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WSA letter to Edwin Young on black student strike.

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Wisconsin Student Association

Chancellor E. Young
Bascom Hall

February 14, 1969

RECEIVED

FEB 17 1968

MADISON CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Dear Chancellor Young:

The support of a student strike by WSA and most other campus student governing bodies, your calling in the National Guard to quell student protests, and the march to the Capitol by over 10,000 students should indicate to you the feeling that students have been and are still denied the ability to implement their proposals through normal University channels.

The students are part of the University community. They deserve the power to help make decisions on the campus. We want more than the right to participate, we want part of the power of deciding. Without this, we cannot cooperate with the University; without our cooperation, you feel it is necessary to have martial law.

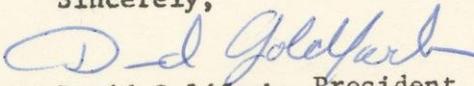
I have enclosed for you a copy of our paper "A History of the Participation by Black Students in the University Structure" which illustrates the frustration of the Blacks in working in your bureaucracy.

I have tried to make available to Black students every channel students on this campus have---they were all dead ends. I know their frustration for I, too, have faced the same obstacles on everything from conduct policy to getting rid of Organizational Advisors. I have taken these issues to Regents, faculty, committee, yourself, and vice chancellors.

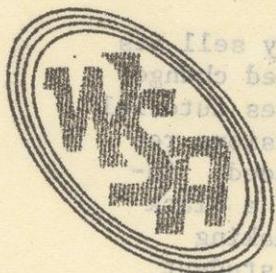
When you look at the thirteen demands of the Black students and their framework, please consider all of the things I have mentioned---also consider again the mode of response you have chosen.

When you first became Chancellor, you said to me that your door would always be open to students. Now Bascom Hall is surrounded by soldiers with rifles, and I, as Student Body President, find it difficult to get through the police guard to your secretary.

Sincerely,


David Goldfarb, President

DG:bh



Wisconsin Student Association

507 MEMORIAL UNION
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

A HISTORY OF PARTICIPATION

BY BLACK STUDENTS

IN THE UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE

Last May black and white students together demanded that the University sell shares in the Chase Manhattan Bank. At the same time, students demanded that the "Special Scholarship Program" -- a five year program which provides financial and financial assistance to black students -- be expanded to include white students. The changes demanded included the hiring of a co-director for the program, and the appointing students to a policy-making committee for the program. In response, the Chancellor created a faculty advisory committee to the Chancellor which was given no policy-making authority, although black students were led to believe the committee would have this power. At the same time, the WEA Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund was organized to raise money, part of which was to be matched by President Harrington's floating fund, to bring more blacks into the program.

The Board of Regents refused to sell the Chase stock, although the Administration stated to students that it was in favor of selling the stock. The University said it would aid financially in bringing black economic experts to the University to explain why black economic experts as well as money to sell those stocks. In the Chase Manhattan Bank.

The Advisory Committee was chaired by Professor Haller and includes five students and six faculty. The committee recommended to Director Ruth Doyle the appointment of James Baugh as associate director of the program; his position was to be defined by Mrs. Doyle. During the semester, black students felt that the program was not in favor of a Black Studies Program due to statements she had made publicly and was in no way sensitive to black students in a white University. They demanded that she be transferred from her position as director of the program.

The Haller Committee decided to take up the plea brought to them by students in the program that Mrs. Doyle be replaced. The Committee, which included four black students and one white student, after long sessions voted in a four to three decision, with one abstention, that Mrs. Doyle be transferred. One student and one faculty member were missing at the meeting due to illness. The chairman did not vote. The committee then set a meeting for the following Monday to take up other problems brought to them by students in the program in order to reorganize the program. The committee felt it had the right to take up the Doyle issue because it was a personnel issue and the committee had a right to recommend when it was instructed to recommend the appointment of an associate director. One faculty member of the committee suggested to Committee members that they were holding a trial and had no right to deal with the Doyle issue but that the students in the program had brought the issue before the committee and that a vote was set for dealing with personnel matters.

