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At the second meeting between the Steering Committee of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Coalition, and representative members of the Board of Higher Education, the latter (together with the Chancellor), expressed their essential agreement with us in our contention that the Black Community of Brooklyn is entitled to a community-controlled Senior College. Specifically, they made explicit statement of their intent to work in concert with us toward achievement of this end.

Unfortunately, there has arisen what we might, charitably, describe as a 'tone' characterizing subsequent meetings, which leads us to have some concern over whether or not the BHE is, in fact, as dedicated as it initially led us to believe it was, <sup>toward</sup> working to achieve this goal.

The possibility that such a change in attitude is taking place, forces us to reaffirm the original position taken by this community at its first, open meeting, last Winter: WE REJECT A TWO-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS INHERENTLY INFERIOR, AND ANY OFFER WHICH ENDS ONLY IN THAT, AS GROSSLY INSULTING.

The pre-college education which <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ available to this community has, for years, been characterized by the stigma of inferiority. We vow, therefore, that we will not tolerate a repetition of the type of situation in higher education with which we have been saddled at the secondary level, whereby the inferior vocational and general curricula are all that has been open to 90% of our youngsters. Yet, the analagous situation in higher education would be to limit its presence in our area to the equally inferior community college.

Allow us to be presumptuous enough to anticipate the probable objections to this

contention: First, we would ask each Board member as an individual, <sup>to which of these types of college</sup> ~~would~~ he would wish to send his own children? We would then remind the Board that they have officially given implicit admission of this inferiority by establishing lower admission standards to the junior units; and, most significantly, by paying their faculty members of equal rank lower salaries at the two-year schools than they do <sup>in those</sup> in their senior institutions. We would also cite as merely one specific index of this inferiority-- but a single index of such grossness, that it should suffice-- the following: At Kingsborough where, despite the rationale with which it was established, the student body it serves is anything but "disadvantaged," its attrition rate (using the strict definition of the term, "attrition,") in its third year, was in excess of 90%! This, we would remind the Board, <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ a figure true of a school where the population, at the time, was only 10% non-white and "disadvantaged!"

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If the Board insists that if an institution is to open here on schedule, <sup>then</sup> ~~it~~ it must open as a Community College (if only because its first year or two of operation has been predicated upon an assumption of the availability of the additional, ~~support~~ support from the State which goes to institutions bearing that designation), we will accept the <sup>final</sup> legitimacy of ~~the Board's position~~ this contention, providing that the BOARD AS A WHOLE FORMALLY COMMITS ITSELF to replacing the community college after its second year of operation, with a four-year senior institution, with an explicit understanding that the four-year, senior institution will operate under the same community-controlled governing board <sup>structure</sup> as the initial two-year unit. This will allow the Board a more than ample two years in which to start the machinery which will result in establishment of the four year unit-- especially since it has not seemed to require more than a year to establish senior colleges serving white communities.

If the Board is unwilling to establish the four year, ~~senior~~ college-- we refuse to grant that it is "unable to!"-- let it be understood that this community will not allow itself to permit a repetition of the <sup>elementary and secondary school</sup> situation whereby it ~~is~~ <sup>found</sup> itself saddled with an inferior education program, because of a mistaken belief that second rate schooling <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~

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 better than none. Let <sup>it</sup> be clearly understood that if the Board of Higher Education insists, out of a misguided, and anachronistic sense of noblesse oblige, to impose the gratuitous insult of a permanent junior college in our midst, we will do everything possible to discourage that effort.

Frankly, we cannot understand why the Board would do this. At the aforementioned meeting, its President, and the Chancellor both, each personally admitted the past, ~~guilt~~--- albeit a 'guilt' by omission--- of the Board in failing to provide equitable, public higher education to the 40% of this city which is classed as non-Caucasian. It has seen fit to establish 10 institutions of higher learning offering baccalaureate degrees or higher, <sup>each of</sup> which, by its own figures, serve full-time, matriculated enrollments ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~from~~ from 90 to 97% white. Indeed, when one notes that the tradition of which public higher education in New York City is most proud to boast, is the tradition of providing the means of upward access to this City's "new populations," a refusal to give its largest black <sup>ghetto</sup> ~~community~~ a senior college, can only lead us to assume that this 'tradition' only holds true where such a 'new population' is white. (It does not escape notice in this community, <sup>incidentally,</sup> though it be with a somewhat bemused irony, that even the 'community' of 35,000 uniformed law enforcement officers--- less than 10% of the population of just this one ghetto--- has been deemed worthy of meriting its own senior City University institution in the John Jay College!)

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 Our demand for a senior college carries with it an acceptance of the reality that a senior institution--- and especially a new one--- cannot possibly offer a total spectrum of degree programs. Therefore, we include a second, and co-equal demand: that the Board mandate that credits earned in the temporary community college, and later during the first two years of the senior institution, must be accepted as fully transferable throughout the City University system. This will enable those of our youngsters who ~~want to~~ <sup>want to</sup> attend their freshman and sophomore years here, ~~in order to~~ in order to remedy the deficiencies imposed upon them in their elementary and secondary schools, <sup>Then, if they</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>they will be able to</sup> wish to enter major programs of study which this new school does not offer, ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> transfer

without any fear that the lack of articulation resulting from inter-institutional jealousies, or other causes, which <sup>at present</sup> ~~is~~ frequently results in gross credit losses when transferring between constituent CUNY units, will affect them in such a senseless and time-wasting way.

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By way of summary: we demand

- (1) a community-controlled senior college. (We will accept a two-year postponement in its establishment, during which time a temporary, community-controlled, Community College will operate, providing it is clearly understood that this junior college will be replaced by the senior institution.)
- (2) a Board of Higher Education ruling which imposes upon <sup>each of its</sup> ~~any~~ senior colleges, ~~the~~ ~~requirement~~ the requirement of granting full, parity acceptance to all credits earned by any student in the temporary two-year college, and in the lower two years of the senior institution, who transfers to another CUNY unit.