

The University Responds to the Demands
of the Black Action Movement

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These simple figures mean many, many things. They mean that Black men are much more likely to be sent to Vietnam than white men are. They also mean that Black communities must rely on white people for professional skills and educated leadership. Sick Black people must go to white doctors; Black people who need legal advice must go to white lawyers; Black people have to deal with white business executives and white government officials. Usually at an educational disadvantage, Black children and adults must try to learn from white teachers.

These are some of the results of institutional racism. Institutions that perpetrate this situation are called racist. The University of Michigan is one of them. This racism goes beyond the racism that cries: "Nigger". This racism involves all social institutions that systematically rob Black people of financial security, political sovereignty and human dignity. The University doesn't call Black people "Niggers", it just treats them as "Niggers":

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The Black students of the University have responded to this racist inequity. And the University has responded to them.

"The Black students of the University of Michigan, fully aware that the countless problems of our communities require the attention of college trained brothers and sisters who have access to a concerned and relevant university type structure, issue the following demands to this university." (from 'Black Student Demands'; as are quotes that follow)

The Executive Officers' plan is, in fact, a response to the initiative of the Black Action Movement (BAM) demands. Therefore, the most sensible way of evaluating the Executive Officers' plan is to observe where and how it deviates from the BAM demands.

"In response to the request of the Regents, (emphasis added) the Executive Officers' plan to submit the following proposal for consideration by the Regents when they meet next Wednesday and Thursday."

1. The BAM has demanded: "A goal of 10% of the total student population in Ann Arbor be made up of Black students by 1973-74. This shall increase yearly until the overall population of Blacks shall approach if not exceed, the proportion of Blacks in the state. More specifically we demand that in the academic year 1971-72, there shall be an incoming class which includes at least 450 Black freshmen and 150 Black transfer students, as well as 300 new Black graduate students."

1.a. The Executive Officers' plan states: "That we establish as a goal the availability of a University of Michigan education for double

the present number of disadvantaged students (emphasis added) by 1973-1974. Black students presently constitute a large majority of all disadvantaged students."

The University does not speak to the demand of 10% Black student population by 1973-1974. In fact, the University doesn't want to talk about Black students at all; preferring "disadvantaged students" (most just "happen" to be Black). 85% of the Opportunity Award Program (OAP) or "disadvantaged" are Black. Doubling only the OAP Black enrollment will increase the total Black enrollment from about 3.3% to about 5.5% -- 5.5% Black enrollment by 1973-74! And only if Blacks continue to receive 85% of the Opportunity Awards Program grants.

Furthermore, the University does not speak at all to the demand that Blacks' enrollment increase yearly until it approaches or exceeds the percentage of Black youth in the state. Perhaps this is too much for Blacks to even dream of, in the opinion of the University.

Clearly the University reveals itself as a racist institution by first of all refusing to realistically regard these demands as Black demands necessary for the progress of the Black people of Michigan. And second, by refusing to accept more than a token number of Black students in the foreseeable future (1973-1974). Two things must be stressed here. First of all, the BAM demands are reasonable and just. They are not "racist" because they seek changes for Black people. They seek to free Black people from racism. And the only way to do this is to make demands that deal specifically with the needs of Black people. Second, and related to this, is the fact that these demands do not stand in opposition to increased aid to non-Black poor students. Rather, these demands recognize the reality that American higher education is both an economic and a race privilege; therefore solely economic programs such as the University suggests cannot deal with the Black situation.

2. The BAM has made detailed recommendations for increasing the numbers of graduate and undergraduate professional recruiters; who are to be selected by a committee comprised of Black students, faculty and administrators.

2a. The Executive Officers' plan includes provisions for the appointment of "An Opportunity Award Program committee, consisting of students, (emphasis added) faculty, and administrators . . . to cooperate in developing policies, expanding staffs and improving services." They further state that: "The objectives of the effort will be to expand substantially the recruiting staff so as to better counsel qualified in-state students in high schools for freshmen, in community colleges for transfer students, and in four-year institutions for graduate students."

Again the key word is Black. The University refuses to accept the concept that Black students, not simply students, must have some guaranteed input into the University decision making process. It is essential to the effective breakdown of racism in the University that Black students share the authority regarding the selection of recruiters whose job it will be to increase Black enrollment.

3. The BAM demands that a plan of supportive services be instituted to make the increase of Black students feasible.

3a. Here the Executive Officers' plan states that: "funds will be provided to enlarge supportive service for the students who need special help."

4. The BAM demands that: "All work on the Black Studies Program is halted until a community/University input can be fully developed to insure the desire of the people." And that: The University must establish a Black Student Center in our community (emphasis added). The East University site, though it may be accepted on a temporary basis, it can never adequately serve as a desired link between communities and universities."

4a. The Executive Officers plan states that: "We have already taken steps towards implementing the objectives of the Afro-American Studies Program and the Black Student Center and the allocation of adequate initial funds for these programs to get underway. When appropriate we shall continue other worthy programs and centers.

Here again, the University is insensitive to the needs of its Black Students and the Black Community. The fact that crucial determinants in making a Black Studies Program and a Black Student Center relevant is its connection to the local Black Community is ignored by the Executive Officer's Plan. Ignorance in this matter is intolerable. In point of fact, ignorance is the most generous interpretation possible of the University proclamation. The University has a history of protecting merchants, landlords, and police. Here where the economic and cultural issues (i.e. exploitation and decimation) are much the same and race is added; is it reasonable to think the University will reverse itself?

5. The BAM has demanded that: "The Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund (MLKSF) is to be revitalized. The Parents Confidential Statement (PCS) is to be revamped. A University-wide appeal board is to be established for those who claim to be short of finances."

