

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 19104

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 16, 1969

Mr. Jules Benjamin
S. D. S. Chapter
409 LRSM
University of Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

Prior to the end of the Fall term I met with you and your associates for a discussion of the University's relationship with the University City Science Center at which time a number of "demands" concerning this relationship were presented to me for comment.

While I entertain serious reservations as to the propriety of responding to "demands" as a format for encouraging rational discussion in an academic setting, I do not want to raise any semantic questions in view of the primary importance of clarifying substantive questions you raise or imply. With this in mind, I am making available the information contained in my replies, as well as my views, to *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, *The Almanac*, and *The Pennsylvania Gazette* for the information of our student, faculty, and alumni bodies. Copies will be available in the Information Center in the Franklin Building for anyone interested.

1. "That the University disclose all matters relating to the origin and purposes of the University City Science Center."

A vast amount of historical data about the genesis and subsequent development of the University City Science Center has already been made available to S. D. S. in documents prepared by the Science Center and the President of the University. Representatives of the University and the Center have discussed this with S. D. S. members and others on a number of occasions, the most recent being at the University Forum on December 10, 1968.

The Executive Board of the Trustees considered at their November 1968 meeting the request of the S. D. S. for release of a May 1967 background document on the University's relationship to the development of the Science Center. Their decision was to withhold release of the document. However, in view of the possibility of any misapprehension arising out of the Trustees' decision to maintain the traditional confidentiality of their proceedings, I shall ask the Trustees if they would be willing to allow a special faculty committee, comprised of the

Chairman of the Senate, the Chairman of the University Council's Committee on Research, and the Chairman of the Council's Sub-committee on Relations with the Science Center, to review the May 27 document from the standpoint of its containing any covert statements regarding its research effort which might be at variance with the consensus of the University community. If the Trustees agree to this alternative, I shall ask Professors Price, Davies and Girifalco to study the document and report to the University community on the results of their review.

2. "That decisions involving the expansion of the University and the allocation of its resources be made by the University community as a whole."

The first task here is to define the "University community as a whole" and this we hope will be one of the outcomes of the Task Force on Governance now in the process of formation. Its charge, you will recall, is to look at present forms of governance and recommend such changes as may best enable us to face the future as a single community of learning.

Currently under consideration is student membership on the University Council, in addition to the present student representation on certain key Council committees. The Council is a keystone in the present University community's decision-making structure.

The Council's concerns extend beyond the campus boundaries as exemplified by its newly-established Committee on Education in University City. It will seek the views of non-University members of the Community as well as faculty and staff living in the area.

In the area of crime prevention, the University is working with community organizations and City governmental agencies to combat violence in University City. This work is being coordinated by Professor Henry S. Ruth, Jr., of the Law School.

Through these and other consultative organizational mechanisms, I am confident that the views of the University community will be reflected in the establishment of priorities and allocation of resources.

3. "That a portion of the University budget be allocated for the pressing needs of the surrounding community for such projects as that community shall determine."

The University is now, has been, and will continue to expend its institutional resources in appropriate and different ways to meet the pressing needs of the surrounding community. Ideas, staff expertise, and facilities - resources which in

the long run may be more significant than money - have been expended as well as University funds in support of projects determined by community groups. Recent or current programs of this type have been:

The Young Great Society Adult Leadership and Training Project, in which Herman Wrice's group developed objectives and the University secured Federal funds, matched them out of its own resources, and conducted the course. Another YGS cooperative project is the summer recreation workshop run by undergraduates using campus facilities and services.

Project Mantua, in which the Mantua Community Planners' Andrew Jenkins and his staff form plans for changing the economic and social condition of Mantua, then use University faculty members' advice and contacts to carry out their programs. Financial support for this project comes from a private industry grant to the University.

A training program in which YGS advisors and twenty suburban women will join in an education program for white suburbia on the problems of urban life. Again using Federal funds with a matching grant from the University, this program was requested by concerned alumnae of the University.

HEP-UP, in the School of Medicine, and the Simon Gratz High School cooperative program in other medical professions, two programs in which high school students are exposed to the health professions and encouraged to strive for the education that will place them there. The University sought and found the grants that would support such efforts, on behalf of the 58 students currently involved. The HEP-UP plan originated with our own faculty, and the Gratz program with the high school administration itself. A computer course is also in progress with the volunteered time of biomedical research personnel and with computer time itself donated by the Computer Center and General Electric Time-Sharing, Inc.

In the field of community medicine, the University's latest thrust is felt through the West Philadelphia Community Mental Health Consortium. This is a 14-month-old association of six hospitals, the University's School of Medicine and its Department of Psychiatry, and our School of Social Work formed under the corporate leadership of the West Philadelphia Corporation. Its chief goal is to provide immediate service to the mental health needs of the community. At the same time it functions as the primary teaching and training arm of the University's Division of Community Psychiatry.

