

POSITION PAPER

3/70

Further papers to document issues mentioned in this paper are forthcoming.

PART ONE

We, as students at Swarthmore, are appalled by the lack of genuine humanistic concern at the college. We have seen this lack of concern demonstrated by the rejection of the concept of cultural pluralism. The present parochial nature of prevalent concerns, criteria for admissions, and educational goals reflect an administration philosophy that we can in no way support.

We believe that the problems of racism and intellectual repression are, in both the society as a whole and at Swarthmore College, a function of the political impotence of all but a privileged few.

We have two basic concerns:

- 1.- The admissions policy (the people who come here).
- 2.- College governance (what happens to them when they are here).

Neither the broadening of political power nor the admission of more minority-group students is, by itself, a solution to the ultimate problem of this College's relationship to the society at large. But coupled together they provide the much needed attention for focusing on urgent contemporary problems and their solutions.

PART TWO

We support the demands made public by SASS in the Phoenix of 3/6. These demands have been made necessary by the white-defined and white-controlled nature of Swarthmore and by the demonstrated inability of the college administration to deal with the needs of its black students through traditional governance channels. The administration has further shown its consistent unwillingness to consider the students' needs, as the students see them, as a basis for making decisions (see our position papers for documentation of this contention). We, present students at Swarthmore, have witnessed the effective satisfaction of students' needs only when students have stepped outside of the committee-oriented structure. By postponing and defeating change in areas that students feel vital to their experience at Swarthmore, and even by avoiding meaningful consideration of such change, the administration of the college has forced both its black and white students to reject its present governance structure.

The mere satisfaction of SASS's demands will not prevent future crises and student dissatisfaction, for the simple reason that the decision-making processes that engendered this dissatisfaction in the first place would remain intact. WE INSIST THAT A COLLEGE COUNCIL WITH AT LEAST HALF STUDENT MEMBERSHIP BE ESTABLISHED TO HAVE THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISION-MAKING AT SWARTHMORE, SUBJECT ONLY TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS. In addition, we feel that members of black and other minority groups on this council must be included in proportions to be worked out with representatives of those groups. We reject the concept of the council recommended by the Wise report because of the underrepresentation of students and the basic advisory (and therefore powerless) nature of the envisioned Wise council. The College Council, we feel, must be the final decision-making body within the college, and it must have at least one half student membership. The specific number of members, the form of their election, etc., are open to negotiation so long as the essential spirit of student self-determination remains intact. By student self-determination we do not mean student control or determination of issues involving the other constituents of the college community. We simply mean that students should be members in, rather than observers of, a participatory democracy.

PART THREE

Many student needs are now urgently felt. Most of these issues have been frustrated within the committee system at Swarthmore. We, as students, demand that the administration address

Gift of Kague Oye, 12th mo. 1992

itself to implementing change in these areas. The specific examples cited are not to be taken as comprehensive or as anything but illustrative.

1.- Admissions

Recruitment and enrollment of American Indian, Chicano, Puerto Rican, poor white, and other oppressed minority-group# students. (There must be immediate consultation with representative organizations such as: Aspira, SCEF, Young Lords' Organization, NFWOC, Patriot Party, etc. This recruitment should in no way entail dilution of AHBAC guidelines for Black admissions and financial aid.)

2.- Investments

- a.- Proxy votes on the shares Swarthmore holds in the Gulf Oil Company must be used in support of the coalition of AFSC and the New Mobe. (Gulf Oil supports the apartheid in South Africa and is one of the world's biggest polluters.)
- b.- Students should be consulted regarding future stock purchases and voting within companies in which the College owns stock.

3.- Curriculum

- a.- Re-evaluation of the whole concept of distribution requirements.
- b.- An extension of the present four credit limit on student-run courses. (Students are presently permitted to take no more than four student-run courses.)
- c.- The establishment of a five-heat program which satisfies the "normal progress towards a degree" clause of the draft.
- d.- Revision of the curriculum to stress current critical issues and their solutions.

4.- Arts

- a.- Abolition of the four credit limit on arts courses.
- b.- Credit for the first arts course taken. (Students in the arts are presently required to take one course without credit before they can receive credit in the arts.)
- c.- Credit for extensive work in theatre.
- d.- Credit for tutorials in dance.
- e.- Separation of theatre from the English Department, separation of the studio arts from the Art History Department, and separation of dance from the Physical Education Department.

5.- Housing

- a.- Provision of alternate food plans with Saga as its contract comes up this year.
- b.- Student determination of the alternative student housing to be set up in the future.

6.- Additional Services

- a.- A gynecologist to examine students, to dispense birth control information and devices, and to counsel on abortion.
- b.- A lawyer to counsel students on problems of draft, abortion laws, drugs, and any other legal matters.

We as students now recognize that the college has no control over certain aspects of our lives. The following issues will be decided upon solely by students:

- 1.- co-ed housing
- 2.- off-campus living permission
- 3.- the gym requirement

PART FOUR

We demand a satisfactory resolution of the SASS crisis, the immediate establishment of the College Council as outlined above, and tangible and meaningful movement towards the implementation of the specific demands outlined in PART THREE.

Our position, then, is outlined in the above three-tiered statement. Specifically, there is a present SASS crisis the immediacy and all-encompassing nature of which warrant immediate attention. Its resolution must be the first order of business of the college community.

There will be a caucus of concerned students tonight, March 12, at 7 o'clock in the SC room. We welcome your interest and support.

MEETING FOR COLLEGE RENEWAL

In support of the total statement passed by the MEETING FOR COLLEGE RENEWAL we are calling for an exam strike until a clear commitment to its principles and particulars has been made by the administration. An exam strike functions similarly to a rent strike. Those participating in it, upon the resolution of the SASS crisis, will return to classes and will write all papers and prepare all exams in the usual manner. However, these papers will be withheld and these exams, though taken, will not be turned over for grading until such time as our demands have been directly and sincerely considered and a process for implementation explicitly laid out. We, the undersigned, have committed ourselves already to this extreme, and will, if necessary, refuse to present mid-terms, finals, and all term papers this semester. We invite anyone to ~~see~~ join us, and realizing the risks involved in such a course of action, we will consult personally without pressure with anyone considering such a move.

Robert Storr
William Weber
Joanne Simboli
Jon Rudd
Khushro Ghandhi
Robert May
Steve Block
Howard Gold
Carola Sullam
Debby Bone

Dennis Small
Alan Roskamm
Gwen Frankfeldt
Stu Rosenblatt
Jeff Rensch
Ken Klothen
Jerry Epstein
Terry Goss
D. Clarke