

Was not taken up at Board meeting

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CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum to: President Hoffman

From: Patrick J. Nicholson

Subject: Memorandum to Governing Board

Date: July 25, 1962

As discussed, I am attaching the draft of a suggested statement regarding integration policies in 1962-1963. You could simply read the first five paragraphs as part of your "oral agenda" at the September 25, 1962 meeting of the governing board, and then continue with the actual policy statement in quotes. The final paragraph of the material in quotes is optional, as is the concluding paragraph thanking the B/G for its cooperation and assistance.

The University has now enrolled its first colored students, one for the first summer term, and three in the second six weeks. All were at the graduate level.

This important step was accomplished under the general policies set forth by the governing board, without any incident and with an absolute minimum of publicity. We are naturally pleased with these developments, and with the overall situation regarding a potentially difficult problem.

It is the feeling of the administration that the University should continue at present on the same sound basis, accepting a few highly qualified, carefully selected Negro graduate students for the Fall, 1962 semester. The number would be increased moderately over the total enrolled this summer.

Looking toward future sessions, and especially to official entrance into the state system on September 1, 1963, however, we believe that the University should consider a somewhat different policy after the current Fall semester. This policy would be merely a normal and reasonable expansion of existing procedures, to reflect the somewhat different situation affecting a completely public institution.

The administration recommends the following policy, to be publicly announced immediately with the understanding that it would actually become effective in 1963:

"The University of Houston, as a final stage in its continuing study of integration, will now accept qualified colored students at all levels. This follows the successful completion of earlier stages in which colored students were accepted first at the graduate level.

"Now that this higher priority need for graduate instruction for Negroes is being met, it is felt that we can also admit qualified undergraduate students. Their requirements have not been so pressing because they could receive necessary instruction at other institutions.

"The University reaches this final stage in its continuing study of integration with a great deal of satisfaction. . . We believe that integration has been achieved here in a manner fair and equitable to all concerned. We are grateful to the general public, students, faculty, alumni and the many other friends of the University for their help and understanding in resolving what could have been a very complex problem."

We request that the governing board consider the adoption of this statement as official policy. In making this request, I want to thank the board on behalf of the administration for its extremely fine cooperation and assistance during the many months and years in which we have been confronted with integration.