

BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11210

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RESPONSES TO DEMANDS

1. DEMAND: We demand that all Black and Puerto Rican students who apply for admission be accepted regardless of their acquired scholastic record.

RESPONSE: Brooklyn College cannot solve this alone. The City University is working to admit by 1975 every graduate of every high school in the city. In the meantime, we are doing all that is within our means to expand educational opportunities for Black and Puerto Rican students.

2. DEMAND: We demand that a free tutorial program and basic skill courses be instituted to aid and assist students in order to fulfill their scholastic potential.

RESPONSE: Although several such programs are presently in operation, the college recognizes this as an area of deficiency and is actively seeking resources to staff and finance expansion of these programs.

3. DEMAND: We demand that no course be designated as required and mandatory attendance be abolished.

RESPONSE: A recommendation will be presented to the Faculty Council on Tuesday that will provide much wider choice from a large group of courses. On the matter of mandatory attendance, there is no college requirement for attendance by sophomores, juniors and seniors. I have long believed that mandatory attendance is unnecessary even for freshmen, but the Faculty Council will have to make the final answer on this.

4. DEMAND: We demand that the autonomy of Afro-American and Puerto Rican institutes be respected as such and be controlled by Black and Puerto Rican students with the help of the Black and Puerto Rican faculty and the community.

RESPONSE: The planning committee for the Afro-American Institute is composed totally of Black faculty and students. Virtually the same structure exists for the planning committee for the Puerto Rican Institute. Matters of autonomy and community involvement presumably will be structured by the committees. As an example of community involvement, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Visiting Professorship was established in direct response to a request by the community. The college extended the same lectures to the evening, open to the community, without tuition or registration requirements. Since last February a student sponsored free lecture series given in the School of General Studies has provided a forum for Black and Puerto Rican community leaders.

April 18, 1969

5. DEMAND: We demand that all biological and chemical warfare research and CIA activities be completely dismissed from the campus.

RESPONSE: An investigation into this matter was conducted by the administration last November. No such activities were found to exist and a presidential directive decreed that none would be contracted.

6. DEMAND: We demand that lounges in the student center be designated as cultural centers for Black and Puerto Rican students and be controlled by Black and Puerto Rican students.

RESPONSE: Because this is a facility that all students have funded by a fee levy upon themselves, it is not possible to assign a portion of the facility permanently and exclusively to any one group. Within this policy, decisions regarding use of space must be arrived at in full consultation with the student governments.

7. DEMAND: We demand that a yearly increase of special financial assistance be given to needy students.

RESPONSE: On July 1, the college will have ten times more money available for financial assistance than it has this year. Policies for the administration of these funds, which also cover work-study programs, were developed with the active participation of Black and Puerto Rican students. The new monies available should permit more adequate assistance next year. In addition, guidelines for on-campus student employment extend first opportunity for jobs to students with financial needs.

8. DEMAND: We demand that the administration no longer possess the option to raise campus fees or cost, etc. without a student consensus.

RESPONSE: The college agrees that it will not raise fees without consultation with students.

9. DEMAND: We demand an increase of no less than twenty-five Black and twenty-five Puerto Rican teachers, not including those instructors to be employed in the Black and Puerto Rican Institutes.

RESPONSE: The college has already urged departments to intensify their efforts to recruit Black and Puerto Rican faculty members. A presidential search committee will now be established to seek candidates and to receive recommendations for candidacies from students and members of the faculty for recommendation to the various departments. We must all understand that this is a nationally recognized problem, and that The City University is in competition with many other major institutions for additional Black and Puerto Rican faculty members.

April 18, 1969

10. DEMAND: We demand that instructors Ford and Brandstein, professors Slotnik, Zimmerman, and Farganis maintain their positions and that we, the students have a say in the hiring and firing of teachers.

RESPONSE: The faculty members listed in item 10 were voted upon by their departments in accordance with the bylaws governing appointments, tenure, and reappointments which are described by the Dean of the Faculties in Kingsman, February 21. One of the faculty members was recommended for reappointment by his department on March 12, 1969. On the matter of students being involved in appointments and reappointments, the Faculty Council now has before it a proposal for such participation.

