

February 17, 1970

Dr. Leon Mandell

Department of Chemistry

Dear Leon:

The thoughts expressed in your letter of February 16 are exactly the kind that I need in trying to bring some order out of our present debate, and I want to thank you very sincerely for writing as you did.

Unless you have some objection, I would like to pass a copy of your letter on to Dean Stephens as an example of the alternatives we should be seeking.

Sincerely,

Sanford S. Atwood

Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
Department of Chemistry

February 16, 1970

Dr. S. S. Atwood
President
Emory University

Dear Dr. Atwood:

At a faculty meeting on February 9 a motion was passed to set up a program of summer remedial work for twenty black students who might then be admitted to Emory College using standards other than those that must be met by our other students. The danger of this program, to our efforts at educational excellence, in light of our new liberal distribution requirements and the current efforts to establish a Black Studies program (which program might be designed to accommodate the "special" requirements of the twenty "special" students) should be apparent to you. I believe the motion passed by the faculty to be the epitome of hypocrisy and largely represents a desire to satisfy feelings of guilt brought on by "shot gun" inditements of "white racism" or "institutionalized racism". I change further that motions of this type, which throw the responsibility for action on "The University", allow individuals to escape their responsibility for taking effective action to constructively help black people. These statements are essentially negative and I wish to suggest to you a positive alternative to the faculty

motion that is already being pursued by the Chemistry Department. I hope you will present this approach to the faculty as a route by which their aims could be realized most effectively.

The Chemistry Department raised \$500 last summer to support a bLack high school student (a junior) who had expressed an interest in science. We had him work in a laboratory with a graduate student. Two professors (R. Johnson and F. Menger) worked with him on various aspects of his background in science. The student responded superbly becoming so interested in what we were doing that he quit a part-time job with Southern Railway (he now felt they did not treat him as a man) and devoted all of his time to working in the Department. We were able to make up some of his financial sacrifice by having him work part-time in our stock room. At the end of the summer this student had a feeling of what science was all about and had developed direction and some realistic career goals. He said he hoped to come to Emory as a student and I believe strongly he will make a fine undergraduate.

The success of this experience led us to try and expand this approach, this time to the college level. Towards this end we have raised \$5000 (with the help of the Development Office) from the Dreyfus Foundation. We hope to bring college chemistry students from schools where there is little research activity and let them work in the Emory Chemistry Department doing research during the summer. We hope to interest them in graduate work and thus also become a potential source of graduate students. Atlanta University has been asked to participate with us in this program.

If only ten departments would develop similar programs we would be working with more than twice as many students as is proposed by the faculty's motion.

Dr. Atwood, this approach would allow us to make a contribution to the black students and not be condescending. This kind of program would build on the uniqueness of the educational opportunity we have worked so hard to establish. I pray that this be the approach taken by us in responding to the problems before us.

Most sincerely yours,

Leon Mandell, Chairman and Professor of Chemistry

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cc: Mr. H. Bowden