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BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

535 EAST EIGHTIETH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

212 360-2127

February 20, 1968

Mr. Walter Pinkston
 Executive Director
 Bedford Stuyvesant Youth in Action, Inc.
 1180 Fulton Street
 Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mr. Pinkston:

I have your telegram advising me of the formation of your coalition group and of your desire to meet with the Board to discuss the proposed establishment of a college in Bedford-Stuyvesant. We are fully aware of the deep interest and concern of your community in the proposed college. Since the college is intended to serve community needs, we are, of course, eager to seek community advice and participation.

I appreciate your feeling that we should not proceed with the new college until we meet with you. I propose to discuss with the Board at its forthcoming meeting the form in which consultation with the Bedford-Stuyvesant community is to take place. In the meantime, however, a special committee of the Board has been named to explore possible candidates for the presidencies of the three experimental community colleges, of which the Bedford-Stuyvesant college is one. The distinguished educator, Dr. Frederick H. Burkhardt, is chairman of this Board committee and I have received assurances from him that he and his committee will be glad to meet with representatives of your steering group here at the Board headquarters. I have suggested that he communicate with you directly and arrange to meet with your committee at a time which is mutually convenient.

I look forward to receiving the first report concerning the deliberations of the Board committee with your steering committee. Subsequently, as I said, we may be in touch with you concerning other forms of consultation which might be undertaken pursuant to a discussion of the matter by the Board at its next meeting. Chancellor Bowker and I will both recommend such consultation and the creation of special machinery for it.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Frederick H. Burkhardt
 Dr. J. Oscar Lee
 Prof. J.C.C. Edelstein

Porter R. Chandler
 Chairman