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Black Students Environment Questions and Issues

Commission for Blacks

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March 13, 1973

Memo to Hardy Liston

Re: Black Students - Environment

I am attaching copies of questions submitted by Allenburg and Callian. My outline of questions is as follows:

1. Special Data

At the present time, I don't know what questions we may want to ask in this category.

2. Counseling

Are there any black counselors on campus in the categories listed by Howard (Counseling Center; The Corner; religious)?

What efforts have been made to recruit in this area?

What counseling mechanisms, if any, exist for blacks at neighboring colleges and universities?

Are there identifiable special counseling needs related to blacks?

To what extent are the remedial reading courses utilized by blacks?

To what extent are abortion referral and sex education services on campus utilized by blacks (breakdown by sex)? Are there any blacks involved in providing such services?

Are there other counseling services available on campus (e.g. dormitory advisors)? If so, to what extent are they used by blacks? Administered by blacks?

To what extent, if any, does racial bias appear as a factor in the problems of students (black and white) who seek psychological counseling?

3. Housing

(a) On-Campus

Is there any attempt to match roommates by background other than by race? Do other colleges and universities utilize any techniques of matching by background?

What is the length of the mandatory rooming-together period for assigned students? How does this compare with other neighboring institutions?

What is the changeover, by quarter (1st quarter, 2nd quarter students, etc.) and by sex, from mixed-race to single-race rooming situations?

Is there any changeover (if so, at what times) from single-race to mixed-race rooming?

What percentage, if any, of blacks ~~are~~^{is} randomly assigned initially with other black roommates?

Is there any correlation between changeover from mixed- to single-race rooming based on the number of roommates in the original rooming situation?

Are there any special problems associated with the presence of blacks in college dorms? If so, how have these problems been met and solved? Are there any major outstanding problems in this category?

Is there a University counseling service that attempts to bring together blacks and whites who would like to room together voluntarily? Do other schools have such a service? Is it feasible?

What are the reasons given for break-up of mixed-race rooming situations?

Do separate rooming quarters for football athletes create any special problems for blacks?

(b) Off-Campus

Can patterns of discrimination be identified in off-campus rooming?

Does the University provide any mechanism for eliminating any such discrimination? Do neighboring campuses? If the University does not, what are its reasons for not doing so?

What percentage of black students, as compared to white, live off-campus? Are there identifiable areas in which they tend to congregate?

Are there any off-campus mixed-race rooming situations?

What are the reasons given for choice of on-campus or off-campus rooming by blacks?

4. Social Affairs

Is there any inter-racial dating or marriages on the campus? How do the statistics in this area compare with neighboring campuses?

To what extent do blacks attend white social events such as dances and parties? Vice versa? Are there any university-sponsored, or dormitory- or campus-church sponsored activities in these categories? What is the comparison with neighboring institutions? Is there a felt need in this area?

5. Recreation (Entertainment)

In what areas of entertainment are black attendance and interest greatest? Smallest? Are the results in any way especially associated with black interests or lack of interest?

6. Community Affairs

To what extent do community institutions, such as Knoxville College, community churches, movies, eating and entertainment places, private homes, provide a source of community involvement and interest for blacks? Are there areas of especial need, or especial success, in this regard?

7. Cultural Programs

What areas or types of ^{programs} entertainment are most attended or liked by blacks?

To what extent are blacks involved in the planning and implementation of such programs? Are there mechanisms for especially seeking their involvement?

8. Human Relations

What kinds of discriminations, real, imaginary, unprovable, symbolic, etc., are perceived by black students in their day-to-day contact with other students, faculty, administration, safety and security, community? Are there any major areas of concern in this respect?

Are there facilities especially available to blacks in the Student Center? Elsewhere on campus? On other campuses? Of what nature? Are such facilities also utilized by whites?

9. Information and Perspectives

Is there any institutionalized device on this campus, other than the Equal Employment Committee, for handling and resolving racial or other discriminations? On other campuses?

Is there any institutionalized method on this or other campuses for bringing blacks and whites together to discuss problems of mutual concern and interest in the area of race relations?

10. Other Special Problems

No questions at the present time.

Jerry Pully,