

OPEN MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 11/22/71

ON THE BLACK LIBRARY

The meeting was held in the seminar room of the Library at 4:00 P.M., on 22 November, 1971. Present: Messers Agard, Cornwell, Ricks, and Tristman of the Library Committee, Mrs. Dowling and Mrs. Schomaker and eleven Black students.

Mr. Agard explained that the purpose of the meeting was to outline procedures for the development of a Black Library, for which purpose the college had received a gift of \$3000. The terms of the gift are comprehensive, and it is our responsibility to develop guides for the kind of Black Library we want, and to work out the procedures to accomplish this. It also seemed important that the policies and procedures, when developed, be well known on campus. Because of the comprehensive nature of the gift, it is essential that policy be developed for the direction the collection is to take. Books, periodicals, tapes and recordings could be purchased, and some indication of how the money should be apportioned needs to be made. Similarly, we need to consider the nature of the books collection, whether it will emphasize literature, or scholarly works, etc.

Mr. Cornwell read the proposal prepared by the College Development Office and used in the solicitation of funds. Since the grant from the Scherman Foundation is in response to this proposal without further specifications, it is assumed that our proposal determines the scope and nature of the Library. The scope of the Library is "the history and anthropology of Africa, the social and political history of Blacks in America, with special emphasis on slavery and the civil rights movement, and the literature and music of Black people." It is hoped that additional monies will be forthcoming from this source. Mr Agard explained that \$3000 is the amount of money actually available at this time (from the Scherman Foundation). Although there is no promise that the grant will be renewed, Mr. Landis feels that it is a good possibility that it will be.

In answer to a question, Mr. Agard told the group that about 75% of the books purchased by the Library are in response to faculty requests; the balance is selected by the Library staff, along with a very small number of student suggestions.

The discussion began with questions of whether the proposed collection should be:

- 1) Shelved separately from other books in general collection
- 2) Shelved with regular collection in general subject areas, with only additional breaking down by decimal system.
- 3) Whether the collection would include all subject areas.
- 4) Whether the collection would include only Black authors or would include material on the "Black experience" by other authors as well.

In answer to the first two questions, Mr. Agard pointed out that technical difficulties in the arrangement of the collection could be worked out later and that he thought the purpose of the meeting was to set up a Library sub-committee to make decisions concerning the new collection; i.e., selection of material, kind of material to be included, etc. While the majority of students present, however, seemed to favor a separately shelved collection of all material by black authors or material about the black experience, no final determination of the arrangement was made. Joan Huckstep pointed out that difficulties of locating material could be taken care of through cross-references in the card catalogue. There was no decision on subject areas to be included, but students present seemed to believe that white authors writing about the black experience should be included.

After a short discussion it was decided that the Library sub-committee should be made up of: (3 students) the Librarian, 1 Black faculty member, and 1 Library Committee faculty member. The Black students present planned to meet with their student group Tuesday, November 23rd, to choose committee members. Mr. Cornwell finally remarked that we should set the number of Black students on the committee at 3.

There was further discussion about the kind of material to be included in the collection; i.e. books, tapes, records, slides, films. Mr. Cornwell suggested that it might be wise to choose material, at this point, of the kind the Library already has. Books, recordings, tapes, art slides are among those presently housed in the Library. Mr. Tristman pointed out, as well, that films are often more economical to rent than to purchase. Mr. Agard told the group that Brenda Dixon-Stowell has already expressed her interest in adding recordings and tapes. It was decided that the committee (to be chosen) will decide how money should be spent; that is, how it should be divided among various subject areas. Mr. Ricks pointed out, however, that Mr. Agard does have responsibilities, as the College Librarian, for maintaining a collection of fine quality.

Mr. Agard distributed material from a number of book publishers. He pointed out that much of the current material in catalogs is reprint material and that perhaps a retrospective view should not be the main thrust here. He mentioned that Fisk University has an extensive Black Collection and that it might be useful to contact them for bibliographies.

Students will report back to Mr. Agard.

Robert Cornwell

Robert M. Agard.

(1) correct reading: at least 3 and not more than 5 Black students

REMEMBER: LIBRARY COMMITTEE 1 PM THURSDAY