Minority Student Information, 1976-1979

From Administrative Papers of Academic Deans, 1972-2001
housed in the Friends Historical Collection

GC 04-0

These papers were processed fall semester, 2010. From the order of the papers, it looks as though Sam Schuman had “custody” of the earlier academic deans’ papers, so many of the files with his administrative records predate his tenure as Academic Dean from 1981-1991.

Here are my notes on one folder of particular significance found in Sam Schuman’s papers which is labeled “Minority Students 1976/1977”:

Sam Schuman
Box 2
Folder 1
Minority Students 1976/1977

Student names appearing in official committee meeting minutes are available. Other student information contained in these papers remains confidential for the lifetime of the student.

This folder contains: Meeting Minutes of the Task Force for Black Students, September 14, 1977-April 4, 1979; handwritten financial aid reports for black students (and, in some years, international students) for 1969, 1970, 1972-73, 1973-1974, and 1976-77; Minutes of the Joint Meeting of Guilford Campus Task Force and Board of Visitors Round Table on Minorities Issues June 17, 1977; and other reports dated between 1968 and 1980. Student information will remain confidential.

Highlights from Meeting Minutes of the Task Force for Black Students, September 14, 1977-April 4, 1979

09/21/1977 A centralized Learning Resources Center will be created; it is needed for all students, and should increase retention rates of minority students. The Center should be staffed with professionally trained personnel, in addition to student tutors already being used. The Center will be housed in the basement of the library, and a Student Tutoring Center Directed by Paula Swonguer should begin operation in early October, 1977. (p.10 Learning Resources)

09/28/1977: Since 1961, only 44 black students out of 163 have graduated from Guilford (p.1)
The Dana Foundation has “…set up an endowment of $40,000 to be divided into two endowments of $20,000, one for foreign students and the other for minority students.” (p.3)

10/26/1977: Student Eric Jackson is President of B.A.S.I.B. and an ex officio member of the committee. Jacqueline Waters is the student representative (p.1)

09/20/1978: B.A.S.I.B. students: Kimberly Everett ’81, Donna Hamilton ’82, Myra Somerville ’81

11/02/1977: Four Guilford graduates were recruited to be part-time recruiters: Augustus (Gus) Davis of Greenwich, Conn.; Minette Coleman, Atlanta, Ga.; David Chestnut, Eden, N.C.; and Eloise Newsome, Lancaster, P.A. (p.1) By the Aug. 2, 1978 minutes, Herb Poole reported problems with the program and no students were recruited (none were selected for admission; none enrolled). He was disappointed in this outcome. (p.1)

11/02/1977 Student David Sheppard was asked to represent minority students on the Task Force. (p.2)

04/18/1978: Concern voiced that no black candidates had been considered for position of dean of the faculty or dean of adult continuing education.

08/30/1978 Pre-orientation session deemed successful, with 17 of 21 admitted black students attending, and 10 parents participating. (p.2)

11/08/1978: Bruce Stewart gave his opinion on Guilford’s commitment to finding minority faculty and staff. “Bruce’s response was that the institution was not as committed as they say they are. There are almost no black faculty. Black staff persons have moved forward more rapidly, but there has been no black female role models. If the college had made the commitment, according to Mr. Steward we would have done much better.” (p.2)

Recommendations of the Task Force: Progress Report #1

Admissions and Financial Aid
1. One Select Freshman Scholarship was established for a minority student for 1977-78, and two for 1978-79. (Administrative Council minutes for April 25, 1977, in the back of the Task Force for Black Students notebook and Recommendations report in the middle of the notebook, p.2)
2. Dana Scholar selection process be sensitive to black students. (Recommendations, p. 1)
3. Recruit in-state and especially in Greensboro. (Recommendations, p.2)
4. Hire a black recruiter in Admissions, and hire part-time minority recruiters [the part-time minority recruiters did not work out-see Task Force for Black Students meeting minutes for 09/28/1977, listed above]
5. Hire four black Guilford graduates to work as minority recruiters [ultimately unsuccessful].
6. Recruitment and hiring of minority faculty: (“…identifiable minority candidates were few and those who did apply did not match or approach the qualifications of those who were finally employed. Ethnic origin cannot be easily identified by data sent by candidates for positions. It is probable that they can be identified only by personal visits to graduate school deans or appropriate placement officers. This could be a time consuming and expensive process but it might work.”) (p.6, Recruiting of Minority Faculty)

