

SASS

15 June 1970

Dear Mr. Greene:

Following our conversation this afternoon about the SASS summer project proposal I checked with Mr. Shane about the availability of Michener funds this summer. He told me what he'd told me before: that the person handling the account had told him that it was not planned to release the money before fall; that, in the light of James Michener's plans (he was thinking of five academic years, beginning with 1970-71) and the decline in the stock market, this seemed a reasonable arrangement and the only feasible one.

I said today I'd let you know what I could find out about the financial situation. I'm sorry to say that the situation seems unchanged from what it was when I talked last with Don Mizell. But I'll stand by to look at a project proposal. I do want to emphasize my concern that a project undertaken in this way at the College in the summer be basically academic, in the best sense, and, like other student summer research projects, more-or-less an extension of curricular work. Hence my concern about a project of substantial community action content designed as a contribution to Black Studies but undertaken before the arrival of the Director of Black Studies. As the Black Studies program develops in the regular curriculum and with its permanent Director there'll be a better opportunity to formulate and evaluate novel summer proposals. For this summer it does seem to me the proposal should emphasize solid research. We can accomplish this and facilitate the project by identifying one or more faculty supervisors; and we can attempt to identify them once we have in hand a definite, if still provisional proposal. At that point we'll also have to take the budgetary aspects up with Vice President Cratsley if, as you told me, the proposal makes provision for students to live in dormitories and for other special uses of College facilities and equipment. My guess is that it may well be possible to do a solid project without this kind of College involvement, if the money can be found. But, to sum up, the problems we'll have to overcome at this late date are: 1) money, presumably from some outside source; 2) designing the content of the project, with some involvement later on by one or more faculty supervisors; and 3) budgetary

and facilities implications from the standpoint of the College.

If, as seems nearly certain, the Michener money is unavailable this summer and you are, however, able to raise money elsewhere, and if you wish to direct the project substantially to non-academic ends, then you might do better to consider a project that is simply not connected with the College. On the other hand, if money can only be raised for a College-connected project and/or if you feel that College facilities are necessary to the project, then there would have to be some faculty supervision and a primary commitment to academic ends -- that is, to research of a descriptive and analytic nature, and we'll have to consider the financial and facilities aspects from the College standpoint. It normally takes some time to work out a project of this sort, and we are, I'm afraid, at a dangerously late stage for the planning and implementation of anything for this summer. We can do our best to expedite consideration of it, as we were ready to do when I first talked with Don Mizell about it a few weeks ago, but I can't in candor be optimistic about the prospects at this point.

I'll await further word and do my best to help within this framework. Since I'll be tied up most of Thursday and Friday it will help me to be helpful if I can hear from you this Wednesday or first thing the following week.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Gilbert
Provost

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Swarthmore College

cc: Clement Cottingham
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