

Tom —

4/19/74

Here is my latest effort at "the response". I think you can probably key in via my symbols to the printed draft.

I have put this on tape + Janet should have the draft for us when we return from our breakfast, on Monday.

EW

Response is herewith made to the April 17, 1974 Communique of the Black Student Union of the University of Idaho. While the introductory remarks of that document ~~and~~ ~~highlight points~~ highlight a range of problems which its list of 11 demands would speak to, there are inaccuracies as well as items not amenable to unilateral solutions introduced, ~~that~~ ~~which~~ ~~make~~ direct response difficult. For example the statement is made that only 1 of every 15 Black Freshmen will graduate. Our records show that in academic 1972-73, of 37 Black students enrolled 5 graduated, 14(5) left the institution either to go elsewhere, or because of academic failure, and 17(8) returned for this academic year. While we obviously have to work on reducing the failure and drop-out rate among Black Students the problem appears to be of very different dimensions than suggested in the Communique.

Reference is also made to the Director of Intercultural Programs both <sup>by inference</sup> in the introduction and in demand #5. While the BSU demands immediate hiring of a person from a minority group to fill that position, other student groups including at least one minority group, served by the office ~~are~~ ~~strongly~~ ~~opponents~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~present~~ ~~director~~ have made strong representations of support for the present director and do not want a change. Here unilateral dealing will obviously produce no generally satisfactory solutions.

Before dealing directly with the demand list we would draw attention of the BSU to the attached document developed by the University's Jointure Committee. It is a proposal to deal with coordination of minority group concerns and it is on the Faculty Council agenda for its Tuesday meeting. We feel

that many of the ~~items~~ items touched upon in the B.S.U. Communique can find resolution in a <sup>comprehensive</sup> plan such as this and we strongly urge that B.S.U. members ~~be present at the~~ Faculty Council meeting or ~~submit~~ make suggestions relative to this plan, should they have them, to members of the Council.  
~~Coming now to the list~~

~~The~~ Should a plan such as this meet with the approval of the Faculty and the various minority groups represented on campus, we would endeavor to make sufficient budgetary realignments, even though we have absolutely no funds for new positions currently, to permit the hiring of the suggested director. We are committed to the idea that this director must be from a minority group. We would also propose that the ethnic student advisory board initiated by the Student Advisory Services office last year be reactivated and used as a sounding board for the development and improvement of services to minority students.

Coming now to the list of demands, we have already indicated that we do ~~not~~ believe a unilateral ~~solution as such~~ action in response to #5 is a proper approach. The director suggested in the Junta plan noted above could, we believe, be the solution here.

Residence hall changes already approved have cleared the way so that student athletes, ~~with~~ <sup>in grants</sup> as of next fall will have the same free choice of housing afforded other students. #10 in the Communique is thus answered.

The Administration in good faith offered a written response to the BSU Communiqué on April 19 and, at the request of the BSU, is presenting it today instead. We feel that #11 is also disposed of.

4 The remaining 8 demands fall into 4 categories: Those dealing with hiring, particularly of minority group members; Those dealing with the organization of a Black Cultural Institute and Black Studies programs; ~~those dealing with minority financial aid and needs particularly as relates to federal aid; and those dealing with dormitory living~~

~~and counseling~~ those dealing with dormitory living,

and those dealing with financial aid and needs of minority students, particularly ~~in~~ in reference to federal aid programs.

At the present time - ~~at~~ <sup>P.4,</sup> ~~at~~ We shall however continue to give attention to these matters. Should an outside review of our present <sup>hiring</sup> practices be desired we would suggest that the Idaho Human Rights Commission or other similar group <sup>might</sup> be involved.

~~the~~ ~~the~~ concerning <sup>University</sup> funding for a Black Cultural Institute and a <sup>comprehensive</sup> ~~Black~~ Black Studies Program the facts are these

(#) P2.  $\approx$  P4  $\approx$

In matters of racist discrimination in dormitories, we would welcome a bill of particulars. The Communique does not make clear what remedy is sought for the alleged discriminations nor in fact does it detail them.

Finally (C) P3 (C)

# P6 #

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