



# INTRACOLLEGIATE GOVERNMENTAL ASSOCIATION

WEST CHESTER STATE COLLEGE  
WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA, 19380  
215-436-2836

## KAY FELLOWSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

October 5, 1970

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Dear Friend and Colleague,

If you have seen the April 1970 issue of the AAUP Bulletin, you have undoubtedly read the report on the fiasco at Alfred University in which Professor Michael Kay was summarily fired because of his participation in a peaceful demonstration. As a direct result of his experience at Alfred University, the administration and Board of Trustees at West Chester State College, have also arbitrarily dismissed Dr. Kay, effective June, 1970. Even though the dismissal of Dr. Kay was protested vigorously by both students and faculty (his department voted overwhelmingly to support him) the administration has not only refused to reconsider its decision but has answered these appeals with terminal contracts for Dr. Kay's most active supporters.

When frustration seemed complete, a member of the Intracollegiate Governmental Association (I.G.A.) presented a novel solution: why not let the students hire their own professor. Thus was born the concept of the Students' Professor. The I.G.A. which is the college's elected student government, voted overwhelming (30 to 10) to establish the Fellowship and to ask Dr. Kay to be the first recipient.

The administration, in its final effort to keep Dr. Kay off the campus, has denied the student government the use of their money for this purpose. Other funds have been pledged by various student groups. In addition, several area colleges and universities have shown interest in supporting the cause. Swarthmore College students, for example, have pledged \$1000 to the Fund.

Dr. Michael Kay, who came to West Chester State College in 1968, is an able teacher and a sound scholar. He has published in the most highly regarded professional publications. Last spring he was invited to present a paper to a meeting of the Organization of American Historians. Over 90% of the students in his classes have signed a petition demanding his reinstatement and around 2,000 students participated in a peaceful demonstration on his behalf, last February.

## ARCHIVES

# Students 'Hire' Fired Teacher At W. Chester

By PAMELA ERBE  
Of The Inquirer Staff

The West Chester State College student government voted Monday night to establish a fellowship for a visiting professor for the 1970-71 academic year and to make Dr. Michael Kay, fired by the college administration, the first recipient.

"May 31, the end of the year, was approaching fast and we felt it was time to put our money where our heads, hearts and bodies had been," said Bryn Hammerstrom, a sophomore from Bethlehem and a spokesman for the Intracollegiate Governmental Association.

## SALARY PLUS RAISE

The IGA resolution, passed by a vote of 31-10, provides \$12,500 for the fellowship. The figure represents Dr. Kay's normal salary with the increment he would have received next year.

Dr. Kay, an associate professor of history, was fired by the school's administration in what he calls "a political purge." Since he was fired, the college has been the scene of demonstrations, court injunctions and factions battling over the question of his dismissal.

"It is a very beautiful thing," Dr. Kay said. "It is a proper manifestation of student power and rights. Perhaps it will become a national precedent. It's just fantastically imaginative."

College officials were not available for comment.

## NONCREDIT COURSES

Hammerstrom said Dr. Kay would teach seminars and colloquia on a noncredit, noncredit, nongraded basis as a visiting fellow. "The administration could enjoin him from entering classrooms," he said, "but we could set up evening classes in a central meeting place like the student lounge."

The American Association of University Professors announced earlier this month it would investigate the college's dismissal of Dr. Kay. The announcement was made after the AAUP recommended the college reinstate him,

The administration has given no valid reasons for its refusal to renew Dr. Kay's contract; instead, it has accused him of failing to complete certain clerical forms (unspecified), of misusing the college's centrex telephone system, etc. The AAUP conducted a preliminary investigation last January, found evidence of severe violation of academic freedom, conducted a formal investigation this June, and is presently writing its report and recommendations. The real reasons for the firing of Dr. Kay are clear enough. The administration and the trustees do not like his unorthodox political beliefs and his support of the black students' attempts to end certain restrictive college policies.

We feel that the dismissal of even one professor for political reasons affects the welfare of all. Cases of this sort are rampant in the country today and can only be expected to increase. Imagination, courage and support are needed to combat this trend. The IGA Fellowship, the concept of the Students' Professor, chosen and supported by students, is one answer to the local and national problems of summary dismissals of faculty members whose views are untenable to an administration.

Your concern for problems of freedom and justice are known to us and we are therefore writing to you to ask your support for the Fellowship Fund. Please give as generously as you can to the Fund; in addition, send us names of potential contributors. Make checks payable to: Kay Fellowship Fund, and mail them in the enclosed envelope.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Bob McLaughlin*  
Bob McLaughlin, President  
IGA General Assembly

*Bryn Hammerstrom*  
Bryn Hammerstrom, Chairman  
(IGA) Kay Fellowship Fund  
Committee

*Frank Fox*  
Dr. Frank Fox  
Prof. History Dept.  
*Stephen Parker*  
Mr. Stephen Parker  
Assoc. Prof. English Dept.  
Faculty Supporters of the  
Kay Fellowship Fund

# ARCHIVES