11. DEMAND: We demand the dismissal of all white teachers and professors who have demonstrated racist tendencies: Specially Fitzhugh.

RESPONSE: Racism, wherever it exists, is to be deplored. However, in the interest of academic freedom, students and faculty members must be free to express themselves. Where there is tangible evidence of racism, action in accordance with due process as provided in Section 11.13 of the bylaws of the Board of Higher Education will be taken. In the case of tenured staff members the Board of Higher Education alone has the power of dismissal.

12. DEMAND: We demand that an office be allocated for tutoring and other essential services and be under the control of Black and Puerto Rican students.

RESPONSE: The response to this item is covered under item 2. However, if there are specific suggestions not covered under item 2, I would welcome more details.

13. DEMAND: We demand that a special six credit field course per semester (including the summer session) be instituted for all Black and Puerto Rican students. These students will be allowed to work with any chosen organization in a Black or Puerto Rican community. This organization will grade him.

RESPONSE: Several courses of this nature are already offered for credit by Brooklyn College. But I have forwarded this request to the appropriate committee of the Faculty Council for consideration.

14. DEMAND: We demand that no disciplinary action be taken against any student worker, teacher or administrator in their attempt to implement these demands.

RESPONSE: Brooklyn College supports and defends the rights of all students and members of the faculty to present their convictions and to work for them. The college does not intend to suppress any demonstration which does not interfere with its normal functions.

April 18, 1969

15. DEMAND: We demand that the Educational department change its curriculum to fit the needs of all Black and Puerto Rican community and especially; all future teachers be required to take Latin American Spanish, that Education majors be required to take courses that pertain to the Black and Puerto Rican neighborhoods.

RESPONSE: The Education Department agrees that this is an urgent need and fully intends to continue its intensified effort to increase the relevance of its program to children in the inner city schools. For the past five years all students in methods and practice teaching courses in elementary schools have been required to serve for 50% of their teaching experience in inner city schools. The field experience of all courses will be expanded by decreasing the theoretical aspects and providing increased credit for field experience. It is also planned that courses in conversational Latin-American Spanish and methods of teaching Afro-American history and culture be offered as electives.

16. DEMAND: We demand control of any exterior programs, as the exchange program, dealing with Puerto Rican and Black people. Brooklyn College is developing and has developed programs dealing with the Puerto Rican and Black people through the departments such as the exchange program under the Political Science dept. to bring Puerto Rican and Black scholars to Brooklyn. The Puerto Rican and Black students realize that exchange programs are necessary but that any such programs should be controlled by the Puerto Rican and Black students through the Puerto Rican and Afro-American Institutes.

RESPONSE: The college agrees that exchange programs are extremely valuable and has encouraged their development. The Political Science Department is exploring now a limited program with the University of Puerto Rico that would enable Brooklyn College students to study in Puerto Rico, Puerto Rican students to study at Brooklyn College. There is also the possibility of exchanging at least one faculty member on the same basis. This type of program can be expanded into other fields.

17. DEMAND: We demand that Mrs. Willie Watson be appointed as director of the Brooklyn College Bookstore.

RESPONSE: A Brooklyn College faculty-student committee has recommended unanimously, after full consideration of all of the facts, that the present Bookstore operation should be converted to a concessionaire operation. This recommendation was made in the expectation that the concessionaire will guarantee that at least \$50,000 will be realized annually by this means, compared to approximately \$5,000 earned by the Bookstore last year. This \$50,000 will be used to reduce book prices and to fund student programs, with the advice of students. The contract with the concessionaire provides that all full and part-time personnel having two-years of prior service will have the same job protection they now enjoy; and also that these employees will receive the same consideration in terms of training, advancement, and financial remuneration

that the concessionaire gives his own staff with similar seniority; and further, that there will be no discrimination in hiring or retention of employees because of race, religion, or national origin.

18. DEMAND: Free the twenty-one Panthers Framed-up by D.A. Hogan, and the City of New York.

RESPONSE: This is a matter over which the college has no jurisdiction.

April 18, 1969