

Black Student Alliance  
Emory University  
Post Office Box 21208  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30322

August 20, 1969

President Sanford S. Atwood  
Emory University  
Administration Building  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear President Atwood:

In response to your most recent correspondence, most black students are at home at this time, leaving but a few students in summer school – far less than twelve.

Therefore, twelve students have not been designated in each area since twelve students aren't here.

At a recent meeting with the twelve persons whom you designated, they were all aware of this fact, and were told that they should continue to remain in communication with me in reporting any progress or plans, until such time as a black student would be designated. Considering the progress reports at that meeting, it did not appear that the lack of a special black student to communicate with was hindering anyone's progress. At least, no one of the twelve persons you designated mentioned

to us that this was presenting difficulties for them.

Sincerely,

Rena M. Price

Assistant Chairman

Black Student Alliance

RMP/

July 17, 1969

Miss Rena M. Price  
Assistant Chairman  
Black Student Alliance  
P. O. Box 21208  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear Miss Price,

Let me acknowledge your letter of July 14, with the attached list of requests from the Black Student Alliance.

Since all of the itemized requests can be included under the twelve areas enumerated in my May 30 letter to Messrs. Gavin and Brown, we have an adequate administrative mechanism, as well as delegation of responsibility, to carry on the necessary conversations. In response to your inquiry about the handling of financial aids, you should assume that this is included in Item 2, "Enrollment of black students" delegated to Mr. Carroll, who will coordinate admissions and financial aids.

In my May 30 letter, I asked "that you designate a person or persons who can represent all black students in subsequent discussions and with whom the designees may remain in communication." To my knowledge, this has not been reported in every case, and it is imperative for the black students to make such designations if progress is to be made.

In order to promote widespread understanding of procedures being followed, I am sending copies of your letter with its attachment, together with my reply, to (1) those persons receiving copies of the May 30 letter, (2) all individuals designated for responsibility in the twelve areas listed in my May 30 letter, (3) all deans and department heads, and (4) all members of the University Senate.

Sincerely,

Sanford S. Atwood

Black Student Alliance  
Emory University  
Post Office Box 21208  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

July 14, 1969

President Sanford S. Atwood  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear President Atwood:

In response to your May 30 letter to Mr. James Brown, enclosed is an up-to-date list of requests from the Black Student Alliance. I regret that this has not reached you sooner, however, we are working with only a handful of students this summer, and consequently, we are slightly behind schedule.

Most of the persons listed in your letter have been contacted, and small progress has been made in some areas.

Unless you intended it to be handled by Mr. Carroll, no one has been assigned to the financial area. It would be greatly appreciated if you would take steps to clarify this most important area at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Rena M. Price  
Assistant Chairman  
Black Student Alliance

Enclosure

RMP/

## Requests from the Black Student Alliance

-July 14, 1969

On Sunday, May 25, 1969, the members of the Black Student Alliance of Emory University interrupted the worship service of the United Campus Ministry, and several black students spoke on the institutions of racism which exist at Emory. Immediately following, the black students proceeded to Cox Hall where a picket line was staged in protest of discriminatory employment practices at Cox Hall, as well as throughout the entire university system.

In view of the issues raised in the demonstrations, the members of the Black Student Alliance request the following:

I. A special committee should be established, consisting of black students, workers, and administrators to investigate the needs and problems of the workers. This committee will develop mechanisms to improve the conditions and bargaining power of workers at Emory University.

Emory, out of ignorance, has not understood fully the implications of admitting black students. Emory admitted black students, and concomitant with this admittance were certain responsibilities which Emory should have fulfilled in behalf of these students. These responsibilities are in the four main areas of campus life: social, academic, psychological and financial.

### I. Social Area

A. We request a Black Student Alliance House for group therapy and

to get together as black people for the ordeal of confronting a white racist society. Living in an isolated white community destroys the cultural bonds of a people, and the black students at Emory University should not be forced to assimilate or disintegrate as a black race.

1. The house would also serve as a "community service" house. Students involved in community activities would make use of the house, and it would serve as a base for other types of community action and activities.

2. The house should be provided with study areas for individuals, as well as for tutorial projects.

3. The house should be provided with a kitchen, lounge and dining area, and recreation room for books, records, and tapes.

## II. Academic Area

### A. Admissions

1. We request more creative ways to admit black students, such as black student recruiters accompanying admissions officials, and the services of a black admissions officer.

2. We request that Emory's standards for admitting black students be re-evaluated, and that Emory admit not "high risk" students but rather, "high challenge" students.

(When a black student leaves Emory he has accomplished more than the average white student in terms of achievement and also in terms of the background from whence he came. )

3. We request that Emory tap the Educational Testing Service, an independent organization which uses statistics of black student achievement from a large number of schools, thereby making the statistical information more reliable



and relevant to black students matriculating to Emory.

4. As host institution to the Upward Bound Project, we request that Emory admit its Upward Bound students.

#### B. Orientation

1. We request that the faculty be exposed to an orientation session so that they can become sensitized to the black experience, and to the needs of the black students at Emory.

#### C. Afro-American Studies

1. We request that an Afro-American Department which offers a degree in Afro-American Studies be established at Emory University.

2. We request that the charge of the sub-committee of the Curriculum Committee on Afro-American Studies be revoked – (The charge was, "Should Emory establish an Afro-American Studies program?") We request that the charge be changed to "What direction should an Afro-American Studies take and how should it be developed?"

#### D. Afro-American Reading Room

1. We request an Afro-American Reading Room in the library to support an Afro-American Studies Program. This room would be equipped with the following:

a. A resource person (librarian) either full or part-time with knowledge in the field of Afro-American Studies.

b. A card catalogue which would include those books which are in the Martin Luther King Library.

c. Periodicals (Negro Digest, Liberator, Black Panther, etc. )

d. Display cases with artifacts purchased or on loan from Atlanta University or other institutions or museums.

e. Records (Malcolm X, Leroi Jones), films, and tapes featuring different aspects and personalities of the black experience.

#### E. Black Administrators

1. We request that Emory hire on a full-time permanent basis black administrators. Such personnel will be responsible for administrative details concerning black students, i.e.

black functions and programs on campus, black lecture series, and serve in the capacity of "advisors" to black students.

Such personnel should be mutually acceptable to both the administration and black students at Emory.

#### F. Black Tutors

1. We request black tutors for black students matriculating to Emory. The services of these tutors will be paid for by the University.

### III. Psychological Area

A. We black students come to Emory bearing the scars of a racist culture. We are not individually deprived, but rather, systematically and collectively deprived; therefore, we request that Emory hire either on a full-time or part-time basis the professional services of a black psychiatrist, who would provide the black students with assistance in emotional adjustments, academic adjustments, and social adjustments while at Emory.

#### IV. Financial Area

A. We request that there be some creative and legal ways by which black students can be given funds which would thereby ensure their continued matriculation to Emory University.