THE NEEDS OF THE BLACK STUDENTS AND

THE NEEDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The text of the committee members' report called for making them had been set. Mrs. Doyle was transferred. It was also suggested that the committee had been suggested by the Chancellor with the program.

Students of Wisconsin University are expected to be a part of the program at least through four years of study.



Last May black and white students together demanded that the University sell its shares in the Chase Manhattan Bank. At the same time, students demanded changes in the "Special Scholarship Program"--a five year program which provides tutorial and financial assistance to black students who don't meet normal admissions requirements, but who "show high potential." The changes demanded included: increasing in the number of black students in the program, the hiring of a black co-director for the program, and the appointing students to a policy-making committee for the program. In response, the Administration created a student faculty advisory committee to the Chancellor which was given no policy-making authority, although black students were led to believe the committee would have this power. At the same time, the WSA Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund was organized to raise money, part of which was to be matched by President Harrington's floating fund, to bring more Blacks into the program.

The Board of Regents refused to sell the Chase stock, although the Administration stated to students that it was in favor of selling the stock. The University said it would aid financially in bringing black economic experts to the University to explain why it was in the Regents interest economically as well as morally to sell those stocks. To date no attempt has been made to sell the University's holdings in the Chase Manhattan Bank.

The Advisory Committee to the special scholarship program was chaired by Professor Haller and includes five students and six professors. The committee recommended to Director Ruth Doyle the appointment of James Baugh as associate director of the program; his powers were still to be defined by Mrs. Doyle. During the semester, black students felt unable to relate to Mrs. Doyle. They felt she was not in favor of a Black Studies Program due to statements she had made publically and was in no way sensitive to black students in a white University. They demanded that she be transferred from her position as director of the program.

The Haller Committee decided to take up the plea brought to them by students in the program that Mrs. Doyle be replaced. The Committee, which included four black students and one white student, after long sessions voted in a four to three decision, with one abstention, that Mrs. Doyle be transferred. One student and one faculty member were missing at the meeting due to illness. The chairman did not vote. The committee then set a meeting for the following Monday to take up other problems brought to them by students in the program in order to reorganize it so as to better meet the needs of students. The committee felt it had the right to take up the Doyle issue because it was a personnel issue and the committee had set a precedent in personnel matters when it was instructed to recommend the appointment of an associate director. One faculty member of the committee suggested to Committee members that they were holding a trial and had no right to deal with the Doyle issue despite the fact that the students in the program had brought the issue before the committee and that a precedent for dealing with personnel matters had been set. The chairman also indicated that if the committee reached the decision that Mrs. Doyle be transferred it would be discrediting itself as a committee. The next day, committee members received phone calls instructing them that their scheduled meeting had been suspended and the chairman had resigned. Since that time, their services have not been called upon by the Chancellor with regard to the Special Scholarship Program.

It was at this time that black students at Wisconsin State University at Oshkosh, after waiting months for their demands to be addressed, were expelled after their alleged disruption at Oshkosh. Although four white students at Oshkosh were arrested in the building, none were expelled. Black students at the Madison

campus felt that their brothers at Oshkosh had gone through all legitimate channels, that their demands for a relevant education had not been met, and that they should be admitted to the Madison campus. EPA issued a position paper articulating the following demands and presented them to the administration:

1. That the University bring 500 minority group students to campus next year.
2. That the University dismiss Ruth Doyle from her position as Director of the Special Scholarship Program and any position related to the program.
3. That an eight week summer program be established to teach basic skills in writing, speed reading, general science, mathematics or language and black studies for all minority group students who wish, and to provide a salary equivalent to that of a twenty-five hour work week.
4. That during the year black tutors, black counselors, and a black freshman English class be made available for all minority group students.
5. That minority group students sit on admissions committees to aid in the direction of minority group students.
6. That the University finance minority group students to recruit in their home community during the year and over the summer.
7. That the University use all influence with the Oshkosh administration to readmit those students suspended and address their grievances, and failing this that they be admitted to the University of Wisconsin next semester without prejudice.
8. That there be no repercussions to the black student community for its activities.

