

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
OFFICES OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Madison 6

Trust Officer

Vice President  
Business and Finance

February 2, 1954

RECEIVED

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Student Personnel Office

Bruce Weatherly, Chief of Police  
City of Madison  
14 South Webster Street  
Madison, Wisconsin

My dear Chief Weatherly:

It has been reported to me that on November 5 and again on November 19, 1953, a Madison police officer appeared at the seminar classroom of Professor Rondo Cameron and asked for a student who was a member of that class for the purpose of discussing with him a traffic violation in which the student was involved. It appears that the student had accumulated traffic penalties totalling some \$12 or \$13 and that he had ignored all notices from the Police Department to take care of the tickets.

I think you will agree that it was very unfortunate for a Madison police officer to enter a University classroom in order to apprehend a student who was guilty of what most people would consider a relatively minor offense. I do not mean to say that students or anyone else should ignore traffic tickets, but I am sure that most people agree that a parking violation is not in the same class of offense as a serious crime. The procedure used was particularly unfortunate in this case because the student involved was from a foreign country.

I realize that an isolated incident of this sort does not necessarily indicate what may be general practice and policy. However, it does seem necessary to guard against a repetition of the unfortunate event I have mentioned. I am sure that members of the University administrative staff and of the faculty will be happy to give their full cooperation to the Madison Police Department in any and all cases involving students of the University. May I suggest that whenever it is necessary for the Madison Police Department to contact a student while he is attending a class that arrangements be made with the University professor in charge of the class to interview the student privately? It would seem to us that this procedure would insure that justice will be done without exposing a student who may be guilty of a minor offense to being looked upon as a "man wanted by the police."

We shall be glad to discuss this procedure with you if you have any questions or if there are alternatives which should be considered.

Yours very truly,

A. W. Peterson, Vice President  
Business and Finance

AWP:lad  
CC: President E. B. Fred  
Vice President J. Kenneth Little  
Dean Mark H. Ingraham  
Professor Fred H. Harrington  
Mr. A. D. Hamann

To: A. W. Peterson

From: T. W. Zillman

Elizabeth showed me a copy of your letter to Chief Weatherly, concerning the Madison Police Department's attempt to serve a warrant on one of our students in his seminar classroom with Professor Cameron. You should know that about six weeks ago I, on advice of our Conduct Committee, agreed to cooperate with Captain Harrington of the Madison Police in an attempt to secure attention to parking tickets issued by that Department. As a result we were furnished with a long list of student violators who had not paid their fines nor had the police been able to serve them with warrants with respect thereto. I then conferred with our student court and at their good recommendation sent each student a letter pointing out his responsibilities as a citizen of this community and warning him that further action must be taken by the University should he continue delinquent in this regard.

A considerable number of our students have, as a consequence, made their peace with the City Police Department. Those who have not, have had their names forwarded to Student Court. I understand that that body is to continue attention to the matter with the opening of the new semester. I am attaching a copy of the letter sent to the individual student which was drafted for my signature by the members of Student Court.

I thought you should know the above facts since it bears on the whole matter in which you have an interest. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to direct them this way.

February 8, 1954