Black Student Demands Receive President Atwood’s Attentions

President Sanford Atwood and Charles Haynes, SGA president, have released progress reports on the committees formed in relation to the demands of the black students last May.

The twelve committees were designed to investigate the solution of the demands made by the black students last May. The majority of the committees have made progress and implementation of their suggestions has begun.

The committee on the enrollment of black students is seeking the employment of a black admissions recruiter jointly by Emory, Duke, Tulane, and Vanderbilt to aid the enrollment of more black students. This summer arrangements were made for black students and their friends to use a university owned house at 1746 Clifton Road. The SGA agreed to allocate funds to cover the cost not absorbed by the university.

The employment of a black administrator has progressed very well according to Dean Donald Jones. A suitable candidate has been found and negotiations are now proceeding. When a black administrator is employed he will probably be assigned to the Office of Student Services. Suitable candidates for the position of black psychiatrists will be recommended to Dr. Knopf. One person has already been interviewed for the position.

The committee on Afro-American studies hopes to submit a definite program with recommendations for its implementation by the end of Winter Quarter 1970. According to the Assistant University Librarian, Paul Cousins, a special reading room will be assigned to the fall for Afro-American resources. The SGA has also arranged for three hundred books on black studies to be donated to the reading room.

A great deal of progress has been made by the committee on Inter-relations with all Emory students. The SGA is launching a year long educational program of racism including non-credit classes on racism.

John Outler, Director of Personnel, says that an employee relations council is being developed and will include students as well as employee representatives. The Council will meet regularly to advise on working conditions and matters of employee relations. James Gavin, member of the BSA, said “In order to ease the death-grip of the racist supervisors in many departments of the university, we advised that the university grievance code be distributed to
the workers immediately. Numerous black supervisors have appeared in several areas over the last few weeks. Outler, when questioned about the faculty recommendations for a $3,000 per annum minimum wage, replied that, “We are ready ahead of that.” Gavin stated “This had yet to be substantiated.”

Through the Ad Hoc Committee the black students presented an orientation to the faculty on the needs of Black students at the faculty retreat. The committee for Black membership on College Committees are making recommendations to the College Council and the College Faculty so that they may approve the entrance of Black students to the standing college committees.

The other committees on the evaluation of university objectives, cooperation with Atlanta University Center, committee on workers, black membership on College Committees, and budgetary relations with the SGA have all met and progress has been made in all areas.

In his letter, Dr. Atwood also made a few general remarks about further campus disruptions. He stated, “Let it be clear, at the outset, that disruption can not be tolerated; it is antithetic to the purpose of the University. Disciplinary powers must be exercised under any threat to lives or property….Emory has an enviable tradition of fairness.