Black students then held a class boycott to symbolize their feeling that their education at the University of Wisconsin was in no way relevant and was in fact racist.

The Chancellor then called on the Dean of Special Projects for the Central Administration, Samuel Proctor, to head a committee to study the above demands. Two black students stayed at school over Thanksgiving and worked with the Proctor Committee rather than go on vacation. The Proctor Committee explored the University to find viable ways of responding to student frustrations and to exhibit the required sensitivity to the reality of creating relevant structures necessary for individual student success. The Proctor Committee went on record as supporting the validity of the principles underlying student demands at both Oshkosh and Madison. In its report, the Proctor Committee recommended:

1. That the University of Wisconsin administration use all of its available influence to encourage the Oshkosh officials (a) to declare an amnesty for all Oshkosh students subject to disciplinary procedures as a result of the actions on November 21, 1968; (b) to allow the students currently under disciplinary action to continue their education without interruption; and (c) to accept and move to implement the student demands.

2. That the University of Wisconsin administration, if the above efforts fail, move to admit without prejudice all Oshkosh students involved in the November 21, 1968, actions who apply to the Madison campus next semester."

-Proctor Report

The Proctor Committee recommended an immediate increase in the number of black staff members who could relate sensitively to students in the Special Scholarship Program: (1) that in the Division of Student Affairs an assistant Dean be hired with responsibility to recruit, admit, and educate large numbers of minority group students; that a chief counselor and three assistant counselors, one Spanish American, one Indian, and one Black, be hired to assist the chief Black counselor, with responsibility for carrying out day to day relationships with minority group students; that Black staff be added to the Admissions, Financial Aids, Housing, Student Counseling Center, Student Organization Advisors, Career Development and Placement Service departments within the Division of Student Affairs; (2) that a Black Assistant Dean be hired in the College of Letters and Sciences with the general responsibility of an Assistant Dean, but with special interest in developing constructive relations with minority group students; (3) that a Black Assistant Dean in the School of Education, who could serve as a curriculum consultant in developing courses relevant to Black students, be hired; (4) that a Black Assistant Dean in the Graduate School be hired. The Proctor Committee recommended the formation of a Black Cultural Center at the University that would ease the student's transition from the Black community into the University and form "a base of operations from which the student could assimilate and integrate his total University experience." It would also provide the environment to expand the student's understanding of his past cultural experiences and constitute a reference source for research and scholarship in Black American Studies.

The Black students, in their demand for 500 additional minority group students next semester, requested that 225 of the 500 be admitted into the Special Scholarship Program and the remaining 275 be regularly admissible. President Harrington issued a statement December 4 expressing his regret that the Proctor Committee did not abstain from commenting on the situation at Oshkosh. Simultaneously, the Student-Faculty Financial Aids Committee in its November meeting appropriated the funds for 200 incoming Black students into the Special Scholarship Program. In its December meeting, it stated in principle its desire to appropriate funds for 275 regularly admissible students. However, many University sources have claimed that with the University's current fiscal problems, there will be no chance of appropriating the funds for the 275 students. Since its December meeting, the Financial Aids Committee has not been called, though a meeting was supposed to be scheduled in January.

Chandler Young was appointed Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and was delegated the responsibility of reorganizing the Special Scholarship Program. During Christmas vacation, he created a task force consisting of Ruth Doyle, Jim Baugh, Wallace Douma (Director of Financial Aids); and Merrit Norvell (a newly hired assistant to the Vice Chancellor). Students were not consulted in the creation or in the composition of the task force; nor were they asked to participate as members. The task force has the power to set policy, reorganize the Special Scholarship Program, and continue the programs functioning at the present time.

Students, up until this time, were always co-opted into committees dealing with the situation of Black students on campus. These committees never had any meaningful power, and now that a task force which is the first body that has been given meaningful decision-making authority in this area has been created, students have not been included.

