

Editorial

RIOT KIT

The attached Riot Control Kit was received by the Gunston Ledger yesterday. We feel that its importance warrants inclusion with this week's publication. As Lorin A. Thompson states, "the attached policy will be the policy to guide George Mason College in the event that any student groups desire to express themselves through an organized demonstration."

Although the document speaks for itself, several points deserve close attention.

First, there was NO student voice at George Mason concerning its adoption. This is simply one more example of administrative dictatorship.

The policy gives the student government no opportunity to accept or reject it, but rather demands their enforcing a policy imposed upon them.

The policy infringes upon the rights of the individual student by stating that only "recognized organizations" be permitted to participate in demonstrations. The policy amends the student government constitution regarding the registration of organizations by requiring that the status of non-complying organizations be re-examined.

The policy threatens suspension for being found "guilty of participation or inciting a riot or an unauthorized or disorderly assembly." However, the terms are not defined nor are mechanisms for judging infractions delineated.

The purpose of the policy seems to be making demonstrations part of the institution they would be protesting, and therefore an effective means of accomplishing nothing.

Finally, as Chancellor Thompson states, "the policy statement makes clear the rights and duties of administrators, students, and faculty." We feel the duty of the student is very clear. The Student Government must refuse to participate in this dictated student policy. And the individual student must demonstrate his disapproval and assert his freedom by conducting unauthorized demonstrations against the demonstration ruling.

We call upon the Forum to provide students and faculty with an opportunity to air their grievances regarding this policy at the meeting to be held at noon on Friday in the Lecture Hall auditorium.

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From Pat Robbins
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The chancellor of George Mason College of the University of Virginia announced today that his school will adhere to University policy on student demonstrations.

The policy was set forth late last week by University President Edgar F. Shannon Jr. President Shannon reviewed the rules governing student demonstrations and warned that students taking part in unauthorized demonstrations would be "subject to immediate suspension" if they failed to disband upon official request. Students also would be subject to suspension for "participating in or inciting a riot."

Copies of Dr. Shannon's statement have been sent to deans and department heads at George Mason College by Chancellor Lorin A. Thompson.

"It is important to clarify the position of colleges and universities in these troubled times with respect to any efforts that are disruptive of the main process of education," the chancellor said.

"The policy statement, as enunciated by President Shannon, makes clear the rights and duties of administrative officials, students and faculty. The use of established machinery for airing grievances or complaints enables the administration to act more promptly and appropriately than is likely under duress," Dr. Thompson added.

President Shannon, in his statement, stressed that "University officials will not negotiate (grievances) . . . under conditions of duress, such as unauthorized occupation of University property".

Key points in the rules governing demonstrations are:

- Notice must be filed 96 hours in advance;
- Only recognized student organizations may sponsor demonstrations;
- No picketing is allowed inside buildings;
- Outside picketing must not disrupt the normal flow of traffic;
- Numbers of pickets and boundaries must be agreed upon in advance.

"This will be the official policy of George Mason College with such adjustments as are necessary for our simplified administrative procedures," Dr. Thompson said.

Student organizations on the Charlottesville campus are officially recognized and governed by a Student Council which set up rules for demonstrations. At George Mason, student groups come under the jurisdiction of the Student Assembly and the Dean of Students. Requests to hold demonstrations must be filed in the office of the Dean of Students, where forms and rules will be available.

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DISTRIBUTION: I, II, III, IV
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(As a result of a meeting with student leaders, President Shannon has issued the statement printed below.)

"Recent disorderly demonstrations have disrupted the academic work of many universities and colleges, resulting in hardships to both students and faculty. For example, many graduate and professional students at Columbia University may be prevented from completing their theses and other requirements for the degree upon which next year's job may depend. This is what happens when libraries and laboratories are closed during a critical period of the year and comprehensive and oral examinations have to be cancelled. These are some of the tragedies that tend to go unnoticed.

At the University of Virginia the rights of minorities, majorities, and individuals are equally respected. This includes the right to dramatize opinions and buttress arguments by public display---so long as the participants do not interfere with the rights of others. Picketing and other demonstrations have been regulated here for some years under requirements adopted and enforced by Student Council.

