

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

April 15, 1970

To: Suzanne Simon, Judi Lee, Starzetta D. Newsome, Nadine Forde,
Dr. Stanley O. Yarian, Gary Miller, Judy Grunbaum, Barbara Gilman,
Chris Johansen, Carlos Maynard, Lawrence James Philp, Nora Crain,
Janna Longacre, Mrs. Ann Souza, Abby Gould, Meg Liebttag, Jerry
Meadows, Mary (Toots) Zynsky, Bob Steiner, Linda Kearney, Warren
Dreher, Richard James, Melissa Koch, Karen Lahn.

In response to the letter sent to the administration on March 16, 1970,
I have the following reply:

Demand 1: That the Board of Trustees and the administration be responsible for creating a scholarship fund of \$500,000 in addition to the current financial aid program.

ANSWER: Financial aid, exclusive of loans, in the last five years has grown from \$209,000 to \$422,000 in the current year. Next year, it will be increased \$33,000 (to a total of \$455,000) as a result of the tuition increase which is being put into effect. This figure assumes that the various state grants and other outside financial aids will be continued at approximately their present levels. Our long-range planning will incorporate fund-raising plans to increase these funds because if an increase is awarded to incoming students, their aid must be continued throughout their college career.

DEMAND A: To increase all scholarships at R.I.S.D. in proportion to the increase in tuition over the past five years.

ANSWER: In each case, when tuition has gone up over the past five years, there has always been provision made of 15% of the amount of increased income due to tuition which has been laid aside to increase the scholarship aid funds. As stated above, the actual increase has exceeded 15% of each tuition increase.

DEMAND B: To create full scholarships for young people from all parts of the country who, without financial aid, would not be able to attend R.I.S.D.

And, that thirty of these scholarships for students be FULL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH FROM RHODE ISLAND.

That these scholarships be guaranteed for four years.

That in so far as R.I.S.D. is a school of art and design, creative ways be worked out to discover talent without using grades, class standing, SAT or IQ tests.

ANSWER: We have always had scholarships for young people from all parts of the country who without financial aid would not be able to attend R.I.S.D. We have not set any artificial quotas to place of resident for full scholarship students but our discussions have tended towards making a heavier effort within Rhode Island as part of the basic philosophy of this administration. We currently have 114 students from Rhode Island of whom 33 are receiving financial aid.

DEMAND B: (cont'd)

ANSWER: Our funds for scholarships include three major categories; grants, work-study money, and loans. Our present policy is to provide funds in the first two categories for incoming full scholarship freshmen and then to work out a suitable package with each scholarship student for the remaining three or four years of his or her career here. Ordinarily loans are a part of the package for the final three or four years of a student's career here, but exceptions to this normal practice will be made when it appears relevant.

The whole question of selection of students to come here, whether on scholarship or not, is a very complicated and technical problem, and the admissions committee has the authority not only to make the painful decisions as to who comes and who does not come, but also to work out the policies under which that committee will operate. Our purpose is not to find individuals with the highest possible grades or class standing or SAT scores, but is to find those students who will profit most from an experience here at our college, and who give evidence of sizable talent in a visual art sense. We are currently considering eliminating the SAT and other aptitude tests, and we are putting more emphasis on the applicant's art credentials which are submitted as a portfolio of 8 slides of their work.

DEMAND C: To create scholarships for students currently attending R.I.S.D., who need scholarships and aren't getting any financial aid.

ANSWER: Incoming students are asked if they are going to require financial aid when they join us in their first year. Our planning is considerably damaged when an individual who has not applied for financial aid suddenly does so. We recognize that in occasional instances, individuals suddenly move from a status of being able to pay full tuition to requiring some aid, or even full scholarship aid, and in those instances where this happens, we are caught with our funds already committed. I want us to be more responsive to such crises, and so I am instructing the financial aid officer to hold some funds available for such emergencies.

DEMAND 2: That there be a moratorium on increases in tuition and room and board fees for the next four years.

