

Gene Monet Nunnally

Statement to the Board of Trustees approved by the Academic Council on Friday, June 8, 1979

The Academic Council of Western States Chiropractic College has, as a result of the resignation of the Academic Dean, been empowered by the Acting President to act as the Academic Dean until such time as an Acting Academic Dean can be appointed. The Academic Council, acting as the Academic Dean, has the support and acceptance of a clear majority of the student body, the faculty and the administration and is, at this point, acting as the representative of the College community.

The Academic Council is present at this meeting to call for an immediate change in the leadership of the Board of Trustees. This action is requested and is viewed as essential due to the continuing state of uncertainty and disillusionment at the College, the lack of clear direction and leadership from the Board, and the very real possibility that the College could lose its R.C.A. status with the Council on Chiropractic Education.

The Academic Council feels that the time has come for new leadership on the Board. The reasons that we are seeking this action is that the current President of the Board:

- 1) Has made promises to the entire faculty and to 450 students following the spring '78 "crisis" which have not been kept, i.e. a questionnaire which was to be sent out to clarify concerns of the campus community and the regular meetings which were to have been held with the Board in an attempt to maintain open lines of communication.

- 2) Has withheld information from members of the Board concerning actions and opinions of the College community and has also withheld information concerning Board action i.e. the discontinuation of the policy to have copies of Board minutes posted in the College Library.
- 3) Has sought to place the blame for the failure to obtain full accreditation on an alleged conflict between the student I.C.A. and student A.C.A., the unionizing of the faculty, and the activities of the Associated Student Body and its officers rather than placing the blame where it rightfully belonged. Has also acted to discredit former employees of the College in an attempt to justify and rationalize failure to obtain accreditation.
- ~~4) Made a verbal accusation against a member of the Academic Council in the presence of other members of the Council alleging that the member had made a derogatory presentation against him in a class. The member involved felt that the accusation was unfounded and uncalled for and was a direct attempt to discredit and humiliate her.~~
- 5) Has made unilateral statements, given directives and expressed opinions to the College community in the name of the Board or the Executive Committee of the Board when these actions had not, in fact, been approved. For example, he as (1) directly interfered with the administration of the College by issuing a request directly to the Academic Dean, (2) has made a concerted effort to undermine the administration of the Acting President by opposing his action

concerning the Vice President, and 3) appeared on campus with two other Board members on Tuesday, June 5, 1979 to question individual members of the Academic Council concerning their knowledge of any changes which might have been prepared against him. These actions were also not in accordance with C.C.E. guidelines or Board bylaws.

~~8)~~ Has, by his own admission, delayed full accreditation by failing to act on the reorganization of the Health Research Foundation bylaws.

The College community has no faith or confidence in the present leadership of the Board. This is reflected by a vote of 22 no confidence, 2 abstentions and 1 vote of confidence among the faculty taken at its meeting on Wednesday, May 30. (The two members who abstained later indicated that they had no confidence in the present leadership of the Board but had some concerns about the wording of the resolution and the course of action which was being considered) At its meeting on Wednesday, May 30th, a unanimous vote of no confidence was registered by students attending an unusually large student body meeting.

There is a strong feeling on the part of the College community that if the Board fails to take action in what is viewed as a most serious crisis, that the Board will have demonstrated that it does not have the real interests of the College and its students, faculty and staff at heart. There is also a firm belief that if the Board fails to take the action that is required, that the College may well not survive. Those students who have postponed transferring to other chiropractic colleges may leave Western States.

To illustrate the seriousness of the problem, prior to January 1, 1979, the College received transcript requests (to other chiropractic colleges) from a maximum of six students per quarter (two unduplicated requests per month). Between January 1, 1979 and the end of April, the College received transcript requests from 30 students (an average of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per month) which represents an increase of $2\frac{3}{4}$ times the pre January average. During the month of May, 10 unduplicated requests were received which was 4 times the pre January average. During the first six days of June, nine unduplicated requests were processed which is $3\frac{1}{2}$ times the pre January average with another week and a half to go before the end of the quarter.

The College community and the C.C.E. need to see some concrete evidence that the Board is committed to change and growth and is capable of, and willing to take, strong and decisive action before the next C.C.E. meeting to be held at the end of the month in Seattle. Such action will do much to reassure the College community of the Board's sincerity and concern. Such action will also further indicate to C.C.E. that the Board is sincere in its desire to correct the administrative instability which has been a major concern to C.C.E. and a major stumbling block to our accreditation.