

1968 Unrest

Parent perspectives on

1968

DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE
Dover, Delaware

Office of the President

May 22, 1968

Dear Parents:

I regret very much having not been able to get official word to you earlier concerning the recent temporary closing of Delaware State College. The pressure under which we have been working during the unfortunate events of the past week has made it impossible to have communicated with you earlier.

Please be assured that we are making plans and taking every available step to protect the best interest of our students and the continued operation of Delaware State College.

Delaware State College has been temporarily closed by the Board of Trustees until such time as in their opinion there will be no further disruption to the College program.

We will further communicate with you to keep you advised of official actions that may be taken in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Luna I. Mishoe
President

LIM:ebg

Delaware State College
Dover, Del.

Dr. Luna Mishoe Pres.

Dear Dr. Mishoe,

I am a concerned
parent of one of your graduating
students, D. Gregory Holt. I am
writing this letter in reference
to the graduating exercises that
has been canceled for June 3, 1968.

I would like to know what
is being done or can be done
about my son receiving his
diploma? Would the school
mail it to D. Gregory Holt- or to me
his mother, Mrs. Myrtle Holt.

because he will be needing
his diploma for job opportunity
purposes. I would like an
answer to this letter as soon
as possible with all information
needed. Thanking you, I am
"respectfully."

(Mrs) Myrtle Holt

May 19, 1968

Grossley Hall
Delaware State College
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Dr. Mishoe:

As a parent of one of the graduating seniors, I am writing you to express my and I am sure other parents feelings concerning the cancellation of the 1968 commencement exercises. I have heard from my son and a few other students about the situation which exists at the college. I cannot and will not make judgement as to with whom the fault lies, or whether the school should have been closed. I cannot understand how the board of Trustees and Faculty could make a decision to let the class of 1968 graduate without a commencement, for both student and parent. One only graduate from college once in life, and I am sure your parents were happy and a dream come true, when you received your degrees. Think of us in that way please. I have worked, prayed, sacrifice and did a lot of worrying for this day and to have it taking away from the students as well as the parents it is a disgrace to all of the people. The mothers I have spoken too is heart sick at this hour and I might add grandmothers too.

Sincerely yours,

Susan E. Slaughter
Susan E. Slaughter

May 22, 1968

3401

Mr. Edward W. Hagemeyer, Chairman
Boards Committee on Student Problems
Delaware State College
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Mr. Hagemeyer:

I must be completely honest with you in this letter. I am one of the, no doubt, hundreds of irate parents of students enrolled in your school who were put off campus for the remainder of this term because of the fracas of last Thursday.

I have been patiently and eagerly awaiting some word from you or your body explaining the indefinite closing of Delaware State College just two weeks before the end of the term, and in my daughter's case, final examinations, then commencement. Until this minute, I have received no information from you as I believe I should have, being that we, Delaware State College and I, are bound in an unwritten contract. Therefore, I am left with just the news media and word of mouth.

I applaud your calling in the Delaware State Troopers and National Guard Units to protect life, property, and to restore order, but I honestly feel and believe that I am justly perturbed and angry and do not believe that your decision to close the school for the remainder of the term, just two weeks, was in the best interest of all concerned being that National Guardsmen and Troopers restored order shortly after their arrival.

It is opinionated that after the restoration of order and the leaders of this rebellion severely dealt with that, with Guardsmen stationed to maintain order as was the case Friday when I was there to transport my daughter's belongings to home, school for the remaining two weeks should have been re-opened and thus the term completed.

I fail to believe that the faculty, then the Board of Trustees pondered the interest of all concerned and believe that their decision was unwise and unjust because these remaining two weeks of the term when compared to the efforts put forth both, financially and academically, for the complete school year and

Mr. Edward W. Hagemeyer
Page 2
May 22, 1968

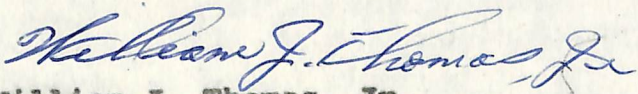
in my case the four (4) complete schools years, these remaining two weeks seem meager to say the least, being as I said, that Guardsmen restored and were maintaining order.

The students who did not participate in Thursday's dilemma have been cheated out of two weeks of their school term and the joy of commencement, and we, as parents, have been robbed of the gleeful experience of seeing twenty-two years of constant effort and sacrifice come into bloom at commencement.

I abhor the actions of these students involved, but I afore stated that, with the maintenance of order by Guardsmen, I abhor your despicable decision more so because you are the trained and experienced people involved.

I also realize that there is a two week adjustment or refund of monies paid to Delaware State College for tuitions, fees, room and board that is to be considered.

Yours truly,


William J. Thomas, Jr.

cc Dr. Mishoe
cc Governor Terry

1956

May 22, 1968

Dr. Luna I. Mishoe,
President of Delaware State College
Dorer, Delaware 19901

Dear Dr. Mishoe;
On behalf of the Parents' Club of Delaware State College, I would like to express appreciation to the Trustees, faculty, ^{staff} and administration for the fine help they have given throughout the years.

I would also like to apologize for any rudeness or impoliteness shown the authorities and associates during recent weeks of frustration and unrest.

In fairness to all concerned, we voice our contention that any and all faculty members involved in the support of the recent student demonstrations at Delaware State College be investigated and dealt with according to their obligations and responsibility to the college and the State of Delaware.

We commend the executive members of the faculty, trustees and administration for steps taken to ensure

life and protection of the school properly. At the same time we recognize and support the students' rights to demonstrate within the scope of the law. We further contend that all students' grievances be analyzed and checked with respect to their justifiable demands and that a continuous system of communication be established between the college and the student. As we think of innocent leave the who have no choice but to hope that the campus, we would hope planned for 1968 Summer School Session. We feel could be followed through a graduation exercise very strongly given for the Class of 1968. We recommend that the Administration position that the Commencement exercises will be held as usual with invitations sent to the graduates and all others sent to the graduates sees fit. We would as the Administration would spare no hope that the trustees would wish to attend pain to see that all who wish to attend would be properly protected. If the student, graduate, parent or patron

is mailed an invitation - the invitation would become the only pass. This should be made known over all news media.

As members of the Parents' Club we are 100 % for Delaware State College to support the right and help right the wrong.

Sincerely yours,
Parents' Club of College
Delaware State
Jora Norwood Selby - President

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R. W. McFALL
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International
Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

PA004 SSF730

1968 MAY 19 AM 8 45

[P WUA246 NL PDF=WILMINGTON DEL 18=
DR LUNA MISHOE=

PRESIDENT, DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE DOVER DEL=

=DEAR DR MISHOE, WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THE
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES BE HELD THIS YEAR AS PLANNED WE
WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR
ADMINISTRATION. RESPECTFULLY YOURS==

= MR AND MRS MILTON ROY PARENTS OF MILDRED LOIS ROY
CLASS OF 68 MARIE LORETTA ROY CLASS OF 70==.