Statement by President Harold T. Shapiro

Earlier today a group of students pushed a member of my staff out of the doorway to her office, took over her office, and prevented the regular exercise of University operations. These actions are deeply offensive to me personally and constitute a clear violation of University policy.

I am available on a regular basis to talk with students and others about any issues before the University. I hold office hours weekly, try to accommodate student requests for appointments whenever possible, preside at meetings of the Council of the Princeton University Community, and participate in a variety of other meetings where matters of policy and direction are discussed. I have actively participated in discussions about diversity in the faculty and the curriculum, and have authorized a number of steps in recent years to increase our commitments in these areas. But I am not willing to discuss these or any other issues while this inexcusable occupation of University office space continues.

At the same time, this activity will not dissuade us from our continuing efforts to carry out the recommendations of the Committee on Diversity and Liberal Education, to expand our Program in American Studies as our principal vehicle for courses in the comparative study of American society and cultures, and to develop courses and appoint faculty in the areas of Asian American and Latino studies. These efforts are already under way and will continue to be an area of priority for the University.

April 20, 1995