

July 24, 1969

Dr. Leon Mandell

Department of Chemistry

Dear Leon:

Bravo!!! We need the good help of thinking faculty like yourself to keep us on the right track when there seem to be so many forces pushing in all directions.

Sincerely,

Sanford S. Atwood

Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322  
Department of Chemistry

July 23, 1969

President Sanford S. Atwood  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Dear President Atwood:

I have received copies of the July 14 letter from Miss Rena Price of the Black Student Alliance to you, and your reply to Miss Price.

I should like to register my strongest protest in opposition to the "Requests" of the Black Student Alliance. Their entire statement implies a redirecting of Emory University's efforts that has little to do with our drive towards achieving excellence in education. Their "Requests" are predicated on the assumption that Emory University is guilty of racism and must atone for injustices that the blacks have suffered and are suffering. This is a false premise. No one group of people has the right to assign guilt en masse to an institution or another group of people. This is the tactic used by the Nazis in assigning "guilt" to the Jews. The condemnation of guilt demands an individual experience. If there have been racist acts at our University, let there be specific charges brought forth so action may be taken to rectify these specific wrongs. The general indictment of racism is meaningless and usually reflects some paranoia on the part of the indicter.

I would like to respond to the specific points raised by the Black Student Alliance and the roman numerals shown below refer to the corresponding points in Miss Price's letter.

I. The University cannot have as a prime goal raising the economic level of its janitors, cafeteria help, etc. Emory University's prime goal must be to pursue excellence in education. The supporting functions should be maintained with as little expense as possible so that what financial resources we have available can be brought to bear on those aspects to our operation that are most pertinent to education. We attract the best people we can with the money available. It would seem self-evident, that it is more important to our educational offerings to have money available to attract a first rate faculty than a first rate janitorial staff.

I. Social Area.

Emory University's purpose is not to furnish "group therapy" facilities for any of its students. Its purpose is to make available the best possible education it can. If students come to Emory psychologically unprepared for the education we offer, be those students black or white, they should leave. We are not equipped financially [[financially]] or with staff to make the requested accommodation. Even the task of bringing students without psychological aberrations to experience education is a formidable goal.

II. Academic Area.

A. Admissions: These suggested policies are all based on an assumption that it is Emory's duty to admit more black students, so much so, that special criteria must be found to allow their admission.

This is a false assumption. Emory's mission is to provide the opportunity for educational excellence. This is what is owed its students and society.

B. This should be further defined. I would like to see the program and subject matter of such a faculty orientation.

C. and D. The unique strength of the United States' higher education system has been the great variety it affords. Thus, for example, there are many different types of schools: two year private colleges, two year state supported colleges, four year private colleges, four year state supported colleges, large and small universities, etc. Each of these institutions offers what it can for education. Each of these institutions makes individual mistakes, but on summation there results a truly remarkable educational opportunity. This contrasts with Europe where, because of the extensive state control, each school has essentially the same offerings and therefore they all make similar mistakes. The idea that every school can or should offer, for example, an "Afro-American" program is nonsense and not in keeping with the United States educational system's uniqueness. It would seem ridiculous for us to try and set up a program in "Afro-American" studies to compete with Atlanta University's program (already underwritten to the tune of \$400,000) when we are struggling with programs already in progress. Individual departments already have a total of thirty-five courses or programs and twenty-six research investigations directly related to aspects of urban problems. If we are to set up Afro-American programs over the above mentioned studies something must be dropped. What shall it be, English, Romance Languages, Economics, Political Science, Chemistry etc....? The academic value of "Afro-American studies as it has come to be defined, is the

subject of much discussion. Black leaders such as B. Rustin and R. Wilkens have strongly questioned the worth of such programs. In view of this and our inability to compete with the resources that Atlanta University has already acquired, I submit it would be folly for us to formalize such a program at this stage of our economic and academic struggles. Finally, it should be mentioned, the question of "Should Emory establish an Afro-American Studies Program?" has never been discussed by the Curriculum Committee of the College! This, one would hope, would be the normal academic procedure to be followed.

E. Any student group may organize to avail itself of special functions. That group then bears the responsibility for the administration of those functions. The university administration has the obligation to see that its offices cooperate with the "special" group. It does not have the obligation to provide "special" administrators for "special" groups.

F. This is not a university obligation.

### III. Psychological Area.

A. The University does not have a program whose purpose is to provide psychological help to students. We have a program to train Clinical Psychologists which admits patients from our student body. Our philosophy has been if students are unprepared psychologically for Emory they should leave school, seek aid, and then return. We cannot afford to do otherwise and our mission is not to treat sick psyches.

### IV. Financial Area.

The University has tried to raise scholarship support for all

its students, which is as it should be.

Dr. Atwood, I am appalled at the direction implied by the Black Student Alliance requests. These requests attack much that is fundamental to an educational system that has provided more opportunity for more people than any other such program the world has devised.

I would be happy to discuss these matters with you further at your convenience.

Most sincerely yours,

Leon Mandell, Chairman  
Department of Chemistry

LM/sp

Copy to Mr. H. L. Bowden