THE PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE: Race, History, and the Urgency of Action Now
2023 PRESIDENTS INSTITUTE
Designing the Future
Presenters

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The Presidential Challenge: Race, History, and the Urgency of Action Now

Eddie R. Cole, Ph.D.
If historians 50 years from now studied your presidency, what do you hope they’d find and report?
Agenda: Our Roadmap

I. The Presidential Challenges: Race and Leadership Today
II. The Challenge: Off-Campus
III. The Challenge: On-Campus
IV. What History Teaches Us: Lessons from the Past
V. The Urgency of Action Now: Designing the Future for a More Racially Justice Campus
Grade Point

U. Missouri president, chancellor resign over handling of racial incidents

Beyond a President’s Worst Fears, a Mob With Torches Arrived

By Jack Stripling  |  AUGUST 13, 2017

University of Missouri president Tim Wolfe resigned on Nov. 9 following protests and strikes over racial incidents on the Columbia, Mo., campus. (University of Missouri System)
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Chapter Two
THE UNIVERSITY and HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

“The octopus in the South has tentacles in the North! …You are part of a real movement, a real civil rights movement that is taking place here.”

– Velma Hill, activist, during a protest at the University of Chicago Administration Building

PHOTO: UChicago Chancellor Lawrence A. Kimpton (right) speaks Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley (left) during a South East Chicago Commission meeting in 1956.
College Presidents Meet, Shape Federal Housing Policies

Five mayors appeared before the Senate Banking Committee in Washington to urge approval of a 10-year $6 billion slum elimination program. They are (l. to r. seated) Richardson Dilworth of Philadelphia, Anthony Celebreze of Cleveland, Richard Lee of New Haven, Conn.; (standing) Norris Poulson of Los Angeles and Louis Miriani of Detroit. (AP Wirephoto)

U. Of C. Leads Capitol March For More Housing

By Thomas B. Ross
Sun-Times Bureau

WASHINGTON — The University of Chicago led an educators’ march on the Capitol Monday seeking increased federal housing aid to free “land-
Case History—

CREEPING SLUMS VS. A UNIVERSITY

CHICAGO

January 25, 1960

Mr. Chet Hagan
National Broadcasting Company
Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York

Dear Chet:

Your show on Cuba Saturday night certainly was well done. I hope that NBC will do many, many more in a similar vein.

It seems to me that Urban Renewal--The Problems of Our Cities--would be worth a similar take-out. New York Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles--nearly every major city--is threatened with the cancer of blight.

I would like to propose that the story of the University of Chicago's fight against blight might be a dramatic one for


THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1961.

EDUCATION
CAMPUS VS. SLUMS
Urban Universities Join Battle For Neighborhood Renewal

By Fred M. Hechinger

As higher education enrollments grow, the urban universities will play a key role in the preservation of neighborhoods in a crowded setting; and they must halt the encroachment of slums which turn the lack of space for expansion into a
“It’s not that we don’t want slum clearance; decaying areas and outmoded streets must be rebuilt. But can we, in justice, tear down people’s homes when we continue to restrict their free movement into new homes? In other words, can slum clearance and the perpetuation of residential segregation live together?”

– Nathaniel Oglesby Calloway, President of the Chicago Urban League, June 18, 1958.
CORE, UC hassle; students 'sleep in'

by Ken Pierce

Semantic difficulties slowed negotiations yesterday among participants in the week-old controversy over racial discrimination in the rental of University-owned buildings.

But at day's end, spokesmen on both sides indicated that a useful clarification of issues had been performed.

tails of subsequent meetings and demonstrations, see other stories in today's Maroon.

At approximately 3:55 pm yesterday Netherton gave Rapaport the following reply from Beadle:

"I understand the question has been asked as to whether the University is willing to discuss the possibility of change in its policy as stated in today's Maroon. The answer is yes. The tradition of

by Robin Kaufman

Whites and Negroes who claim they can't rent University-owned apartments together slept together last night on the fifth floor of the UC Administration building, 5801 South Ellis.

