

Statement by Dr. McGill

February 2, 1970

I have informed the Trustees of Columbia University that if the presidency of Columbia were offered to me, I would accept it.

It is a bit out of fashion to love institutions, but I am deeply attached to Columbia. Columbia gave me my start. It offered me my first tenure appointment, and my first position as a department chairman.

During recent years Columbia, like many universities, has experienced serious problems. Those of us who love Columbia are determined to move it into a new time of greatness. Our determination is the measure of our commitment to a fine old university as it turns to us for renewed vitality.

This is not an appropriate time to bid goodbye to the University of California, San Diego. I have been very happy here, and privileged to serve in one of the finest academic communities in the world. It is going to be very difficult to break my ties with the students, the faculty, the Regents, my brother Chancellors, and most particularly with President Charles Hitch.