

Student
Ron Woodson
To
Mullin

March 10, 1967

Dear Sir:

There are certain evidences that the situation at Shimer is not resolved. Mr. Mullin has been quoted in the Rockford and Freeport papers, and more recently in the Chicago papers, with this statement: "The recent turmoil instigated by a now former member of the faculty is passing with the receipt of his resignation." I submit that the following instances draw the president's statement into question.

- 1) Since the resignation (the president is thought to have been referring to Mr. Weiser in the statements to the newspapers, however, Mr. and Mrs. Miller as well as Mr. Bellairs have submitted their resignations, and since the president refuses to deal in personalities, no one is completely sure to whom he is alluding) statement, the campus has sunk deeper in its despair as witnessed in the two school newspapers. Some of those students who are not graduating this spring are searching for other more stable environments, while prospective students who visit the campus are often appraised of the situation and warned away. This statement can easily be verified by a visit to the campus.
- 2) Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter written by the Dean of Admissions at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. The letter is dated March seventh (Mr. Weiser's resignation was announced February 19, those of Mr. and Mrs. Miller and Mr. Bellairs well before Mr. Weiser's). The letter speaks for itself, but it might be mentioned that the placement bureaus in Chicago and elsewhere that are responsible for finding openings for professors and for placing students with particular colleges are advising all parties against affiliations with Shimer. This might be observable in the number of applications received from the metropolitan, Chicago area (an historically good recruiting ground.)
- 3) Saturday, March 11, the area chairmen: Harry L. Golding, Natural Sciences; Milton McCormick Gatch, Humanities; D. Eldridge McBride, Social Sciences; the Dean of Faculty Denis Cowan, and President Mullin met in Chicago with the Instruction Committee of the Board of Trustees: Wilbur S. Edwards, Chairman; Robert J. Lavidge, Vice Chairman; Philip E. Bash; Archdeacon J. Ralph Deppen; William S. Morrison, Jr., to discuss the proposed curriculum revision. The revision, which has been passed by the faculty, involves the redrawing of each of the three sequences so that each will contain three courses instead of four. This will require the complete revision of at least two of the three areas, rather than a simple decision to drop any particular course in toto. Mr. Golding feels that because of the staffing problems presented by the resignations in his department it is unfeasible to consider the revision before 1970 (it was scheduled to go into effect in the autumn of 1968), since there will be no one at Shimer next year who is familiar enough with the natural sciences program as it fits into the general education program. Mr. Golding hopes to be at Oxford with the overseas project next semester. Mr. Gatch is suggesting that the entire revision be cancelled since the shortage of experienced teachers (those people familiar with the material and thus presumably capable of managing a full-scale revision) in his area will be even more pressing. This shortage quite naturally worries me as a student.

3-11-67