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[Black Students Association and Black Faculty Acceptance of Administration Response to Demands, March 9 and 10, 1969]

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March 10, 1969

To the Sarah Lawrence Community:

The Black Students Association and the Black Faculty find this statement from the Administration in complete compliance with our demands. We have unanimously accepted it.

Black Students Association
Black Faculty

March 9, 1969

To: The Black Students Association and the Black Faculty (Miss Adams, Mrs. Cobb, Mr. Gore, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. McKinney)

- I. We agree that the following must be done between Sunday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 11: Creation of a faculty-administration committee to work with Black Students Association - membership to be determined by black faculty and students in consultation with the President, the President-designate and the Dean. (In a meeting Sunday, March 9 Connie Van Brunt speaking for the Black Students Association asked to have the following non-black committee members appointed: Grace Paley, Robert Zimmerman, and Ann Cook.) This group will be called a task force because it will have specific work, not just talk, as its purpose for being. The group will be specifically called the Task Force for Black Studies and Social Change.

A black faculty member will be appointed to serve as the chairman of the Task Force for Black Studies and Social Change to preside over its meetings until a Black Coordinator can be appointed to join the staff.

This Task Force will immediately collect names of candidates for the position of Black Studies Coordinator, collect the credentials of these individuals, and arrange with Miss Milligan for interviews of each of these men and women with the Task Force for Black Studies and Social Change, the Advisory Committee on Appointments, and any other members of the Sarah Lawrence Community the Black Students Association would like. Hopefully, a candidate could be selected, offered the position, accept the position, and agree to start work all within the six weeks between now and April 20. It could conceivably all happen more quickly. However, it might well occur that the person could be found and announced by April 10, but that he or she would not be able to give up his or her present position or come on board until a later date such as May 1, June 1, or July 1. He or she would, of course, be welcome to work informally but authoritatively with the Black Students Association and the Task Force for Black Studies and Social Change until that date.

During the period between March 11 and April 20 the Task Force's major business, in addition to recruiting of a Black Coordinator, will be to draw up an action agendum for the realization of all parts of the Black Students Association proposals presented to the September Seminar, and those in their memo of March 7 to the Sarah Lawrence Community. These include:

Response to Black Students Association and Black Faculty

1. design Black Studies-Social Change program for the curriculum
2. design a Black Arts program for the curriculum
3. recruit black faculty to teach courses in (1) and (2) and other necessary black staff, arrange for interview with Task Force members, Advisory Committee on Appointments, and the Black Students Association. It is understood that persons who may not have conventional academic credentials but who are actively involved in working directly with black people and problems within black communities will be among the candidates for these positions.
4. to seek a black administrative officer who would assist with recruitment and in the Admissions Office. This appointment to be made now with the understanding that the individual could begin work by July 1, the date of the new fiscal year.
5. assist grants officer with writing proposals for special funding for:
Black Studies Program
Black Arts Program
Paraprofessional Program

The possible "creation of a Black Studies-Social Change College by September 1970" and of a "paraprofessional training program for people from the communities" to work in urban education need to be planned as major divisions of Sarah Lawrence. Mr. DeCarlo expects to gather all the existent programs (like the College itself, the Graduate Programs, the Center for Continuing Education Programs and the Institute for Community Studies projects) and ones now being planned, for which proposals are being sent out for funding (like Mrs. Richter's paraprofessional training program for the health professions, the Remedial Reading Program, and Miss Cook's plan for an Urban Education Center) and, using a task force made up of representatives of all college faculty-student committees to put together one total plan for restructuring the whole institution to be brought to the Trustees by September 1, 1969. These two important plans of the Black Students Association would be central in the planning and take highest priority for inclusion in the Master Plan. Meanwhile, it will be essential for the Task Force, the Fund Officer and the volunteer Black Students and faculty members to put together proposals for each, so that we can apply for the funding that would be required to establish them.

Response to Black Students Association and Black Faculty

6. work with the Dean and the Curriculum Committee to include black studies curriculum and black arts curriculum as well as black lecture series in 1969-70 budget and course list, and work out what deletions in present curriculum might be made to insure inclusion of these areas even if funding by grant agencies and foundations does not come about until 1970-71.
7. work with Student Coordinating Committee and Special Events Committee to budget and plan Symposium and other Black Events for 1969-70. (Mrs. Austin, Director of Campus Events, and the Dean's Staff will continue to assist Black Students Association with spring 1969 Black Series). These will be given highest priority.

II. We agree that we must attempt to accomplish the following between March 10 and March 21:

1. Selection of two present Black Seniors and one Black Faculty member by the Black Students Association to meet with members of Admissions Committee, the President and President-Designate, and the Dean to discuss and resolve minor discrepancies in admissions procedures for black applicants approved by the General Committee, March 4, 1969, and those demanded by the Black Students Association in the March 7, 1969 memo.
2. Convocation of special meeting early in week of March 10th of full Admissions and Financial Aid Policy Committee with the Black Students Association to discuss and determine policies on admissions of, and financial aid to, black applicants, both male and female, to regular undergraduate college. Mr. Zimmerman, Chairman of this Committee, will call the meeting. This meeting and that of the group described in (1) above could take place the same day.
3. Admissions and Financial Aid Policy Committee take recommended policies for admissions and aid to black students worked out as above (2), to General Committee. The General Committee will vote on these recommendations at its next meeting, and if it approves them, will send directives to the Admissions Committee and the Scholarship Committee for immediate implementation in selecting the class and transfers to enter in September 1969 and in distributing the funds for scholarship and loans available for student aid to new students.

Response to Black Students Association
and Black Faculty

4. The original agreement of Sarah Lawrence College, Manhattanville College, and State University at Purchase will be searched to determine the exact particulars of Sarah Lawrence College's present commitment to the admission of students who have completed the program of the Cooperative College. This stated policy will be shared and discussed by Task Force with the Black Students Association and the Admissions and Financial Aid Policy Committee, and any recommendations for changes in the present agreement they make will be acted on by the Admissions and Financial Aid Policy Committee and passed to the General Committee for immediate review and vote at their next meeting. This research should be completed by April 20, 1969.

signed by

Esther Raushenbush
Charles R. DeCarlo
Jacquelyn A. Mattfeld