

SASS 1a

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

May 1, 1970

Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society
Swarthmore College:

This is in response to your letter of April 15, 1970 asking for a clarification of the structure and responsibilities of the Black Studies Curriculum Committee and its function vis-a-vis the incoming director.

The original structure was the result of conversations which President Courtney Smith had with representatives of SASS and of the faculty in the spring of 1968. The proposal that was adopted was to establish a committee of five students, four of whom would be members of SASS, and six faculty members. The members of the original committee were:

Marilyn C. Allman
Allen J. Dietrich
Clinton A. Etheridge
Marilyn J. Holifield
Don A. Mizell
Charles Gilbert
Asmarom Legesse
John S. Shackford
Jon Van Til
Harrison M. Wright
Frank C. Pierson, Chairman

While it was assumed that the committee would have responsibility for advising President Smith and the faculty on any plans for a Black Studies program, the specific functions of the committee were not spelled out. The only statement setting forth the committee's jurisdiction appeared in President Smith's letter of May 17, 1968 appointing the members of the committee; in this letter President Smith said:

I will continue to encourage departments to be considering what studies can appropriately and effectively be made a part of their offering at the earliest opportunity but it is my hope that your committee will give focus to all of our efforts and see how individual additions to our program may build into some larger and more coherent program.

In line with this statement, the Committee assumed responsibility for recommending the program in Black Studies which was established in 1969. It also participated actively in the selection of a permanent director and cooperated with the various departments in developing course offerings in this field.

The original committee was appointed for the year 1968-69 and on July 11, 1969 Acting President Edward Cratsley appointed a successor committee for the year 1969-70. This committee also consisted of five students, of whom four were members of SASS, and five faculty members. The members of the 1969-70 committee were:

Charles Gilbert
Robert C. Mitchell
John S. Shackford
Harrison M. Wright
Laura Hassler
Don Mizell
Julius Nicholas
Delmar Thompson
Aundrea White
Frank C. Pierson, Chairman

In general, the committee has welcomed visitors, both faculty and student, who have expressed an interest in attending meetings. During the past year, particularly, members of the faculty actively involved in the Black Studies program have been invited to join informally in the committee's deliberations; these faculty members are:

Daniel Bennett
E. L. Harris
Raymond Hopkins
Kathryn Morgan
J. Deotis Roberts
Jon Van Til

There has been no discussion as yet about the relationship between the committee and the new director, Clement Cottingham, since it will be necessary to get his views before any decision is reached. Presumably the committee will continue to function in an advisory capacity, however, for at least a brief period of time.

Sincerely yours,

Black Studies Curriculum Committee