

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

February 11, 1998

REVISED

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustee Policy Committee

FROM: Lou Anna Kimsey Simon, Provost *LAKS*

SUBJECT: Recommendation on University Recognition of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustee Policy Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees that the University honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a manner that reflects the universality of the King legacy for all people. The Board directs the Provost to adjust the academic calendar for spring semester by canceling the regular class schedule on the designated national holiday and adjusting the academic calendar so that the number of class days is maintained. Further, the University administration should promote programs designed to explore the origins and the applications of the legacy for the entire University community.



OFFICE OF THE
PROVOST

Michigan State University
Administration Building
East Lansing, Michigan
48824-1046

FAX 517/355-9601

BACKGROUND

The Associated Students of Michigan State University provided leadership this fall in passing a bill to designate the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday as a day to honor the legacy of Dr. King by canceling classes and sponsoring an active schedule of commemorative programming. Consultation with the University Committee on Academic Policy resulted in the following understandings.

That the focus of the celebration be the legacy of King understood broadly as it applies to all;

That there be a substantial effort, including students, faculty and academic units, to plan the celebration of the legacy;

That the occasion be treated as an opportunity to increase the cultural competence of our students.

In the Academic Council, the discussion emphasized the serious intent to sustain a commitment to the academic purposes of the celebration and to develop appropriate

Trustee Policy Committee

Page 2

February 11, 1998

forums in which students could develop an understanding of the fundamental principles of equity and respect for the dignity of all that are the core of the King legacy. Students expressed their commitment to participation in activities and arenas for reflection.

The designated national holiday provides an opportunity for such a celebration. We, therefore, support the recommendation for the cancellation of regular class schedules. We do so with the understanding that there will be an evaluation of participation in and the impact of the celebration, based on its purposes, at the end of the third year.

cc: President Peter McPherson
Nancy Pogel, Secretary of the Board of Trustees
Barbara Steidle, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education
and Academic Services

cal.26c