



University of Delaware

JX7

ANDREW B. KIRKPATRICK, JR., CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
P.O. BOX 1347
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19899

July 2, 1990

Harry F. Weyher, Esquire
President, The Pioneer Fund, Inc.
c/o Olwine, Connelly, Chase,
O'Donnell & Weyher
299 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10171

Dear Mr. Weyher:

The Executive Committee of our Board of Trustees recently met to discuss your letter of May 21, 1990, on behalf of The Pioneer Fund, Inc., concerning the April 19, 1990 "Report of the Faculty Senate Committee on Research on the Issue of the University of Delaware's Relationship with the Pioneer Fund," which was accepted for the University administration by the April 24, 1990 letter of then-President E. A. Trabant. Incidentally, our Executive Committee is authorized to act for the Board between its meetings, and the Board itself regularly meets only twice a year, next in December.

As a result of the Executive Committee meeting, I can report that the Committee is not disposed to override the conclusion of the Faculty Senate Committee and the University administration. The conclusion to which the Committee refers is that presently the University should neither seek nor accept further financial support from the Pioneer Fund.

As background, let me explain that our Board has, as an important objective, that the University administration and faculty enhance the racial and cultural diversity of faculty, staff, and students. As a result of diligent efforts in this regard, much has been accomplished, and it is intended to continue such efforts.

An important finding of the Faculty Senate Committee's Report is that "[a] preponderant portion of the activities supported by the [Pioneer] Fund either seek

Harry F. Weyher, Esquire
July 2, 1990
Page Two

to demonstrate or start from the assumption that there are fundamental hereditary differences among people of different racial and cultural backgrounds, . . ." (e.g., pp. 1 & 6). No matter whether that is in fact the orientation of Pioneer Fund or not, that is perceived as the orientation of the Fund by at least a material number of our faculty, staff, and students.

Without judging the merits of this perception, the Board's objective of increasing minority presence at the University could in the view of our Executive Committee be hampered if the University chose to seek funds from the Pioneer Fund at this time. This decision simply signifies that the University does not at present find its participation consistent with the University's overall interests.

Sincerely yours,



Andrew B. Kirkpatrick, Jr.

ABK:sct

cc: Edmund N. Carpenter, II, Esquire