

File

# SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

## Minutes of Black Studies Committee

The Black Studies Committee met April 27, 1970 at 12:15 P.M. in Sharples. In addition to the regular members, a number of students and faculty interested in the program participated in the meeting. The members on the Committee representing SASS for the coming year are:

Mark Blackburn  
Rosalind Plummer  
Tracy Nicholas  
Linda Datcher  
Don Mizell

The letter written in response to the SASS letter of April 15, 1970 about the Committee's structure and functions was revised in certain details and the Chairman was authorized to send the letter as modified to SASS: a copy is attached.

SASS members felt it would be very helpful if Clement Cottingham could visit the College this semester and it was tentatively agreed this would be done if funds could be found. A major purpose of his visit would be to give Professor Cottingham opportunity to interview candidates and suggest names of additional candidates. Subsequently, arrangements were made to have Professor Cottingham visit the College May 14-17.

Next, there was a discussion of Professor Cottingham's responsibilities in relation to the individual departments. While details would have to wait on his arrival, it was agreed that the various departments would be expected to work closely with him, and he with them, in the case of any part-time or full-time faculty appointments which had a bearing on the Black Studies program. If a department concluded a particular appointment should not be made, Professor Cottingham would be able, if he wished, to deal directly with the Provost in determining whether the appointment should be made outside the department in question.

It was further agreed that Professor Cottingham would have chief responsibility for developing the Black Studies curriculum in cooperation with interested faculty, students and members of the administration. As to matters of personnel and financial support Professor Cottingham would work with the administration in the way that department chairmen do.

Frank C. Pierson

FCP:mer

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