After much student concern was expressed, Vice Chancellor Young finally did agree to call a meeting of students in the Special Scholarship Program to consider placing student members on the task force. Mrs. Doyle has resigned her position with the task force and has taken the position of assistant and advisor to Vice Chancellor Young on matters dealing with Black students.

Three Black students who were expelled from Oshkosh applied for admission to the Madison campus this semester. The Madison Faculty Committee headed by Vice Chancellor Young which reviewed their qualifications urged unanimously that they be admitted here. They possessed the necessary academic qualifications and their transcripts from Oshkosh showed them in good standing. The Central Administration chose, however, to ignore normal admissions procedures and intervened to overrule the admission of these three students. At a meeting of the Chancellors of all U. W. campuses, the Chancellors recommended to President Harrington that the three students not be admitted at the Madison campus. We are left to assume that the University of Wisconsin committed an overtly racist act when it refused to admit these three students who were qualified and who applied to the Madison campus. In refusing to offer a place at the University to the 90 Oshkosh students expelled, the Administration failed to recognize their obligation to provide an education to those being denied one because of political and racial identity.

In summary, the Black student community has waited and cooperated for months through every conceivable legitimate channel to see the promises that were made to them operationalized. The only response on the part of the Administration has been manipulation, avoidance, and co-optation. In their attempt to placate black unrest with promises of no real substance or meaning, the University has shown itself to be a racist institution and in no way does the Administration deserve the trust and good faith it is appealing for. Therefore, the following non-negotiable demands of Black students require the mobilization of the entire student community, which is victimized by the same manipulation every day.

1. Autonomous Black Students department controlled and organized by Black students and faculty, which would enable students to receive a B.A. in Black Studies.
2. A Black chairman of the Black Studies department, who would be approved by a committee of Black students and faculty.
3. That at least 500 Black students be admitted to U.W. for the semester of September, 1969.
4. That 20 teachers be allocated for the initiation of the Black Studies department with the approval of Black students.
5. That amnesty (defined as no reprisal or chastisement) be given all students who participate in boycotts or other such actions in reference to our demands.
6. That a Black co-director of the Student Financial Aids Office be appointed with the approval of Black students.
7. That Black counselors be hired by the Student Financial Aids Office with the approval of Black students.
8. That scholarships be provided for all athletes up until the time that they receive their degree.

9. That the existing Black courses be transferred into the Black Studies department.
10. That it be established that Black students have the power to hire and fire all administrators and teachers who are involved in anything relating to Black students.
11. That it be established that control of the Black Cultural Center be in the hands of Black students.
12. That all expelled Oshkosh students who wish to attend U.W. be admitted immediately.
13. That proof (as defined by Black students) with the above demands have been met be given to Black students by the administration.

Once again this past Friday, the black students attempted to present their demands to the Chancellor, but the Chancellor decided not to make himself available. It is clear that attempted negotiations have failed. The only answer can be for all students to mobilize in a united front to strike against the racism endemic in this institution.

In summary, the Black student community has waited and cooperated for months through every conceivable legitimate channel to see the promises that were made to them operationalized. The only response on the part of the Administration has been manipulation, avoidance, and co-optation. In their attempt to placate Black unrest with promises of no real substance or meaning, the University has shown itself to be a racial institution and in no way does the Administration deserve the trust and good faith it is appealing for. Therefore, the following non-negotiable demands of Black students require the mobilization of the entire student community, which is victimized by the same manipulation every day.

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2. A Black chairman of the Black Studies department, who would be approved by a committee of Black students and faculty.
3. That at least 500 Black students be admitted to U.W. for the semester of September, 1969.
4. That 30 teachers be allocated for the initiation of the Black Studies department with the approval of Black students.
5. That amnesty (defined as no reprisal or chastisement) be given all students who participate in boycotts or other such actions in response to our demands.
6. That a Black co-director of the Student Financial Aide Office be appointed with the approval of Black students.
7. That Black counselors be hired by the Student Financial Aide Office with the approval of Black students.
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