have caused residents concern in this regard will be reduced substantially. I realize room checks are a touchy subject. It is my hope that procedures can be developed which meet the essential needs of the University to protect the safety of residents, help the University in the management of the halls, provide opportunity for the staff to assist students who need and can use counseling assistance, and at the same time not be burdensome or provocative to the residents. This will not be an easy task, but it is hoped the progress will be made to make definite improvements in this procedure by next Fall.

Approved: _____

Robert E. Kennedy

Date: June 5, 1972