

The following is a letter from Student Council to Mr. Hargadon requesting a formal channel of communications. between the Admissions policy committee and SASS.

12 December 1968

To: Mr. Hargadon and members of
the Admissions Committee

From: Student Council

Re: The status of policy relating
to Black admissions

Both Student Council and SASS have communicated to you their belief that it is essential that SASS, in some formal and organized way such as through their college relations committee, be consulted in questions of policy with respect to Black admissions. Would you please inform us as to the status of these deliberations in your committee, of any plans you have for including SASS in these considerations, and of the timetable under which you are operating on these matters.

Student Council has been informed that the Dean of Admissions has been approached and asked to speak to two outside people well-versed in problems of Black admissions, and that he declined the offer. These two individuals are Harriet Michel from the National Scholarship Service Fund for Negro Students and William Adams, the assistant dean at the University of Pennsylvania. We feel that both of these people might be able to offer helpful insights into our own situation at Swarthmore and that it would be useful for them to speak to the Admissions Committee as well as to interested students. A meeting could be arranged, if you are willing.

We would appreciate hearing from you on each of these questions as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,
Ellen Schall
Student Council President

The following is Mr. Hargadon's reply to the above letter from Student Council.

December 13, 1968

To: Ellen Schall, Student Council President

From: Fred A. Hargadon, Chairman of the Admissions Policy Committee

Concerning your letter inquiring about the status of policy relating to the admission of Negro students to Swarthmore College, the following can be said at this time:

- 1) The Committee will be meeting next week to make final revisions in a tentative statement of policy recommendations to be submitted to the faculty for discussion. It is anticipated that such a discussion will take place immediately after the return from Christmas vacation. After having ascertained faculty views on the matter, we intend to distribute the tentative recommendations to all Negro students in order to ascertain their views on the subject. Hopefully a final policy statement would then be forthcoming within a week or so after that. This timetable would allow us to take such policy into consideration before making admissions decisions for this year.
- 2) The reasons why it has taken nearly a full semester to bring forth policy recommendations should be clear to anyone who has read the Phoenix during that period of time.
- 3) The Committee has (and will continue to do so) consulted all Negro students--including SASS and its members--on matters relating to the admission of Negro students. However, since all of us on the Committee carry other responsibilities in the College, we have had to bring our efforts to a conclusion as best we could within the limited time and resources available to us. We have patiently waited for replies to inquiries made in a letter sent to all Negro students last October 21st, but as yet have received not a single reply. (See especially the last two pages of the attached letter; please also note that this letter preceded your Council meeting of Nov. 6 by fifteen days.)

4. The Committee met to hear the views of the College Relations Committee of SASS on November 3rd, at which time we discussed their ideas on recruitment and enrollment (later submitted to us in a memorandum.)
5. The Committee has sought the views of other colleges and universities regarding the matter at hand where their experiences seemed appropriate ones for us to draw upon. We have also consulted with various programs, e.g. the ABC and Transitional Year programs for information on programs of that nature. We have found in our consulting that it is very easy to gain great numbers of subjective opinions, and extremely difficult to gather any hardnosed information or facts concerning progress with risk programs, degree of difficulty of such programs, especially from colleges similar in their academic program to Swarthmore. We have written to an Assistant Dean of Admissions at Penn, at the suggestion of SASS, and are expecting his reply with whatever pertinent information he has gathered on the subject. As for the NSSFNS person recommended by SASS, I have spoken with her and suggested that we could more appropriately draw on her expertise at NSSFNS after Swarthmore itself, through its faculty, decided the order and degree of its priorities. (NSSFNS is a clearing house operation for Negro students throughout the country.)
6. The tentative recommendations being drawn up by the Committee will be in three parts: (A) recommendations concerning the recruitment and enrollment of Negro students at Swarthmore; (B) recommendations concerning certain "student life" aspects of the experiences of Negro students in the College; and (C) recommendations concerning the contributions which the College might appropriately make toward enhancing the opportunities for Negro students to attend college in general.
7. I would emphasize that the recommendations the Committee is now working on will be tentative and none will be adopted without the provision of opportunities for full discussion by the Negro students already here.

Sincerely,
Fred A. Hargadon

12, December, 1963

To: Mr. Hargadon and members of the Admissions Committee
From: Student Council
Re: the appointment of students to the admissions committee

The Admissions Committee has indicated its desire to have students serving on a newly constituted Admissions Policy Committee. Student Council feels that it is very important that these students join the Admissions Committee in its deliberations as soon as possible. We would like to appoint these students now, if only for a term of one semester. Could you please advise us as to your willingness to meet with such students as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen Schall, president
Student Council

Dec. 13, 1968

To: Ellen Schall, President of Student Council
From: Fred Hargadon, Chairman of the Admissions Policy Committee
Re: Possible student representation on the Admissions Committee

Due to the press of other business, the Committee has not had time to fully explore the question of whether it should have student members, or, if so, under what conditions. We briefly discussed the matter of student representation at the first meeting of the year, and while generally favorably disposed, came to no conclusion on the matter. Since the procedure for placing students on faculty committees subsequently underwent a change, the Committee will certainly wish to explore the question more fully when the opportunity presents itself. Given the timetable for getting out our recommendations on Negro student recruitment, I doubt whether we will get to the matter of student representation before second semester.

FAH

17 December 1968

Dear Mr. Hargadon and members of the Admissions Committee,

Student Council has considered your tentative plans for presenting your proposals relating to black admissions and would like to express its conviction that an alternative plan might be more appropriate. It seems essential to us that students, especially black students, have an opportunity to make clear their positions on the tentative proposals before the faculty meets to discuss these proposals.

SASS and other black students have not been involved in formulating policy to any significant extent up to this point. We feel that it is important that they participate in making policy; their role should not be limited to that of commentators after the fact. Furthermore, it is entirely possible that these students would not reach the same conclusions on these matters as the range of opinions be clear to the faculty from the beginning. There is no reason for the faculty to have to spend extra time on these discussions because it was not initially aware of the opinions of all those people concerned.

Student Council hopes that you will seriously consider its proposal and move to make your tentative report known to all members of the community as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ellen Schall,
SC President

.....

This is the complete correspondence between Student Council and Mr. Hargadon and his Admissions Committee. It is presented in the hope of a better insight into the problems at hand.

Signed,

Student Council