Record of Conversation with Dr. Richard Nash

Commission for Blacks

Follow this and additional works at: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_blacktaskmeetings

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Issues, Proposals, and Recommendations at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Task Force Meetings and Interviews by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.
9 July 1973

Record of conversation with Dr. Richard Nash - June 29, 1973

Present: Barbara Reid and Roy Knight

Dr. Nash prepared answers to some of the Task Force questions concerning the Counseling Center and asked Ralph Boston to prepare answers to others. Copies of both sheets are attached.

The Counseling Center works with students primarily, providing counseling and testing services. There is no charge for any of their services -- only for tests issued by national testing services.

The center is involved in academic, vocational and personal counseling. Most emphasis, especially in academic and vocational counseling is placed on freshmen and sophomores, but frequently the center is called on even by seniors and graduate students. The center often refers students to certain faculty members in their department who have shown willingness to help in this way.

At the present time, not many blacks are taking advantage of this facility. Most who do apparently are referred to the center by Ralph Boston in Special Services, associated with Nash's operation. Some have been referred by the Residence Halls staff. Discrimination does not seem to be one of the reasons black students come to the center. The subject may be mentioned in the course of discussion at times, however. Nash was clear on the point that blacks bring problems to them similar to those of whites.

Staff:

Dr. Nash expressed a desire to have a black counsellor. He was quick to say, however, that he was not looking for a person to counsel blacks specifically. It was his feeling that merely having a black counsellor's presence on the staff would increase black students' feeling of assurance. He feels he would need a well-qualified person for this position and would like for that person to be one who could go out to meet the students and extend the services of the center. It was his hope that this approach would bring more black students to the center.

Just now he feels that his budget will make it difficult to find a black with the desired qualifications. The demand for such people is great apparently. He seemed to be making the effort and had some hope that candidates he had been cultivating might agree to come.
Comment on Ralph Boston's Work:

Noting that Ralph Boston worked with programming of black activities, Nash commented that he would like to see these have a place as a more formal adjunct to existing student programs.

As advisor to students and AAITF, Ralph Boston functions as something of an ombudsman for students, black students especially, but also for some white students. He apparently spends a lot of time in discussion with students ('rapping').

Publicity of services:

The following list gives the major means by which the center's services are made known:

- Brochures to parents in Summer Orientation
- Selective distribution of brochures in Residence Halls
  (Halls from which few students are requesting the services of the center)
- Feature article in Beacon (less of this lately)
- Staff meet groups - fraternities, sororities, and Residence Halls
- Referral by Advising Centers

It was pointed out that most students take the initiative to avail themselves of the Center's services.