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RESOLUTIONS OF THE STUDENT BODY

The 600-700 students who have attended the student plenums feel that the resolutions passed by that group should be considered the expressions of the "student body", although a good number of individual students disagree with those resolutions. We realize that not all students are present at the meetings and that conservative ones are more likely to be absent, but we feel that this is also true of student referenda, which are accepted as the voice of the student body. We also hope that the faculty realizes that the amount of discussion of issues which occurred at the meetings does not reflect the amount of student consideration that has gone into the resolutions. (Amplification)

January 9

- 1) That we support SASS demands as proposals.
- 2) That we do not support SASS demands as demands.

Amplifications: We feel that these resolutions mean that the student body supports the substantive content of the demands, but not their presentation as demands.

- 3) We urge the faculty to decide immediately on implementation of the goals embodied in SASS demands and that "substantive implementation" is defined as the establishment of a committee for selection of a black administrator or counselor and of a committee to establish specifics of a new admissions procedure.

January 11

The actions of SASS have dramatized the inadequacies of the decision-making processes at Swarthmore, generating in the minds of many concerned members of the community the need for a probing re-evaluation of the procedures which Swarthmore has utilized for institutional change. The specific suggestions for the structure of future decision-making should be carefully and thoughtfully considered. Rather than a hasty and ill-conceived proposal for the restructuring of such decision-making processes, a commitment needs to be made now, on the part of the faculty, administration, and students, to the general theory of the methods of institutional change which would be more responsive to the needs of the community, i.e.,

That a legitimate process be established for decision-making, constituted such that it recognizes the right on the part of those groups which will be affected by the decision to take part in the process. Thus faculty, administration, and students would represent their respective constituencies in the decision-making body.

The importance of such an understanding of the process of institutional change is that it provides for the community a decision-making process which can be trusted, which is neither arbitrary nor obscure, and which provides channels for the legitimate expression of the various points of view of those who will be affected by the decision.

January 13

- 1) We support the inclusion of black people at all relevant levels of decision-making in the College. While in the future we feel that this SASS demand will be met by the appointment of black faculty, administrators, or counselors, until such time as there exists sufficient black representation in the faculty to accomplish adequate representation of black interests, this demand must be met by the inclusion of black students or outside resource people acceptable to black students. This is to ensure that no decision concerning black people can be made without black interest being represented in the process of reaching that decision.

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Amplification: This statement was passed partially to express the view that the question of student power is not involved explicitly in the present crisis. The students feel that consideration of this issue should be postponed until next semester.

2) Until the Faculty has finished with the agenda of SASS demands to the faculty's satisfaction, and until SASS has responded to all the decisions made by the faculty, we propose a) that all academic business of the College be suspended and b) that at this time this body will decide whether academic College business should be resumed.

Amplification: The students realize that the plenum is in no position to enforce its viewpoint on the question of academic business. This resolution, therefore, should just be taken as a statement of the student body's feeling on the question of academic business and not as an attempt to dictate that classes not be held.

3) At this time the Ad Hoc Black Admissions Committee should be composed of four students elected by SASS, one student elected by the student body, one faculty member endorsed by SASS, two faculty members elected by the faculty, and two members of the administration.

Amplification: This composition was proposed so that the viewpoint of the student body would be represented without enabling the black perspective to be overruled by a 6-4 vote.

January 13

1) We understand, as the Vice-president of SASS has stated, that SASS now represents the interests of all members of the black Swarthmore community, and we also understand that black members of said community who are not members of SASS may vote on issues concerning their interests. In order to insure that in the future all black members of the Swarthmore community are represented in the decision-making processes, we ask SASS to guarantee that non-SASS black members of the community of Swarthmore be informed of all meetings of SASS, always be allowed to vote on issues decided at such meetings, and be informed of all decisions made at such meetings, without regard to the extent of their previous participation.

2) That all money won by the College Bowl Team (and that will be won) be used to implement the programs regarding black admissions adopted by the College.

