

DIVISION OF MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Jerry Anderson
Academic Vice President

DATE: 20 October 1972

FROM: Courtland N. Robinson

SUBJECT: Black Studies Planning Program Proposal

References: (1) Proposal No. BC-005
Dated 28 September 1972

(2) Letter to Administration
Dated 17 October 1972

Professor Shelby Steele and I met with Dr. Pete Garcia at 9:30 AM on 19 October 1972 for the purpose of discussing the incremental funding of the referenced proposal. At this time Dr. Garcia indicated that immediate funding allocations to this program would be in the amount of \$20,500 to be used for the Symposium outlined in our proposal. We find this to be totally unsatisfactory for reasons which are documented below.

(1) Garcia's response appears to completely ignore all other aspects of the proposal. He only recommends in general terms that "everything possible" be done to "make the institute concept of this proposal a reality." With respect to the very specific items in our proposal, such a general response leaves very unclear the intentions regarding these items. For example, absolutely nothing definite has been said with respect to the Director's Salary, or any of the other personnel originally proposed.

(2) The indicated \$20,500 commitment does not even fully cover the budgeted costs of the Symposium, even before these costs were modified to reflect the concerns expressed by you and others regarding lecture fees. Indeed, the proposal budget includes a \$3,000 item to cover costs for the video tapes to be used in documentation of the Symposium.

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(3) The single most disturbing factor centers around the funds which we know are available. It is our understanding that Garcia's budget, based upon the way he indicates its break-down, will have approximately \$42,000 available for program support. While this is obviously inadequate to fully fund our proposed program, it does represent enough funds to get our proposed program off to a good solid start while efforts are underway to uncover the necessary additional funds. We deserve nothing less than this type of funding support.

During the last several months, we have spent many long hours patiently thinking, researching, planning and very systematically assembling the basic framework for a good, comprehensive, meaningful Black Studies Program for this University. (I might add that doing this involved significant personal sacrifice.) This has resulted in our proposal for the first year's program and a longer range proposal which is yet to be completed. Now that some meager funds have been made available largely, if not solely, as a result of our efforts, we find that the Chicanos (quite likely based upon our proposal) have hastily thrown together a request for \$150,000 with the indication that they will have a formal proposal submitted within three weeks. (Now, is this any way to run an "airline"?) As a result, instead of our program, which is the only one now ready to move, being incrementally funded to the maximum extent possible, we find ourselves being told that we can only have \$20,500 now because the remaining funds must be saved for the Chicano program. To us, this is an insult. Indeed, it is an insult to you and the Administration who have supported our recent and current efforts to intelligently develop a program.

We feel that this type of action effectively serves to penalize the Black Community because the Chicanos have not done their homework and hence are not yet ready to move, as we are. This is a form of tokenism and must not be allowed to happen. We again note that it is our sincere feeling that the long range results will be far superior if, given a choice and limited funds, the more developed of the two programs be given a good solid start rather than trying half-heartedly to simultaneously start both and having both fail. Failure is too easy to realize to have it built-in from the start.

CNR:kl
cc. Dr. Thomas King
Dr. Peter Garcia
Prof. Shelby Steele