

13 February 1970

To the Members of SASS:

Thank you for your letters of February 9 and February 11 about the plans for a Black Cultural Center. May I assure you that the matter has been very much on my mind, as well as on the minds of a great many people on the campus. Let me respond now, with the thought of providing a basis for further discussion if you wish it next week.

As you know, I regard the development of a Black Cultural House as very desirable for Swarthmore. I recognize and appreciate your sense that Lodge 4 has not worked out well for you this year.

I propose that we assure you now that you will have the use of Lodges 5-6 next year, under essentially the same terms as were outlined to you by Dean Barr in his letter to you about Lodge 4 this past summer. We cannot afford to assign one of the old houses, now used as dormitories, for a Black Cultural House; we must - if we are to meet our enrollment projections for 1970-71 for black and white students - designate these as dormitories again next year. In addition, I think it very desirable that the House not be on the fringe of the campus area, but rather near its center. It may develop that another facility, which you might prefer, may become available for next fall; if so, I will do all I can to effect the exchange. But I think you are entitled to my assurance that something more suitable than what you now have will be available in the fall.

As to budget: the College is willing to entertain a reasonable request for refurbishing and re-equipping Lodges 5-6, if those turn out to be the best we can do, to make them appropriate for your House. I do not know how much of the small appropriation I made available for doctoring

up Lodge 4 has been spent already; the sonner that you can give me a detailed budget on needs, the sooner I can respond to you what can be made available from special sources or general funds. When David Closson was here ten days ago, I suggested he might be of assistance in helping draw up such a budget. If you want to proceed in advance of his arrival, that is of course your prerogative. As to "activity" funds, these ought to be sought through the Student Council budget committee.

Yours sincerely,

Robert D. Cross,
President