

MinutesMeetings with 5 Divisions regarding the Arts Center

February 19, 1976
Dickinson 117

Present: Stickney, van der Linde, Cohen, Martin.
Ward, Smith.

Black Music Division - 9:30 a.m.

Represented by: Horenstein; Ash, Brooks, Hoyer; Letcher.

The main question from this division was why has no teaching space been allocated for the division's use? It was explained that original planning for the building dates back into the early '60s, with final structural approval in 1968-69, antedating any thought of a Black Music program. Space has been reassigned and adjusted periodically and there is still reassignable space, awaiting approval which involves resolution of function, cost and related problems, and firm instructions to the architect. The question was raised why has nothing happened since an earlier discussion, when the division thought there was some agreement on specific changes?

There was discussion of present teaching, rehearsal and office space, scheduling of classes and rehearsals. It was agreed that this group should meet again in two weeks with Joseph Iseman present.

Dance and Drama Divisions - 10:35 a.m.

Represented by: Carruthers, Dunn, Logan, M. Wittman, J. Wittman.

A big problem here was that many agreements have been reached, but no action seems to have been taken; bids let out but equipment not ordered, work orders not completed. Meanwhile prices increase--frustration: there has been no action in some cases since January 1975. Another problem is the malfunction of the building. The contractor's building representative is only partially helpful; there is no college representative to oversee the architect and the contractor.

These divisions are particularly concerned that a carpenter and an electrician are hired who have the specific skills for the divisions' special needs, as outlined in a memorandum to FEPC.

It was agreed that this group should meet again in two weeks when Joseph Iseman can be present.

Music Division - 11:40 a.m.

Represented by: Brant, Calabro, Schonbeck.

The Music Division wanted clarification about what space, other than the auditorium, was assigned to them: instrument storage, warmup, green room, rehearsal; also seating and other storage? Is, for instance, the area allotted for storage of percussion instruments adequate, and will a ramp be constructed

Music (continued)

for moving the grand piano? They are also concerned about when the facility will be ready for use, and about scheduling of its use. Another concern is the acoustics of the auditorium; the division is interested in lively sound, no dead spots. Most of these questions have been discussed before but nothing seems to get done.

In answer to a question, it was stated that the Bennington Summers Program does not need special lighting or sound equipment.

There was brief discussion of Black Music use of space, and the Music Division made it clear that they cannot give up the Carriage Barn entirely (for one reason, because of the small senior concerts); but they will, of course, share both the Carriage Barn and the Arts Center music auditorium with the Black Music Division.

It was agreed to meet again two weeks from now when Joseph Iseman is here, in the arts building, and with the Black Music Division.

Visual Arts Division - 12:45 m.

Represented by: Ford, Rosen.

As the Division which has occupied this building the longest, the Visual Arts faculty are mostly concerned with problems such as too much heat (occasionally none), specific problems such as the Ceramics walkway and the graphics studio. Rein van der Linde read a letter from Pat Adams (dated November 24, 1975) which listed many specific problems of long standing. All of the problems mentioned in the letter are still unresolved.

The meeting dissolved around 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Florence I. Burggraf
Secretary