

Emory University  
Memorandum

To: Dr. Judson C. Ward, Jr.  
Vice President and Dean of Faculties  
From: Guy R. Lyle  
Date: 25 March 1970

At a recent meeting requested by Mr. Arrington, with you, Dr. Palms, and myself, and three BSA representatives in attendance, Mr. Arrington said, in so many words, that the Library had done less for Black students than any of the other units for which the President established liaison officers last summer.

Enclosed is a chronological account of what the Library and its counselors and staff have done in the interest of carrying out the President's wishes. If the same amount of churning and effort has gone into the other eleven areas of the University for which the President established liaison officers, then I think the Administration should be concerned about the loose and table pounding criticism to which I refer above.

Copies of the chronology are being distributed to members of the Library Policy Committee.

Guy R. Lyle

GRL: em

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Sanford S. Atwood

Dr. John M. Palms

## The Black Student Alliance and Afro-American Library Resources: A Chronology

March 12, 1969

Proposal 8 in the proposals of the Black Student Alliance to President Atwood was: "That Emory incorporate an Afro-American Reading Room in the Library." Elements would be a resource person (librarian), a card catalog which would include cards for the Martin Luther King Library and the library at Atlanta University, Negro periodicals, display cases, records, films, and tapes.

May 30, 1969

Mr. Paul M. Cousins, Assistant University Librarian, was appointed by President Atwood as responsible in the area of Afro-American library resources one of twelve areas in which the University should work with representatives of the Black Student Alliance.

June, 1969

Mr. Cousins discussed the proposal for an Afro-American Reading Room with Miss Rena Price, Assistant Chairman, Black Student Alliance.

July 14, 1969

The proposal for an Afro-American Reading Room was included as Proposal D in the revised list of requests submitted to President Atwood by Miss Rena Price, Assistant Chairman, Black Student Alliance. It was similar to the March 12 proposal, but added that the Afro-American Reading Room was "to support an Afro-American Studies Program."

July 31, 1969

Mr. Cousins forwarded to the Chairman of the Library Policy Committee

of the University Senate the items relating to the Afro-American Reading Room as stated in Miss Price's July 14 communication to President Atwood, and asked for discussion of the requests on as early a date as possible.

August 13, 1969

In a letter to Mr. Cousins, Miss Price enclosed a list of books to be checked for titles held by the library, and a list of periodicals which should be added. The letter also referred to their continued interest in a room for resources and artifacts which should be provided for in plans for the renovation of the library.

August 18, 1969

Mr. Cousins replied to Miss Price's letter by saying he did not have authority in any of the areas mentioned and was referring the letter to Mr. Guy R. Lyle, Director of Libraries.

August 23, 1969

Mr. David Massey, Program Director, Educational Program on White Racism SGA, notified Mr. Cousins by letter that SGA was hoping to obtain free from various publishers two hard bound copies of approximately 200 titles for the Afro-American Reading Room.

August 26, 1969

Mr. Lyle replied to Miss Price's letter of August 13 referred to him by Mr. Cousins. His three-page letter dealt with the requests relating to the area of Afro-American library resources as set forth in Miss Price's letter and in the revised list of requests dated July 14, 1969. Under the headings of Exhibits, Periodicals, Afro-American Reading

Room, and Resources Person for Afro-American Studies Mr. Lyle provided information and suggested procedures that the Black Student Alliance might follow. He pointed out the disadvantages of a separate Afro-American book collection in a separate study room, but said that the proposal should be taken up with the Library Policy Committee and gave direction as to the procedure to be followed for doing this. He favored the proposal for adding to the library staff a resource person with a comprehensive knowledge of the Afro-American field, but stated that previous calls on the University budget for the relief of matters of a pressing nature made it impossible for him to act directly in behalf of BSA in this matter. The use of the wall exhibit cases in the Asa Griggs Candler Library was offered for exhibits in connection with Afro-American studies. Lists of titles enclosed with Miss Price's letter were checked against library holdings and returned to her.

