

FROM THE COALITION OF MINORITY STUDENTS AND CONCERNED STUDENTS
TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN:

IN APRIL OF 1970 THE RISD STUDENT BODY VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MINORITY STUDENTS AT THIS SCHOOL. IN RESPONSE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ADMINISTRATION IGNORED THE VOICE OF THE RISD COMMUNITY BY CUTTING BACK ON THE PROPOSAL WITH NO ACCEPTABLE REASONS GIVEN. THE GOAL OF THE PROPOSAL WAS TO ACCEPT 150 MINORITY STUDENTS INTO THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN BY THE END OF 1972. THE TRUSTEES CUT THAT NUMBER TO ⁶⁷~~69~~. WE THE COALITION DO NOT ACCEPT SUCH A RESPONSE AND FEEL THAT WITHOUT SIGNIFI-
CANT CHANGE THIS SCHOOL ONLY PERPETUATES RACISM.

INCORPORATED INTO THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN A BLATANT AND CONTINUAL USE OF RACISM. A COUNTRY OPERATING UNDER SUCH A FORCE INSURES ITS POWER BY PERPETUATING THE USE OF SEPARATISM IN ALL OF ITS INSTITUTIONS.

THIS RACIST POLICY HAS HISTORICALLY DENIED EDUCATION TO AMERICAN MINORITY PEOPLES WHILE ASSURING YOUNG WHITES OF GOOD JOBS AND EXEMPTION FROM THE DRAFT. AS A RESULT A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF BLACKS ARE DRAFTED INTO THE AMERICAN WAR MACHINE AND FORCED TO FIGHT A RACIST WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WHILE STRIKING WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT A CONTINUATION OF RACISM INSURES A CONTINUATION OF THE WAR AND THAT SUCH DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS AID IN THE CONTINUATION OF RACISM.

lon of Concerned Students, Minority Students
nd Concerned Professional Staff

A.M. on Wednesday of the 13th of May 1970
eting of the Executive Board of the Board
lscuss the response to the position paper
re Coalition.

arrange this meeting.

Christen Johansen

Richard JAMES

Judy Gurgbaum

Danna Longacre

Carlos M. M. M.
Reggy Bunn

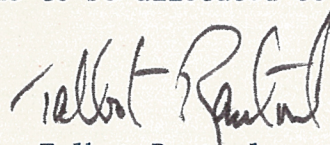
Suzanne Simon

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

May 12, 1970

To: Coalition of Concerned Students, Minority Students, and
Concerned Professional Staff

I have discussed with the vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees your request to meet with the Executive Committee of the Board, and he suggests that the Coalition prepare a presentation including a written statement for the regular Semi-Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held on Tuesday, May 19th at the Woods-Gerry House. He also suggests that four Coalition members give the presentation and that the time to be allocated to it is from 11-11:30 a.m.



Talbot Rantoul
President

For the Coalition:

Christen Johansen
Richard James
Judy Grunbaum
Janna Longacre

Jerry Meadows
Carlos Maynard
Peggy Bunn
Suzanne Simon