

Faculty Document # 36

April 18, 1967

Letter from the Executive Board of Indiana University A.A.U.P.
to the Board of Trustees, Indiana University.

I am writing you on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Indiana University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors and on behalf of the great majority of the 550 members of the AAUP at Indiana University. We are deeply concerned about the continued suspension of the W.E.B. DuBois Club on this campus and about the uncertain status of rules governing the registration of student groups.

In the ten months since the Board of Trustees suspended the DuBois Club, the faculty and student body have discussed this matter widely and have responded to a questionnaire administered by the University. While the results of that questionnaire may provide information of value, we believe that no mere polling of opinion can rightfully determine the questions of basic principle at stake in this situation. Further, the University cannot allow decisions of principle to follow automatically from the actions of an outside organization like the Subversive Activities Control Board. It now seems possible that the SACB may not act on this matter in any foreseeable future; but even if the DuBois Club were cited by the SACB, such citation should not in itself be the determining factor in any decision the University might make.

Indiana University has had an honored reputation for academic freedom, of which this state may be justly proud; however, the denial of registration to the DuBois Club, because of charges made against it, has impaired that reputation. We of the AAUP believe that a decision on the status of student organizations has been delayed too long for the health of this institution. We strongly urge the Board of Trustees to lift the suspension of the DuBois Club and to establish a policy of treating all student organizations alike, regardless of their political beliefs or of allegations against them which have not been proven by due procedure.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Raymond G. Murray, President
American Association of
University Professors
Indiana University