

Black Library

Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont  
November 15, 1972

Dear Mr. Agard,

We members of the library committee for the black literature collection feel that we must reassess last year's decision not to collect duplicate books. Below we have listed a number of considerations which we have examined carefully before coming to our conclusion.

1) Almost all of the books in this collection are paperback and with regular use will soon need replacement.

2) The library has had a problem with the loss and theft of books which would be devastating to a collection containing only one copy of each book.

3) The black literature collection is for the use of the growing college community, not one person or a small group of people.

4) The trustees have made a recommendation that "There must be more Black students." This means to us (a) that there must be more courses dealing with black culture and (b) that the college administration must be responsible for finding more funds to increase the black literature collection to make circulation among classes easy and practical as well as to provide scope.

We cannot take a nearsighted view of this collection. To develop it correctly, we have all agreed, there must be more money, therefore, we feel that it is a mistake to try to make do with the money we have and produce a collection that will not serve the needs of the college community. As soon as the spring term many students and teachers should be able to make use of this collection. By that time there may be as many as six hundred students. It seems to us that for certain books

three or four copies should be obtained.

Perhaps it would be in order for the committee to make a recommendation for the funds that would be necessary to finance the kind of collection of which this college can really make use. In such a recommendation we could document the needs of the community in this area as well as the impracticality of basing the development of the black literature collection on the five thousand dollars that was originally granted instead of the needs and concerns of the community which it is supposed to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan E. Huckstep". The script is cursive and fluid.

Joan Huckstep

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Richardson". The script is cursive and elegant.

Susan Richardson

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Wilson". The script is cursive and clear.

Judith Wilson