Minutes for the Faculty/Steering Committee on SSP

Meeting of December 10, 1979


(1) Search for a new director of the Third World Center - John Robinson reported that there are now 215 active candidates for the directorship, a number which reflects the wide advertising that was done, nationwide. Initial screenings have taken place, and finalists will visit in January. A great many candidates applied with experience in dealing with International Houses of various kinds; about a quarter of the applicants have teaching credentials even though we made it clear that this was a full-time administrative position. There are not as many Hispanic or Asian or female candidates as we would have liked.

(2) SSP Budget for 1980/81. Perry Ashley pointed out that the Third World Center budget will be supervised by a director reporting to the Student Life people, rather than the Dean of The College next year. Of the other SSP programs, we are planning to reduce the amount of summer salary for faculty advisors, since we have not been able to engage them as heavily as we had hoped in the Third World Transition Week; we are hoping to cut down cost in Tutorial by eliminating the use of tutorial as a substitute for regular teaching personnel (some students had seen a tutor three times a week all semester for $15). Professor Lubin suggested that professors in many courses could supply written testimony when a student needs tutorial. Cost of the MPC program should rise next year to enable us to get more Asian and Hispanic MPC's.

(3) An MPC study group has operated this fall, with some good successes and some misses. Linda Peters organized it; MPC's volunteered their time in the Third World Center to give free tutorial to students who needed only an hour or two and didn't want to pay the $15 for the regular tutorial program. They plan to do it again in the spring.

(4) Evaluation sub-committee - Jonathan Lubin reported that two lunches had been held on the last two Saturdays, and sophomores and freshmen have filled out questionnaires which are now being read and summarized. Dean Ashley made it clear that the purpose of this evaluation is to improve SSP not to cut it back in any way.

(5) The Writing Tutor - Jane Shang informed us that Eric Skarstrom has been giving five hours a week, every minute of which has been occupied. He will also see students by appointment. Requests for help with writing seem to be on the rise - the tutorial program retains Joan Hepburn to perform the same kinds of services. The quality of writing at Brown, however, is a University problem, not an SSP program, and we await some effective moves in response to discussion of this whole issue by the EPC.

Respectfully submitted, on the basis a cassette tape recording,

C.M.

C. McIntosh, Secretary

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