No mention is made of the MLKSF, the PCS, or the proposed University wide appealboard. This is extremely important. Black Students have already achieved a degree of control over funds in the MLKSF. BAM has proposed that a "student referendum shall go before the student body in the March SGC election which shall request that each student assess himself/herself three dollars for the academic year 1970-1971" for the undesignated account of the MLKSF. President Fleming had said the University will not collect this money even if the student referendum passes. For this reason the executive Officers have ignored the MLKSF. Another example of University commitment to the needs of Black Students. The PCS presents an overly frugal picture of an individual's budget because it doesn't allow for hidden costs. Without a revamping of this document many students will have a difficult time demonstrating their true financial need. This is, of course, most significant for Black Students because their financial needs are greatest. The establishment of a University-wide Financial Appeal Board is not a minor issue. All students must have recourse to appeal if they believe they can demonstrate financial need. Again, this is very important for the Black Student. Too, this may be especially relevant for non-Black students who believe that they have lost financial aid because of increased Black Student Financial Aid. By not speaking to this demand, the executive officers' plan would risk quite avoidable racial conflict between students.

6. The BAM has also stated that: "finally we demand that tuition waivers be granted to financially disadvantaged students admitted under special programs. The process of describing a tuition waiver is facilitated by stating what it does; it is economically feasible for students to have their tuition waived, a mechanism which is largely different from that of the scholarship." (A summary of the legal precedent has been presented to the Regents.)

6a. The Executive Officers' Plan completely ignores this demand, which would greatly facilitate the increase of Black Enrollment at the University. This clearly demonstrates the extent to which the University (autocrats) are willing to work to eliminate racism at the University.

Throughout this paper it has been implied that a University education is both a class & race privilege. That is, the whiteness of the University is not solely a matter of economics, nor of bureaucratic inertia. Of course, the University (autocrats) would claim otherwise. The University autocrats claim that enrolling more Black Students is simply a matter of dollars and time (from about 3.3% now to about 5.5% by '73-'74 to be exact.) We believe otherwise. We submit that the university can meet the demands of the BAM now, if it will only reorder its racist spending priorities!

For Example:

The budget request for 1970-1971 which went to the legislature last November, included the following requests for increases among others: \$6,458,000 for salaries and staff benefits: \$966,000 (to offset inflation); \$450,000 for the College of Engineering; \$586,000 for Library spending (remember what happened at the library?); \$505,000 support for research activities (including war research, of course); \$150,000 for maintenance of new buildings; \$178,000 for fire and police protection; \$317,000 to offset utilities inflation.

The University did not request one single penny increase for its minority group admissions programs. 18% of college age youth in Mich. are Black. 3% of the enrollment in this racist institution are Black people.

In an article entitled; "Black Admissions Battles the Budget", Michigan Daily editor Martin Hirschman sighted a veritable plethora of University programs whose funds would be better spent on bringing Black Students to the University. Though the article should have been entitled "Black Admissions battles White Racist -Imperialist Spending Priorities", the data and conclusions are great. Most of the data that will follow is from that article.

Air Science,	
Nonacademic Salaries	\$16,843
Current Expense	\$ 3,900
Military Science	
Academic Salaries	\$400
NonAcademic Salaries	\$1,647
Current Expense	\$4,000
Naval Science:	
Academic Salaries	\$ 400
Nonacademic Salaries	\$6,539
Current Expenses	\$4,690

ROTC Building-

\$200,000 not gained from the rental of an equivalent building in Ann Arbor

TOTAL-\$253,229

Since these dollars were spent perpetuating white racism abroad it only seems fitting that they be spent alleviating white racism here.

Commencement Expenses	\$50,000
Diplomas	\$34,000

- What can be said about this sort of froth?

Institute for INternational Commerce: \$140,000

Hirshman quotes Vice-President Smith as saying that this institute was found ed to be "helpful to Michigan businesses interested in developing international markets." Black students are more important than Michigan profiteers.

Institute for Science and Technology (IST):

Released Time Appointments \$85,000

Administration \$127,000

Total: \$212,000

"While the actual cost of the war research done by IST is covered by federal grants and indirect cost reimbursement, the administration of IST is paid out of tuition revenues and state appropriations-another example of direct University subsidy of war-oriented campus institutions. Released time appointments money is used to pay the salaries of faculty members who wish to drop teaching assignments so they can spend all of their time doing research at IST for a period of time." War research doesn't belong on campus. Black students do.

Placement Services:

Academic Salaries \$54,897

Nonacademic Salaries 142,613

Current Expense 46,800

Total: 250,310

The placement service is clearly one of the most blatantly racist operations at the University. The University spends a quarter of a million dollars to line up jobs for graduating students while claiming it cannot meet the just demands of the BAM to admit a significant number of new Black students.

Alumni Association:

Current Expense \$120,000

"actually this is only a small part of the Alumni Association budget, most of which is made up by the revenues generated by alumni activities like parties and excursions." How many Black alumni belong to the Alumni Association? How many Black alumni are there?

Radrick Farms:

Recreation \$60,000

Nonacademic Salaries 30,000

Total 90,230

Radrick Farms is a golf course. Does the University need a golf course? Does the University need more Black students? Maybe the University can have both. We don't think so, because if the University is going to enroll more than a handful of Black students, something has got to go. And unfortunately, we don't think it's going to be war research or corporate recruiting. We could be wrong though.

These few programs come to \$1,009,769. Not to mention the 2.6 million dollar inter-collegiate athletics budget. Or the subsidy the University pays to the Ann Arbor police which amounts to 40% of their budget, or the 21 million dollars of investments the University has in South Africa.

The University clearly has all the dollars necessary to meet the demands of the Black Action Movement. Only a white racist sense of spending priorities, i. e. golf, diplomas, war research, ROTC, corporate placement, etc. forces the University to reject the demands of the Black Action Movement.