ANSWER: It is not our opinion that we can declare a moratorium on increases in tuition and room and board fees for the next four years. Rising costs make this fiscally dangerous.

DEMAND 3: That a brochure advertising the availability of full scholarships at R.I.S.D. be ready by May 1, 1970, for sending to high schools and general distribution. That this brochure be subject to the approval of the undersigned students.

ANSWER: The fact that R.I.S.D. has available financial aid for students is generally well-known and is in our catalogue and needs no further advertising. Mr. Meeker is editing the new admissions catalogue for the school and will be delighted to show the copy, before printing, to any or all of you.

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DEMAND 4: That these demands be put into effect for school year 1970-71.

ANSWER: If these demands are interpreted to mean that we will have an additional scholarship aid fund of \$500,000 for the school year of 1970-71, I feel that it cannot be met.

DEMAND 5: That a signed, written statement regarding the demands be available at the clearing house (Dean of Students Office) by 9:00 A.M., April 15, 1970.

ANSWER: I am complying with your demand by placing this letter in the Dean of Students Office.

I take note of the article in the April 13, 1970 Providence Journal threatening various forms of actions designed to force the administration to meet the demands as outlined, and designed to embarrass the school.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the administration of Rhode Island School of Design, I wish to warn all students that while peaceful picketing and other such forms of making yourself known are perfectly legal, they may not interfere with the operations of the school; any vandalism performed against property owned by the school, or acts against persons employed by the school, are prohibited. Any students participating in such acts will be held legally responsible for their actions and will be subject to disciplinary action.

I note also comments concerning the composition of the student body of the school and believe the following statistics will be of interest:

<u>STUDENT AID AWARDS</u>				<u>No. of students receiving these amounts</u>		
<u>Amounts Received</u>				<u>1967-68</u>	<u>1968-69</u>	<u>1969-70</u>
\$ 100	to	\$ 499		38	25	24
500	to	999		57	43	67
1,000	to	1,499		53	57	59
1,500	to	1,999		45	73	44
2,000	to	2,499		20	2	10
2,500	to	2,999		3	1	5
3,000	to	3,499				6
3,500	to	3,760		—	—	13
				216	201	228

A total of approximately 350 of our students are estimated to require some financial aid in order to attend this school. For those not receiving aid from us their needs are met from sources outside of our schools' aid program.

These facts persuade me to believe that approximately one-third of our students come from families who are not in a high enough income level to be able to afford the full cost of sending their children to R.I.S.D.

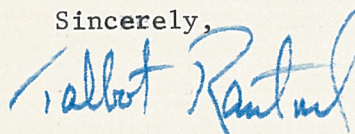
While it is true that tuition increases have been sizable, and have gone up 33 1/3% in the last five years, it is also true that we have kept tuition down in relation to the costs of coming to R.I.S.D.

The faculty have enlarged the Financial Aid Committee to include faculty members Slater, Ryder, and Yarian and has voted to direct the Student Governing Board to appoint two students to that committee. The mandate of the committee will be to study the whole financial aid picture, to make recommendations as to new policies and procedures in distributing financial aid, and to address themselves to the problems of the amount of financial aid available. It is the belief of the faculty that a thorough review of the entire scholarship situation is advisable and we in the administration welcome their participation in this planning activity.

All admissions and financial aid information for applicants to next year's Freshman class have gone out, and planning has already begun for the incoming class of September 1971. It must be recognized that any increases in financial aid for a given Freshman class must be continued throughout the four or five years that the recipient remains at R.I.S.D. Therefore, continued added sums will be required to maintain the levels of scholarship aid given each succeeding class for four years. If large additional amounts were made available to next year's Freshman class, it would be necessary to increase the funds to be available in each succeeding year by a similar amount, and thus the increase of \$33,000 for next year would eventually become \$132,000. If this is to come out of endowment income, it will require an increase in endowment of \$2.6 million.

In order to disseminate this information broadly throughout the school, I am distributing this reply to all students.

Sincerely,



Talbot Rantoul
President