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Eight University of Dayton Faculty Members of the Philosophy Department Censured

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DAYTON, Ohio, December 15, 1966 --- In a statement issued today by Dr. Rocco Donatelli, Chairman of the Faculty Forum of the University of Dayton, eight members of the Philosophy Department of the University of Dayton were censured by the Forum "for conduct unworthy of members of the University of Dayton faculty".

This censure follows from the conviction of the Faculty Forum of the University of Dayton that the college or university teacher holds a special position in the community and that this position imposes special obligations on him when he makes public utterances. He should at all times be accurate, should exercise proper restraint, show respect for the person and opinions of others, and should make every effort to exercise professional responsibility in the statements he makes.

The resolution, adopted by the Faculty Forum, demanded that the eight professors rescind publicly or fully substantiate their charge of incompetence against some of their colleagues. The eight professors did rescind their charges by signing the following statement: "We withdraw the charge that colleagues on the faculty 'revealed and confessed publicly their incompetence'. It is a statement we should not have made."

In announcing further action of the Forum, an advisory faculty body elected by members of the 410 full-time member UD faculty to represent the views of its fellow faculty members, Dr. Donatelli released the text of a resolution on the conduct of the current investigation on campus by the President. The text is as follows: "The Forum expresses itself as approving the manner in which the President exercised his leadership in adjudicating the cases of the four professors recently accused of teaching contrary to the magisterium of the Church. In this motion is implied approval of the President's suggestions to study matters relevant to the issues which were responsible for the recent accusations."

At the same time, Dr. Donatelli announced the selection of 3 faculty members to represent the faculty-at-large on the 7 member ad hoc committee established by the President to study the academic issues involved in the present controversy.

The members asked to serve are: Dr. Richard Baker, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy; Dr. Ellis Joseph, Chairman of the Department of Secondary Education; and Dr. Joseph Kepes, Chairman of the Physics Department.

The President of the University of Dayton, Very Reverend Raymond A. Roesch also announced the full committee which is to "formulate directives which will safeguard the purposes of a Catholic institution of higher learning and permit true academic freedom to its scholars." The seven appointees are: Dr. Richard Baker, Dr. Ellis Joseph, Dr. Joseph Kepes, Rev. Matthew Kohmescher, S.M. (S.T.D.), Chairman of the Department of Theology; William D. Kelly, Assistant Professor of Theology; ~~Dr. Joseph Diecka~~, Professor of Philosophy; Rev. William J. Cole, S.M. (S.T.D.), Associate Professor of Theology.

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Dr. Edward Harkenrider