3) The students believe that the injustice of barring student observers from faculty meetings has become particularly obvious in the recent crisis. We feel that this faculty action violates the stated desire to increase student-faculty communication on the issues. We therefore protest the faculty's decision in favor of closed meetings, and we urge that the faculty meetings in the future be open to observers, with student participation allowed by a majority vote of the faculty.

Amplification: We do not mean to deny the right of the faculty to hold closed meetings when necessary (e.g. when personalities are discussed), but merely wish to express our feeling that meetings should in general be open.

The following seven resolutions were considered together:

4a) We urge that the academic business of the College be suspended until SASS has voluntarily vacated the Admissions Office. (Defeated: 206 yes, 315 no, 27 abst.)

4b) Give n the good faith shown by the faculty in acting promptly and completely in its eyes on the two sets of SASS demands, the student body endorses a return to classes Tuesday, since the faculty so desires. We feel that such problems as remain can best be solved through open discussion in a regular academic atmosphere. (Defeated: 201 yes, 355 no, 40 abst.)

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4c) We endorse the clarified demands of SASS. We consider that all academic business should continue to be suspended until these demands have been met to the satisfaction of SASS. We request the faculty to convene at their earliest convenience to consider and act upon these demands. (Passed: 306 yes, 264 no, 34 ab.)

4d) In order to reach a speedy solution to the crisis, the students will return to class unless a) SASS comes out of the Admissions Office to negotiate, and b) the administration does not re-enter the Admissions Office until negotiations are concluded. (Defeated: 117 yes, 346 no, 101 abst.)

4e) In the light of SASS' clarification of demands, we urge the faculty to meet tomorrow and in the light of this, that there be no classes tomorrow. We will meet again in plenary session to decide on further actions when the faculty and SASS have responded to these developments. (Defeated: 179 yes, 308 no, 75 abst.)

4f) Having already expressed support for SASS demands of 23 December and 9 January, we would like at this time to support the faculty's response to these proposals as representing a satisfactory attempt to act on these demands in the best interests of all parties.

If SASS continues to have objections to the faculty action and to present new demands, we urge that, in good faith, SASS open discussions of these points directly with the faculty, out side of the Admissions Office.

We cannot guarantee our continued support for the actions of SASS through suspension of academic business if such actions do not reflect good faith. (Passed: 281 yes, 280 no, 33 abst.)

4g) We recognize that the decision to hold a class is a personal matter between the faculty and the students involved in the class. We also recognize that an individual's decision to attend classes is a personal decision based on a number of criteria. However, we urge the faculty and students who do meet in classes to consider collectively whether or not they want to hold class in light of the present crisis situation. (Defeated: 208 yes, 305 no, 60 abst.)

Amplification: The voting procedure on these motions definitely needs clarification. After all seven proposals were presented, it was decided that the order in which they were voted on might prejudice the outcome (i.e. if from radical to conservative, the more radical would be favored). Therefore, it was decided that the proposals would be arranged in order along the continuum from radical to conservative and that voting would be from both ends inward (i.e. most radical first, most conservative second, next most radical third, etc.) Thus the voting did not indicate exact student support for each proposal, in that students who wanted strong statements one way or the other ceased to vote in favor of the more moderate positions, once an extreme had been passed.

It was decided to hold a run-off between the two positions winning majority support (c and f). The run-off was held twenty minutes after the voting on the first seven and some people may have left. The vote was 4c) 315, 4f) 230, abstain 31.

January 14

We propose that the money from the one fast allowed this year by Saga be devoted to black scholarship, support, etc.

General Amplification: Questions of good faith have also been raised. We feel that the vast majority of students have been acting in good faith in that they feel that what they have been doing since SASS entered the Admissions Office has been in the best interests of Swarthmore College. Furthermore, we know of no students who favor the destruction of the College and are acting toward that end. Two members of the student coordinating committee are willing to attend the faculty meeting to answer questions if the faculty so desires.