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Notes From Meeting of the Sub-Task Force on Student Activities

Commission for Blacks

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NOTES FROM MEETING OF THE SUB-TASK FORCE ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES
COMMISSION ON BLACKS
May 10, 1976 - 3:30 p.m. - Black Cultural Center

Persons Present: Dennis Greer, Dennie Littlejohn, John Morrow, Robert Gibson
(for a portion of the time), and Mary Rose Gram (Chairperson).
Jim Grubb and Phil Scheurer were working on budget.

Dennie Littlejohn described the development of the Black Cultural Center upon
the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the development of the Black Cultural
Center and read the charge and functions. Administratively, the Black Cultural
Center reports to Dr. Jackson, who is associated with Cultural Studies in general.
There also is an advisory board to the Black Cultural Center, which is chaired by
Ira Harrison. Mr. Littlejohn has set up the Center with five units to accomplish
their mission: Unit 1 - internal support, which is headed by the clerk typist;
Unit 2 - cultural programming which is headed by a graduate assistant; Unit 3 -
research and development. This unit is sending a questionnaire to black seniors
determining their perspective in relation to the University. They also are going
to pick up activity cards for fall and winter to determine which activities were
attended by black students. They also are writing a history of Mechanicsville
and working on a redefinition of the Center from the standpoint of the student.
Unit 4 is Library Services which is reading and study rooms. Unit 5, advising
and tutorial section, especially for freshmen and sophomores. This unit is writing
letters to students with 1.5 GPA's and below. This group is headed by a Ph.D.
candidate in C&I which is paid for approximately 8 hours a week on the biweekly
payroll. However, he usually works about 16 hours a week. This is manned by
about 30 volunteers.

The Center also administers Black Cultural Week and Black History Week.
The Center is also attempting to organize black alumni to have activities during
homecoming and for the support of minority scholarships. The head of the Center
works closely with the programming committees for activities in trying to incorp­
orate activities of interest to the black student. Items which are not covered
by the Cultural Center activities include Housing, Food Service and Intramurals.
The greatest needs for the Center are for increased money, increased space and
increased staff to adequately handle the activities. In particular, more money
is needed for obtaining tutors for the students and for publications materials
for publicity, such as pamphlets describing the activities of the Center and so
forth. Approximately, 200 seniors are being sent questionnaires to obtain information.
These questionnaires are to be signed, which may limit the number of questionnaires
returned.

The President of AASLF expressed concern that services to black students are
not keeping up with the increased number of black students on campus. For example,
in the Intramural Program, which has increasing numbers of black teams, only a very
few black referees are used. Some progress was made this year in the selection of
the cheerleaders. Twelve males tried out, two of whom are black. Six males were
chosen, one of whom was black. Fifty females tried out, four of whom were black.
Six females were chosen, one of whom was black.

John Morrow suggested that black graduate students have specific problems
which are not covered by the activities of the Black Cultural Center. In particular,
he mentioned the number of black students who start graduate school, but who do not
finish their degrees.
In a general discussion, it was decided that it was impractical to try to develop a comprehensive questionnaire for this spring. However, immediately the Committee would start at the next meeting on May 17, working on information wanted for the questionnaire. Every effort would be made to utilize the information from all sources, such as the research unit of the Black Cultural Center, the Black Task Force student questionnaire and the Housing Division questionnaire in developing the comprehensive questionnaire for Fall, 1976. Meanwhile, recommendations of the Sub-Task Force to the Commission would be based on general information readily and obviously available, which would be done by the Summer of 1976.

MRG/nke
FSNFSA
5/11/76