September 15, 1969

In a memorandum to University Faculty and Staff Members, reporting on progress in the twelve areas listed in his May 30, 1969 memorandum, President Atwood stated concerning Afro-American library resources: "Some kind of special reading room will be assigned in the fall after the move into the Woodruff Library is completed. In the meantime, a large number of books and periodicals have been made available, and exhibit space will be arranged."

September 30, 1969

At the first Library Policy Committee meeting of the year the following motion was unanimously passed: (1) that the present Rare Book Room of Candler Library be assigned as the Afro-American Reading Room, that (2) the room be made available after the move of the Special Collections

Department to the Woodruff Library (approximately October 25) and that (3) the University Library, because of severe financial limitations, is not now able to provide materials and staff for the Afro-American Studies Room; however, the library will endeavor to make as speedy progress in all necessary ways as goodwill, careful planning, and financial backing will permit.

October 1, 1969

The Library Policy Committee, in a special meeting held to allocate book funds for 1969/70, voted to hold in readiness \$1150 of the departmental book funds on the understanding that \$350 would be added from the general fund in the event that these monies would be needed to respond to specific proposals related to the development of the Afro-American Reading Room.

October 9, 1969

Mr. Cousins notified Miss Price that the Library Policy Committee had assigned the Rare Book Room of the Candler Library for use as an Afro-American Reading Room.

Mr. Cousins asked President Atwood to designate another person from the library to replace him as library representative, since he would be away from the campus during the remainder of October.

October 13, 1969

Mr. Lyle sent a copy of his August 26 letter to Miss Price, since it had never been acknowledged or answered, and informed her that the Rare Book Room in the Asa Griggs Candler Library was now available for the use of the Black Studies program. He mentioned the exhibit case in the room and again invited the Black Student Alliance to use the exhibit

cases in the lobby area.

October 14, 1969

Mr. Lyle wrote Mr. David Massey that the Rare Book Room was now ready for occupancy as the Afro-American Reading Room and that books collected by SGA could be installed.

October 20, 1969

The following statement appears in the minutes of the meeting of the Library Policy Committee on this date: "Procedure for ordering Afro-American Studies Books - In response to a question concerning the procedure for ordering these books it was made explicit that the contingency fund, which is being held with a view to purchasing materials for the Afro-American Reading Room, is under the control of the LPC and no one is authorized to expend these funds without the committee's approval."

October 31, 1969

Mrs. Frances Worthington, Acting Librarian, Asa Griggs Candler Library, wrote Miss Price to ask her to come by to see her to discuss hours of opening for the Afro-American Reading Room, a sign for the room, and related matters.

December 11, 1969

Vice President Judson C. Ward, Jr. confirmed appointment of Dr. John M. Palms to serve as liaison between the Library Policy Committee and the Black Students, to replace Mr. Cousins.

January 23, 1970

Dr. John M. Palms, in a memorandum to Dr. Grant Kaiser, Chairman,

Library Policy Committee, reported on "the present status regarding the Afro-American Reading Room and related needs." He stated that since he would be absent at the next meeting of the Library Policy Committee, Miss Rena Price would attend to make a few comments and to be available to answer questions. The memorandum reported that Miss Price and Miss Barbara Woods, of the Black Student Alliance, found the room assigned as the Afro-American Reading Room "quite adequate for what the Black Students had in mind initially." "The argument 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 requests for periodicals, books, films, and a card catalog of Black Study books for the room and for a resources person for Afro-American studies were reiterated. The suggestion in Mr. Lyle's letter of August 26 that the Black Students form a committee to plan exhibits was characterized as completely unrealistic.