7. “Trustees have authorized the transfer of $100,000 to establish a Trustees Scholarship Fund… to support financial aid for foreign and minority students.” “It is anticipated that $5,000 to $6,000 annually will be available for scholarships beginning in the fall of 1979.” (p.7, Scholarship Endowment)

Academic and social environment

1. Pre-orientation session of minority students (p.9)
2. A centralized Learning Resources Center will be created; it is needed for all students, and should increase retention rates of minority students. The Center should be staffed with professionally trained personnel, in addition to student tutors already being used. The Center will be housed in the basement of the library, and a Student Tutoring Center Directed by Paula Swonguer should begin operation in early October, 1977. (Minutes for the Task Force for Black Students, September, 21, 1977) (p.10 Learning Resources)
3. A black clinical psychologist (Dr. Jim Gripper of Farr Associates) was hired with Title III funds for individual and group counseling
4. Four advisers will be advising black freshmen.

Facts from financial papers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Black Students Receiving Aid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>24 (with athletic aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>20 (with athletic aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>20 (with athletic aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>29 (with athletic aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>64 (type of aid not specified)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>64 (with athletic aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>60 (with athletic aid)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report: Black Students at Guilford College 1970-79

1970-1979 -- list of black students enrolled for each academic year These enrollment numbers for 1970-1977 add up to 408, much more than the 245 enrollment figure for 1962-1977 noted during the Joint Meeting of the Guilford Campus Task Force and Board of Visitors Round Table on Minorities Issues in June 17, 1977 meeting minutes listed below. Numbers from this report must also include black students enrolled at the Urban Center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Black Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971 – 47</td>
<td>1976 – 1977 * see below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972 – 27</td>
<td>1977 – 54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1976-1977 -- *112 black students enrolled (68 on main campus and 44 Urban Center), 64% receiving aid (17 in LEEP). *There are small discrepancies in numbers from different reports.

Board of Visitors Roundtable on Minorities Issues

Its charge included exploring how Guilford was perceived in the black community in Greensboro and identifying resources in the community helpful to recruitment, financial aid, and the general social environment. Black adult men and women business and professional leaders of the Greensboro community and black students were invited to a number of roundtable discussions. The Board of Visitors learned that Guilford had little or no visibility in the black community in Greensboro. Guilford was thought of as a highly affluent college, enrolling only those who could afford high tuition. Guilford’s black students were ignored or taunted by students at Bennett and A&T.

Board of Visitors Roundtable, continued

“It was noted that of the 245 black students enrolled as main campus students in the last 15 years [1962-1977], only 33 have graduated.” (Taken from minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Guilford Campus Task Force and Board of Visitors Round Table on Minorities Issues, June 17, 1977, p.1)

From a reading of the materials in the folder, it seems to me that a very earnest campus-wide effort, with the support of the college president, board of trustees, the board of visitors, administrative council, faculty and admissions, was made to recruit black faculty and staff, and to address issues on campus and within the Greensboro community that could lead to gains in minority student numbers. There were major disappointments in the course of the two years represented in the task force meeting minutes, including no recruitment of black faculty, and the hiring of minority recruiters who were Guilford graduates which did not work out. A major accomplishment was the creation of the Learning Resources Center staffed with professional tutors.

People on the committees who are still around: David Stanfield, Ritchie Zweigenhaft, Jim Newlin, Ted Benfey, Anthony Gurley (Gurley: minutes for Feb. 13, 1980)

Liz Cook
Archives Associate
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