

Bennington College

To File Date 7 April 1978

From Joe Murphy Re:

With regard to a delegation of students from the Black Music Division, the following points were made and some agreed to:

1. The students would like to know whether a written statement as to Black Music space could be provided so that we would diminish the ambiguity as to what does and what doesn't fall within their province.
2. Apparently a memo some months ago was written by the Secretary of the Black Music Division, Bill Dixon, to the Dean of Studies, Mike Rock. No record of a response to that memo appears to exist. I've agreed to ask Rock and Dixon to meet and discuss the contents of the memo.
3. I was requested to look at Commons, which I did this morning. Further discussion with regard to faculty, equipment, etc. took place. I made it clear at that point that allocation of faculty internally is not my responsibility. Students did make a good point with regard to the Admissions Office being more sensitive to the special recruitment of students interested in Black Music which, of course, is a sensible suggestion.

I visited Black Music space this morning and conferred with several of the student representatives of the Black Music Division. It was my understanding that the issue was not additional space so much as the better utilization of the space as presently allocated. The building is clearly in need of some repair and the administration will have to do something about it. I am, therefore, asking Mr. Iser and Mr. Lord to confer with the Black Music Division and see whether the renovation of the space can be done in a way which enhances the degree to which that space can be utilized in an efficient way by the Black Music Division. From my point of view there appears to be some sort of communication confusion between Mr. Dixon and the students in the Black Music Division since it was my understanding that Mr. Dixon had already consulted with Mr. Lord and Mr. Iser with regard to the renovation of the space in question. I remain a little confused as to the chronological order of all these events.

JSM:cf

cc: Mike Rock
Don Brown
Bernie Iser
Russ Lord
Bill Dixon
Stephen Haynes