There are other projects, some under way and others in prospect, in which University attempts to do what the community asks to have done, as transmitted through the faculty, alumni, students and administrators who have established communication lines with members of our West Philadelphia community. Seven

black organizations have initiated discussions for a new kind of business training at the Wharton School. Black leaders concerned for the lack of minority representation in the building trades are working with us to seek solutions to this problem. The principal of West Philadelphia High School suggested a released-time program for 75 of his students to study at an advanced level; this will soon get under way with volunteer faculty members at Pennsylvania.

4. "That the corporations represented on the University of Pennsylvania board of trustees provide the money necessary for the building of a significant number of low-cost housing units in Area III. "

First, I think it should be pointed out that corporations, per se, have no Trustee representation on the University's Board. Our trustees are elected as individuals.

Second, it should be noted that several Philadelphia corporations are already significantly involved in a variety of urban affairs programs. Many of these projects in housing, job training and economic opportunity are described in a report called "The Black Community and The Business Community in Philadelphia," prepared by The Evening Bulletin's Orrin Evans for the Greater Philadelphia Movement in September, 1968. The three co-chairmen of the Greater Philadelphia Movement are men whose names will be familiar ones. They are Trustees of the University Gustave G. Amsterdam, Richard C. Bond and Paul J. Cupp. I have the privilege of serving as chairman of the Executive Committee of GPM.

A copy of Mr. Evans' booklet is attached. In calling your attention to it I do not mean to suggest that the role of the business community in this area is by any means complete. We have gathered information on existing programs principally to stimulate further activity in solving the problems of the inner city.

One of the most dramatic programs identified here is the recent compact with the Black Coalition and the city's business and financial leaders, starting with a \$1 million commitment to help carry out projects developed by the black community itself.

Fifteen separate projects have been approved covering a medical center for Mantua (a "Young Great Society project), a gang activities control program for Northwest Philadelphia, and several recreation and job training programs.

Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., a Pennsylvania trustee, is on the Board of Directors of the Black Coalition. Among the Philadelphia business leaders active in support of the Black Coalition are Trustees William L. Day, First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company; Richard C. Bond, John Wanamaker;

Paul J. Cupp, Acme Markets, Inc.; Gustave G. Amsterdam, Bankers Securities Corporation; and Robert G. Dunlop, Sun Oil Company.

5. "That the University City Science Center provide land, housing, and community services for all the people displaced by the creation of the U. C. S. C. "

It is my understanding that the charter of the Science Center would not allow the Center to get into housing, community services, or land use for housing. It must confine itself to creating a research and development center in the area.

In this connection, however, it should be noted that the Science Center has already returned to the Redevelopment Authority a triangle of land at 36th and Filbert Streets, where some 80 apartment units are scheduled to be built by Renewal Housing, Inc., a corporation affiliated with the Rev. Edward Sims' Volunteer Community Resources Council.

In addition, it should be made clear that the Science Center is only one of several institutions and private corporations which are acting as developers in Unit III. Upon its founding, the Center entered a heavily commercial portion of Unit III, with only 115 families and 137 single individuals at that time living on the 26-acre site assigned to the Science Center. This site was occupied by an estimated 666 of the total of 2653 persons, white and black, known to have been displaced from all of Unit III.

Of the ten or so other developers in the area, two institutions have, like the Science Center, revised their plans for land use to make possible an increase in the area's housing: the School District of Philadelphia by re-assigning a block on which 37 housing units are to be rehabilitated, and the Presbyterian-University of Pennsylvania Medical Center by setting aside acreage for some 83 middle-income housing units. These three plans together call for the construction or rehabilitation of 200 units.

6. "That the U. C. S. C. have no classified, military related research or development contracts. "

Research and development policy is a matter for the University City Science Center Board of Directors to determine and one which requires continuing evaluation. Such an evaluation is now in progress and any further comment or observations on my part would be premature and inappropriate. The major thrust of the Science Center's research effort is now in the life sciences - toward the extension and improvement of life. I foresee nothing which will blunt or negate that thrust.

7. "That if the U. C. S. C. does not comply with demands five and six, the University of Pennsylvania sever all connections with the U. C. S. C."

Aside from its impropriety at this time, such an action would be manifestly self-defeating. The University can work more effectively with the other shareholding institutions of like views inside the corporate structure of the Science Center than as a withdrawn non-member.

Finally, let me say that the foregoing instances of community response, while illustrative of Pennsylvania's concern and commitment, do not constitute either a conclusive accounting of our institutional efforts in this regard nor an implication that what we are doing completely fulfills our responsibility to the University neighborhood. An inventory of University-community involvement projects is now being compiled as a first step in measuring the distance and direction we still have to go in creating an appropriate environment. As I pointed out in my recent annual message, each university must address itself to striking a balance with respect to its resources and responses in regard to its public service role. Pennsylvania is engaged in doing precisely this at the moment in planning the future character and mission of the University for the decade of the Seventies. Our unique responsibility for helping to shape environment is very much on our minds and the views and cooperation of our neighbors will be earnestly sought and listened to in our planning considerations.

I thank you for this further opportunity to provide your members with information and my views on these several topics relating to the Science Center and the University, as well as other segments of the University community.

Very sincerely,

Gaylord P. Harnwell