

3-17-1970

Survey on excess classrooms for Black Studies use

Laurence Beinert

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.denison.edu/writingourstory>

Recommended Citation

Beinert, Laurence, "Survey on excess classrooms for Black Studies use" (1970). *Writing Our Story*. 49.
<http://digitalcommons.denison.edu/writingourstory/49>

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Black Studies at Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Writing Our Story by an authorized administrator of Denison Digital Commons.

MAR 17 1970

On the premise that a school, especially one not willing to provide resources to support or enhance a Black Student community, should have "just enough classroom space to get by," a group of students decided to check the classroom situation at Denison. Our notion of "getting by" is 100% use of available classroom facilities, every day from 8-12 and 1-5. This is by no means a radical proposal, for some schools "get by" through the scheduling of Saturday morning as well as evening classes.

We conducted a survey to determine the number of excess classrooms each period and to see how far from 100% use Denison came. All the classrooms, lecture halls, and seminar rooms in the library, Life Science, Knapp, Fellows, Barney, Ebaugh, and Herrick Hall, as well as Slater Auditorium were counted. None of the "down-hill" classes, the P.E. facilities, or the laboratories were included.

Consequently, the survey covered 74 class and seminar rooms and 6 lecture halls. If all of these rooms were to be occupied 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, a total of 3200 classroom-hours would be used. Instead, there were only 1101 classroom-hours. The class and seminar rooms were occupied 35% of the time and the lecture halls only 26% of the time...clearly below maximum efficiency. Even at the most crowded hours, Fellows is only 65% full and Knapp never more than 62% full.

The Life Science building, which is used for only one department, has 9 professors and 30 majors. That's not very many people for a five-story building. Herrick Hall, a 300 seat "theater in the round", is used but three times a week. It's kept locked up the rest of the time--presumably to keep people from using it.

We have so many classrooms we don't know what to do with them.

It is the trustees who run this school. It is the trustees who feel that complying with the Black demands would lower the quality of the Denison educational experience. It is the trustees who have handled the above building policies. Should those who have proved themselves so incompetent in the handling of the building policies also be the sole judges of what constitutes a meaningful and quality education? Should the lives of black students at Denison be plagued by the trustees' incompetency--not to mention the lack of understanding of the present situation?

It is enough that the rights of the black students have been ignored by a group of 35 men. It is even worse that these men have failed to act in the best interests of the school in the past and are failing once again with the black demands.

Laurence Béinert
Dave Covintree
Rick Miller
Brad Wernle
David Croushore

Mike Murray
Bill Berkshire
Ashley Buttil
Robert Cullen
Kenneth Stoddard