January 27, 1970

From the minutes of the meeting of the Library Policy Committee on this date: "Mr. Walter Williams, who was later joined by Miss Beverly Bentley, appeared at this meeting to discuss issues related to the Afro-American Reading Room in the Candler Library, as presented in a long letter from Professor Palms. Much discussion revolved around requests for a core book collection in the Reading Room, a larger collection (somewhat unspecified), and the hiring of a resource librarian to oversee the acquisition and use of such materials in that Room. It was generally agreed that the first step should be the selection of a basic stock of titles, to be handled by representative Black students, with the help of Professor Palms and appropriate members of the library staff."

February 15, 1970

Mr. Lyle and Dr. Palms met to discuss book lists submitted by Misses Rena Price, Barbara Woods, and Beverly Bentley and Mr. Walter Williams of the BSA, with the assistance of Mr. Marvin Arrington, and agreed that the library would proceed with the preliminary work preceding ordering in the order of the priorities requested. Dr. Palms had also forwarded to Mr. Arrington the list of books related to the Afro-American culture prepared by Professor Bell Wiley for History 255, History of the South.

February 17, 1970

A small collection of books selected by English-Estes-Lyle from the McGill collection, and about a dozen gift volumes from Harvey Young, were cataloged for the Afro-American Reading Room and shelved there, as were periodical subscriptions to Ebony, Liberation, and Negro Digest.

February 24, 1970

At the meeting of the Library Policy Committee held on this date Mr. Marvin Arrington and Miss Barbara Woods of the Black Student Alliance presented to the committee several concerns involved in developing the Afro-American Reading Room. There were two major requests. (1) For security of the room, the students would like to have an attendant. Mr. Lyle pointed out that the Candler Library is operated on the Honor Code, and that the cost of an attendant would be prohibitive. (2) The Black students would like help in selecting and organizing the collection. Mr. Lyle indicated that the Reference staff stood ready at all times to help; but in response to the request that one member of the Reference staff



be named specifically to help Black students, he stated that he considered this neither practical nor good library procedure.

The Committee approved the purchase of all the titles on the first two (with respect to the priorities set by the Black students) out of four book lists submitted to Mr. Lyle. Requests from lists three and four were scheduled to be brought before the Committee at its next meeting, after they had been checked bibliographically, searched in the catalog, and checked against certain uncataloged gift collections.

February 27, 1970

In a memorandum to Dr. Palms, Mr. Lyle wrote that he had discussed with the Reference Department the question of designating a particular Reference librarian to assist the Black students, which had been one of the needs expressed by the students at the February 24 Library Policy Committee meeting. He again expressed doubt as to the wisdom of such a suggestion, but left it up to the Reference Department to decide. The Reference Department suggested a meeting of two of their staff with Dr. Palms and representatives of BSA.

March 5, 1970

Dr. Palms and Miss Barbara Woods met with Miss Ruth Walling, Head of Reference, and Mrs. Susan Suggs, Reference Librarian. Two other members of the Black Student Alliance came in just before the end of the meeting. The meeting was devoted to an informal discussion of possible aids for selection. Miss Woods mentioned syllabi developed for Black studies programs at other institutions as possible book selection aids, and Miss Walling agreed to write for some of these. Miss Walling also suggested that the Reference Department would identify bibliographies [[bibliographies]] in the Woodruff Collection useful for selection in the area of Black

Studies and would add others if significant ones were lacking.

March 9, 1970

There was a meeting with Dean Ward attended by Mr. Arrington, Mr. Lyle, Dr. Palms, and three BSA students. This meeting had been arranged by Dr. Palms at the request of Mr. Arrington. Since funds are not available to staff the Afro-American Reading Room, it was agreed, at the request of the BSA, that the Candler Librarian should lock the room, and persons needing to consult or borrow books and journals kept there should borrow a key from the Loan Desk upstairs.

Mr. Arrington reported that a program of Black Studies had been formulated, and that recommendations would soon be forthcoming. Mr. Lyle pointed out that the recommendations for these courses should include the necessary costs for library staff and books.

March 26, 1970