

# SASS-SC-Hargaden Controversy Continued at Council Meeting

A sharp controversy developed last Sunday night over a letter sent from Frederick Hargaden, Dean of Admissions, to members of Student Council concerning their decision to endorse four demands of the Washington Afro-American Students Society on Black admission policy and Black student

life. This resulted in Student Council's proposal for a closed meeting of Student Council Admissions Committee, the SASS College Relations Committee, and one or two representatives of Black students not associated with SASS.

The letter, another in a series of events stemming from an ongoing dispute between SASS and the Admissions Committee, criticized Council's actions in its Wednesday night meeting as, in Mr. Hargaden's words in a Phoenix interview, "a prescription more to a very sensitive and very complex case".

The Dean also felt that Council had been "irresponsible" in not consulting with the Admissions Committee before making the decision.

The dispute over Black admissions began several weeks ago when SASS objected to Mr. Hargaden's placing on General Reserve the controversial Admissions Report which the Black organization claimed, included "personal data" which should not have been made available to the entire college community. On Monday night, October 14, Clinton Edwards, President of SASS, led a rally of approximately forty Black students from an Admissions Committee meeting. A Black caucus on Wednesday of the same week formulating the four "demands" that were endorsed by SC last Wednesday (see The Phoenix, Friday, November 1) at a meeting attended by about twenty members of SASS.

Council's reaction to the letter and to Mr. Hargaden's point of view was mixed and the many nuances of the question involved were discussed in a very stormy meeting. In speaking to Mr. Hargaden's objection to Coun-

life "quite response in a 'positive' group, John Braxton said, "I thought we had a pretty good, pretty rational discussion (at Wednesday's meeting). By responding to SAAB in a rational way, they responded to us rationally. I didn't feel we acted hastily."

#### DEBATE

Roger Ford, however, disagreed. "I did feel we acted hastily," he said. "I don't like the idea of demanding 'demands' . . . Now, I don't think we really considered how the students we're supposed to be representing feel." Lauren Brinkner felt that Mr. Hargrader was objecting "to the atmosphere in which we approved the demands, not to the demands themselves." He also added that he thought "they were legitimate demands."

It was believed by most SC members, however, that Council should, rather than respond directly to the letter, seek to ameliorate the conflict which had, in one member's words "become too personal" on the part of all involved. With this in mind, SC President Ellen Schell suggested that the entire question be considered at a joint Student Council-Admissions Committee meeting where Council could "get some facts on what is happening with these demands."

Members of the voting group agreed on the principle of the meeting but stated that "SAAB should be an observer" in the discussion. The question then arose as to whether the presence of so many people at such a meeting would create an unwelcome situation. Bernard Gross, a SAAB member and an observer, asserted that the five-member SAAB College Relations Committee would present a good representation of the SAAB position without creating too much confusion.

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Lyle Bender, however, was not in favor of including SAAB in the deliberations, claiming that their presence would "jeopardize" Student Council's efforts to study the Admissions Committee report. John Braxton disagreed, noting "Why should another group present inhibit the Admissions Committee from presenting their position?" He added that he saw "lots of parallels between the way the faculty and administration deal with us and the way we deal with SAAB."

Mike Gross, another SAAB observer, brought another dimension to the argument. "You are not the ones to represent the Black students' point of view," he asserted. There should be debate then as to whether to include non-SAAB Black students in the joint meeting. A resolution that the SAAB College Relations Committee and one or two Black students not associated with SAAB should be invited to the meeting was carried 5-1, with Lyle Bender and Hank Levy the two dissenters.