

has been admitted to graduate work. This could also be corrected by executive action. The present situation creates additional uncertainties and confusion for both students and institutions. It makes it simply impossible for us to carry on any rational admissions policy or to plan properly for next year's teaching and research activities.

I should warmly welcome any action which you and your colleagues might take to rectify these unnecessary and highly damaging consequences to the nation's entire system of higher education. Since the normal season for making graduate school admissions and budgetary and academic plans for next year is already well advanced, remedial action is required with urgency.

Sincerely yours,

LINCOLN GORDON.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY,
Carbondale, Ill., February 23, 1968.

HON. EDITH GREEN,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN GREEN: I am writing to ask you to use your good offices to assure that there is a careful and thoughtful re-examination of the present policies of the Selective Service System of the United States as related to the deferment of students engaged in graduate education. I am sure that you are aware of the basic problem involved, and I therefore will not belabor you with a recapitulation of the facts.

It is the opinion of myself and my associates in the administration of the Southern Illinois University that unless major changes are effected in the current policy a very sharp reduction will be effected in the number of graduate students entering in the Fall of 1968 and probably for two or more years thereafter depending upon circumstances which are not presently discernible. This in our opinion may not be appropriate for the national well being or welfare and certainly will have serious impact upon the particular institution which is at the heart of our educational system, the multi-purpose, comprehensive university both public and private.

We have not been altogether satisfied with the practice of deferring individuals on the basis of specific occupations or preparation for specific occupations and therefore are not dissatisfied with the decision of the National Security Council to essentially equate all occupations as having equal value in the American system. We certainly do not pretend to know which of the various occupational and vocational programs for which we prepare students are either in the short-term or long-term national interests and question whether a procedure which encourages students to enter certain occupations for the wrong reasons is in the interest of either the individual or the nation. Unless we have a full-scale mobilization, we would therefore feel that the present position of the National Security Council is a proper one.

On the other hand we seriously question the validity of preferential drafting of individuals at older age levels when younger individuals are in the draft pool and are classified at 1-A. It would seem to us that the repeated suggestions of various educators and other groups that individuals be placed in the total pool by age groups with each age group making its proportional contribution to the monthly levy would be a procedure which would be both equitable and would reduce the impact of the current policy on the graduate and professional segment of higher education and in turn on the production of this segment of higher education of highly qualified people for the national needs of the short-term future.

I know that this is an extraordinarily complicated problem and that we are aware probably of only certain aspects of it. Nonetheless, we feel that the matter is of sufficient urgency that it requires a thorough re-examination and reappraisal, and we ask that you do everything you can to assure that such a reappraisal is in fact effective. We hope that the outcome of this reappraisal will be new regulations along the lines suggested above; but if in the last analysis the decision is to remain with the present policy, we can assure we will do everything we possibly can as a university to work within the guidelines, whatever they may be.

Very sincerely yours,

DELYTE W. MORRIS,
President.