

December 3, 1935

STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
NATIONAL STUDENT LEAGUE, CITY COLLEGE CHAPTER,  
December 2/35.

THE AMERICAN STUDENT UNION

The most important achievement of the American student movement will be launched Christmas week, Dec. 27, and 28 at Columbus, Ohio—the emergence of the American Student Union!

The Student Council at its meeting last Wednesday has officially endorsed the proposed union. The Campus, earlier this term, similarly expressed its support. These are the first indications, repeated throughout the country's educational institutions, that the Union will not remain the vested interest of any campus minority but will belong to the College body as a whole.

What kind of organization will the Union be? As tentatively outlined by the Joint Program Committee for the American Student Union, it will be in the nature of a student protective association. It will center its activities around the students' rights to an education, the safeguarding of their academic liberties, and will campaign for the demilitarization of the campus. It must be stressed here that no program is as yet drawn up. This responsibility rests upon the democratically elected conference. We urge here that every college group begin discussion on the proposals for the Union. We urge the sending of large delegations to bring the viewpoints of these organizations and help to incorporate their suggestions into the Union program. Every school organization is entitled to two delegates for their first ten members and one for every ten thereafter. Any ten students (unaffiliated) may send a delegate. It is clear that only with a large and widely representative delegation will the American Student Union be successfully inaugurated.

...To point out the specific role of the National Student League: Ever since the inception of the NSL it has played a leading part in every activity calculated to advance the interests of the student body. It led in the campaigns for adequate student relief, against the closing of summer school, against the imposition of book fees, against the raising of entrance qualifications. These actions resulted in the expulsion of three school clubs and the firing of one instructor. This in 1932. The NSL led in the anti-ROTC and anti-Fascist activity, which drew forth administrative suppression culminating in the expulsion of forty-two students. The recent reinstatement of thirteen of these students is a vindication of our activity.

It was the National Student League which first brought forth the urgent necessity of uniting all student groups collaborating at various times in all these actions. The establishment of the American Student Union is a powerful acknowledgement of the correctness of our position. We urge all students in the three weeks remaining before the convention to join the National Student League and help us send a significant representation of one of the foremost militant groups at City College.

We invite everyone to attend our next chapter meeting at which Serril Gerber, national secretary of the NSL will discuss the ASU. Time: Thursday, 3 o'clock. Place: St. James Church, 141 St. and St. Nicholas Avenue.

Robert Brown, President  
Wilfred Mendelson, Exec. Secy  
(For the Executive Committee)