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Memorandum

Physics Department

To: Prof. Grant Kaiser

Chairman, Library Policy Committee

From: Dr. John M. Palms V4

Date: January 23, 1970

Subject: Afro-American Reading Room

As you know, on December 11 I accepted the request made by Vice President Ward to serve as liaison [[liaison]] between the Library Policy Committee and the Black Students to replace Paul Cousins.

Since I will be at the American Physical Society meeting in Chicago at the time of the next meeting of the Library Policy Committee meeting I would like to report by this memo the present status regarding the Afro-American Reading and related needs. Since I will be absent at the committee meeting Miss Rena Price will attend. She has asked to make a few comments and then will be available to answer questions. I appreciate your consenting to allow Miss Price to do this.

In making this report I would like to refer to several items listed in the requests made by the Black Students to President Atwood last May.

1. Afro-American Reading Room

Miss Rena Price and Miss Barbara Woods, also of the Black Student Alliance, have viewed the Rare Book Room of the Candler Library which was assigned by the Library Policy Committee as the Afro-American Reading Room. Both students found this: room to be quite adequate for what the Black Students have in mind initially.

a) Periodicals, Card Catalogue, Films, Books, etc.

The Black Students would like as many books, films and periodicals as possible in this room relating to Afro-American studies. Several lists of preferred books are attached to this memo. They also desire a complete card catalogue of the more relevant Black Study books on campus and in such places as the Martin Luther King Library. If any of these books are available in the Woodruff Library already, they request them to be transferred to the reading room. The arguments for not setting up a separate Afro-American book and periodical collection in a separate study room away from the main library, as set forth by Mr. Guy Lyle in a letter to Miss Price dated August 26, 1969, were rejected. The students want this room well equipped and hope the priorities of overall University library needs will be realigned to accomplish this.

## 2. Resources Person for Afro-American Studies

This, according to the students, is at present the most pressing problem. The Black Students want desperately to have assistance in both furnishing the reading room and setting up meaningful exhibits in the cases of the Asa Griggs Candler Library. They feel the suggestion made to them that the Black Students form a committee to plan exhibits and gather the material is completely unrealistic. They claim insufficient knowledge in this area and feel already overpressed for available time. Many of the Black Students have outside jobs.

They would like to have someone designated as either the full time or part time library resource person for Afro-American Studies, realizing fully that the person who is made available might not have any previous experience or knowledge in the area of Afro-American Studies. They feel any experienced librarian could be a great help.

This person would initially perform the following functions in coordination with the Black Students:

a) Plan exhibits for the reading room and the exhibit cases of the Candler Library and gather material for these.

b) Investigate the availability from all possible sources of books, periodicals, films, etc. which might relate to Afro-American Studies.

c) Compile a complete card catalogue of the materials in (b) to be found in the reading room.

### 3. Finances

The students feel a true indication of the University's desire to satisfy the request made for the Afro-American Reading Room and related needs would be the appropriation by the President of the necessary funds to accomplish what has been discussed in items (1) and (2) above.

If you have any immediate questions please direct them to Miss Price on Tuesday. I will be back in town on Friday, January 30.

Copies to: Dr. Judson C.. Ward

Dr. Thomas L. Fernandez

Mr. Guy Lyle

Miss Rena Price

Emory University

Inter Office Memorandum

Memo To: Dr. John Palms - Physics

From: Judson C. Ward, Jr.

Date: December 11, 1969

This memorandum will confirm our recent telephone conversation and express appreciation to you for your willingness to serve as liason [[liaison]] between the Library Policy Committee and the Black Students to replace Paul Cousins, Jr., Associate University Librarian.

We have made progress in this area and I am sure you can be of considerable assistance as we continue to work together to try to improve reading and study conditions for these students.

President Atwood discussed this with me and joins me in thanking you for acceptance to this assignment.

cc: President Atwood

Mr. Guy Lyle

Dr. T. L. Fernandez

Mr. Paul Cousins

Miss Rena Price

Memorandum

To: Vice President Judson C. Ward

From: Grant E. Kaiser, Chairman, Library Policy Committee

Date: December 2, 1969

When Guy Lyle and I were recently in your office I expressed to you my concern over the unclear channel of communication which exists between the Library Policy Committee and the Black Student Alliance since Paul Cousins asked to be relieved of his duties.

I should like to recommend that a faculty member of the Library Policy Committee be appointed to this post as soon as possible. Either Professor John Palms of the Physics Department, or Professor Albert Stone of the English department could handle this assignment.

cc: President S. Atwood

Mr. Guy Lyle, Library

GEK: amp

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July 31, 1969

Miss Rena Price  
Assistant Chairman  
Black Student Alliance  
P. O. Box 21208  
Campus

Dear Miss Price:

Although I have not heard from you since our discussion last June, I am going to move ahead and forward to the Library Policy Committee of the University Senate (Dr. Grant Kaiser, Chairman) for consideration the items relating to the Afro-American Reading Room as contained in your letter of July 14, 1969, to President Atwood. The Library Policy Committee, composed of students and faculty members, is the group which considers and makes recommendations in matters of general policy. I have indicated to Dr. Kaiser that all parties concerned will appreciate a discussion of these requests on as early a date as possible.

I will endeavor to keep you or some other designated person fully informed of developments, and I am available for discussions as desired.

Sincerely yours,

Paul M. Cousins, Jr.  
Assistant University Librarian

cc: Dr. Sanford S. Atwood

Mr. Guy R. Lyle

PMC/es

July 31, 1969

Dr. Grant Kaiser  
Chairman, Library Policy Committee  
Romance Language Department  
Campus

Dear Dr. Kaiser:

Last May President Atwood asked that I assume responsibility for the necessary communications involved in responding to those of the requests received from a group of black students which relate to the area of Afro-American library resources. I have since discussed these original requests with Miss Rena Price of the Black Student Alliance, and they were slightly modified in a letter from Miss Price to Dr. Atwood dated July 14, 1969.

I am enclosing a copy of the items contained in the letter from Miss Price to President Atwood with the request that the Library Policy Committee give consideration to them. I am sure that all parties involved will appreciate a discussion of these requests by the Library Policy Committee on as early a date as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Paul M. Cousins, Jr.  
Assistant University Librarian

cc: Dr. Sanford &. Atwood J  
PMC/es



## 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), filmes, and tapes featuring different aspects and personalities of the black experience.