In view of the tragic and wasteful excesses elsewhere, I invite attention to the rules and regulations of the Student Council and the Board of Visitors governing conduct.

ON DEMONSTRATIONS

Demonstrations and picketing by student groups are under the jurisdiction of the Student Council and must conform to Council rules and regulations, which provide

- a. Notice of a demonstration must be filed with the Student Council office 96 hours in advance.
- b. Only organizations recognized by the Student Council may sponsor demonstrations on the University Grounds.
- c. Picketing is not permitted inside buildings.
- d. Outside picketing must not be carried on so as to interfere with entrance traffic or the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- e. Precise boundaries and number of those picketing will be set by agreement among the Student Council, Department of Security, the organizations involved, and those in charge of any building specifically involved.
- f. Lack of substantial compliance with these rules and regulations or failure to register will result in a reconsideration of recognition by Student Council for noncomplying organizations.

It also seems appropriate to emphasize the rules of conduct for students set forth in the University of Virginia catalogue as follows:

CONDUCT

Students of the University are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen, both within the University and elsewhere. For student conduct which is outside the jurisdiction of the Honor Committee, but which tends to discredit or injure the University, the President is authorized by the Board of Visitors to impose such penalty as he may deem appropriate, including expulsion from the University. This authority has been delegated by the President to the Student Judiciary Committee, subject to review by the President or his delegated representative. When the penalty for bad conduct is expulsion, the students may appeal the decision to the Board of Visitors.

Any student found guilty of participating in or inciting a riot or an unauthorized or disorderly assembly is subject to suspension.

To prevent misunderstanding, I add the following clarification:

1. When an assembly of students not authorized by the Student Council has been requested to disband by the President or other officer of the Student Council, or by a Dean, Department Head or other Administrative Officer, students refusing to comply will be subject to immediate suspension.
2. In the event that an assembly appears to be a demonstration related to grievances, those present should be advised that orderly procedures for the hearing of grievances are available and must be adhered to. University officials will not negotiate with such groups under conditions of duress, such as unauthorized occupation of University property."

STUDENT COUNCIL REGISTRATION OF DEMONSTRATIONS

1. Organizations (three copies of this form must be filed in the Student Council office with the Secretary 96 hours in advance for each organization)

- a. Registering organization _____
b. All participating organizations (including those outside the University) _____

2. Details of demonstration

- a. Place (exact area of demonstration) _____

b. Date _____
c. Time (beginning and ending) _____
d. Number to be expected at any one time _____
 1. Number from the University Community _____
 2. Number from outside the University Community _____
e. Will handbills be distributed? _____ (If so, please attach one copy)
f. Nature of protest _____

3. Rules and regulations

- a. Only organizations recognized by Student Council may sponsor demonstrations on University Grounds.
b. Picketing is not permitted inside buildings.
c. Outside picketing must not be carried on so as to interfere with entrance traffic or the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
d. Precise boundaries and number of those picketing will be set by agreement among the Student Council, Department of Security, the organizations involved, and those in charge of any building specifically involved.
e. Lack of substantial compliance with these rules and regulations or failure to register will result in a reconsideration of recognition by Student Council for noncomplying organizations.

4. As _____ of the _____
 (Title of officer) (Name of registering organization)

I will make known these rules and regulations to those involved and I will be responsible for the compliance of the members of this organization with these rules and regulations.

(Signature)

Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____

May 7, 1968

To: Miss Gail Gallagher, President
Student Government

From: Chancellor Lorin A. Thompson

Dear Miss Gallagher:

The attached statement by President Shannon with modification to suit George Mason College's situation will be the policy to guide George Mason College in the event that any student groups desire to express themselves through an organized demonstration.

It should be clearly understood that any event of this nature should be registered with the Dean of Students. Let us use this opportunity to have the Student Government meet with the Dean of Students. A satisfactory means should be worked out whereby he may be able, as my authorized representative, to delegate as much responsibility for these activities as possible to student government.

cc: President Edgar Shannon, Jr.
Miss Crickett Sherman, Chairman
Student Senate
Editor, Gunston Ledger