

To Vice-President Coonrod

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

From S. B. Rolland

Inter-Office Memorandum

Subject Danforth Foundation Black Studies Fellowships

Date January 6, 1970

My reaction to the Danforth Fellowship grants to enable a year of study in the area of Black history and culture is as follows:

1. The deadline for nominations (January 10) and for full justification (January 17) is too close for a careful consideration of the merits of the program, the merits of our own program, or the merit of any potential nominee we might propose.
2. The cost to the University of Idaho might be substantial. A \$7,500 grant could only subsidize a junior member of our staff, or one willing to go at great financial sacrifice. In case a professor currently at \$10,000 were to apply it would cost the University at least \$12,500 to replace him and make up the difference in his salary and the amount of the grant. This might vary up or down, but are we ready to make commitments within two weeks?
3. No member of the history staff would be in a position to accept such a grant immediately. I could not encourage the nomination of anyone from other fields at this time because of the uncertainty of our own (the University of Idaho's) plans for the future of Black Studies here.
4. Until we have a Black Studies program, or project one, which would enable us to back a nomination within the spirit of the Danforth Foundation program, we could not effectively support a nominee. Currently the historians seem to favor the integration of black history into existing courses. They have added three new period courses in American history to facilitate this objective and need man power for instruction in two of them. Probably most of the historians (at U. of I.) would be inclined to accept an opportunity to expand their knowledge of black history in the fields which they teach. The current status of the Black Identity course is uncertain. Evaluation of it and recommendations for its continuation, continuation with modifications, or abandonment should be forthcoming soon. When we have determined our own course we can better determine upon a nominee for this fellowship.
5. My recommendation would be that President Hartung or yourself respond to the Danforth Foundation with a brief review of our current Black Studies program and a vigorous expression of interest in their fellowship program for 1971-1972.

cc: Robert E. Hosack