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Task Force progress report

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TASK FORCE PROGRESS REPORT -- FEBRUARY 27, 1970

This report suggests some of the steps that are being taken by the Task Force to make this college a more viable community for all students.

Black faculty candidates are being sought in several departments. Openings exist in History, Sociology, Psychology and English and black candidates either have been or will be coming to campus. A new position has been authorized in the area of Black Studies and two of the candidates who have been on campus have been interviewed for that position. Salary arrangements are being made to meet market conditions.

The Dean of the College is taking an active role in the recruitment process and I have been kept informed of what is taking place. I hope to take an active role in this process in the days immediately ahead. Some of the candidates under consideration do not have the Ph.D. The intellectual competence and ability to teach are chief criteria used in the evaluation of candidates being interviewed. Arrangements for black students to meet with black candidates brought to campus are being made by each department.

A black recruiter is being sought and I will be taking some initiative in this process. A candidate is currently being considered and will be invited to campus soon. Recruitment has been carried out over the last several weeks by David Rice and Bea Nivens.

A person to serve as black adviser to men is being sought. We will be sending someone to the American Personnel and Guidance Association meetings in New Orleans toward the end of March to look for candidates.

Departmental chairmen have agreed to meet to talk about departmental commitment to take actions which will contribute to the lives of blacks. The Department of English is bringing a black poet to campus the week of March 1 and the Department of Political Science is making arrangements to bring two black speakers to campus this spring.

I would appreciate chairmen of other departments telling me about plans they have for bringing black speakers to campus either this year or next.

Discussions have taken place with persons at a southern college which may result in several black junior economics majors coming to campus for a semester or a year.

I have had conversations with the faculty co-chairman of the Orientation Committee concerning the opportunities and problems associated with the orientation process as it concerns black students and black-white relations generally.

We are gathering material on various black studies programs and departments around the country and I plan to go to some other colleges to find what they are doing. I have talked with a person centrally involved in the development of black studies curriculum at Earlham College. I have had communication with Bill Nichols and we are in the process of making arrangements for Armstead

Robinson, editor of Black Studies in the University, to come to campus in mid-March to talk with all interested people about Black Studies programs. I am hoping to bring together on campus this spring several people with experience in this area for a symposium on Black Studies.

A proposal is being drawn up by a group of faculty interested in urban problems. It has not yet been considered by the Task Force, but suggests a combined urban-black concentration which would include both academic and practical experience.

A special program to educate faculty members about the nature of Black Studies will be offered to interested faculty during the next academic year by an association of which Denison is a member. Detailed information on this opportunity will be available soon.

Finally, I have been most appreciative of the helpful suggestions from some members of the faculty and express my willingness to put anyone to work who wants to do so.

Louis F. Brakeman
Director, Task Force