Some 29 University students were joined by two students from the University of Wisconsin and two representatives of the South Side chapter of CORE (Congress on Racial Equality) in an all night "sit-in" on the floor outside the office of President George Beadle.

The demonstration is part of a movement sponsored by CORE to alter the University's announced policy allowing discrimination in University-owned housing.

In addition to the sit-ins, CORE sponsored a rally in front of the Administration building at 12:30 yesterday afternoon. Nearly 200 people attended the rally where they heard brief speeches by leaders of the anti-discrimination movement.

Members of the sit-in group apparently hoped that publicity arising from the demonstration would pressure the University into changing its current stand.

Students paraded in front of the Administration building at noon. He greeted the students with a friendly "Hi" as he entered his office.

At 5 pm the group was told that the building was closed. People would be allowed to leave, but not to enter. The only phone avail.

Letter

UC policy criticized as northern liberal hypocrisy

To the Editor;

he refused to sacrifice his ideals Events of the last few days at and principles.

UC have a striking parallel at the In spite of the many obstacles, state university of my home, students and faculty there are Texas. The University of Texas literally fighting to uphold their

(UNT) through efforts which its beliefs. The student movement.
“I write you personally to seek your help in solving the grave civil rights problems faced by the nation. The leadership that you and your colleagues show in extending educational opportunity today will influence American life for decades to come.”

– U.S. President John F. Kennedy, to University of Wisconsin Regent Chair Carl E. Steiger, July 12, 1963.
The Original Affirmative Action Plans: System-Wide Change including Black Colleges

“Our long-term goal, equality of educational opportunity, means fully integrated higher education. But the interim goal must be improving Negro colleges.”

–Lawrence E. Dennis
American Council on Education, October 18, 1963
A Report on the Conference on Programs to Assist Predominantly Negro Colleges and Universities held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology April 18 and 19, 1964

Addressing a National Need: UNIVERSITY PARTNERHIPS

Brown University with Tougaloo College.

Cornell University with Hampton University.

Indiana University with Stillman College.

Princeton University with Lincoln Univ. (PA).

Dartmouth College with Talladega College.

University of Michigan with Tuskegee Univ.

University of Wisconsin with three HBCUs: North Carolina A&T, North Carolina Central, and Texas Southern universities.
“I personally, at first, was rather doubtful about this approach since I thought that integration would eventually wipe out the ‘predominately Negro’ label.”

– Wisconsin President Fred H. Harrington

“I don’t see any compelling reason to justify the continuance of Negro colleges... My feeling is that efforts should be toward non-segregated rather than segregated institutions.”

–Princeton Professor Sheldon Judson

“The general assumption that the southern Negro institutions are inferior has played an important part in prompting this co-operative effort.”

–Wisconsin Professor Harold M. Rose
The Problem of In-Action:

“...the Negro’s great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Councillor or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice.”

– Martin Luther King Jr. — April 16, 1963
What History Teaches Us:  
Lessons from the Past

- **Power** – Presidents and chancellors have played a critical role in shaping racial policies and practices both inside and outside of the educational sphere.

- **Responsibility** – Leaders set the tone for community partnerships, good and bad.

- **Imagination** – Presidents lead the national effort to create a new higher education.

*Stanford Apologizes for Limiting Jewish Admissions in the 1950s*

The university also issued a report that found that some administrators had “regularly misled” people who raised concerns about anti-Jewish bias.

By Amanda Holpuch  
Oct. 13, 2022
The Urgency of Action Now: Designing the Future for a More Racially Justice Higher Education

✓ **Social History** – Getting to Know Your Campus.

✓ **“Equal” Partners** – We > Us vs. Them.

✓ **Proactive, not Reactive** – Affirmative Action.

✓ **Legacy Building** – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and You
The Presidential Challenge: 
Race, History, and the Urgency of Action Now

QUESTIONS?

Eddie R. Cole, Ph.D.
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Download, save, or share session resources

guidebook
Thank you