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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

January 24, 1974

Dr. Benjamin L. Perry, Jr., President
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Tallahassee, Florida 32307

Dear Dr. Perry:

The Black Coalition for Education will meet in Tampa, Florida at the Holiday Inn near the airport in Tampa, Florida on Saturday, February 2, 1974, beginning 9:30 A. M. and ending 4:00 P. M.

The purpose of our meeting is to insure Black input into the Desegregation Plan for Higher Education in Florida and its relationship to FAMU. The Department of H. E. W. has ordered Florida to submit its desegregation plan on February 7, 1974, and our meeting is urgent if we are to insure FAMU's future and prepare a plan of action against what may be a plan designed to diminish the number of Blacks attending universities in Florida.

The Black students of Florida need you now and in Tampa on February 2, 1974. Reservations have been made for you in the name of Black Coalition for Education, for Friday, February 1, 1974, arrival.

See you in Tampa!

Sincerely,

W. George Allen and
Gilbert Porter, Co-Chairman

CC *Robt Rollins*
He should be prepared to attend.
BW
1/31

WGA:wft

BY

W. George Allen

January 31, 1974

Attorney W. George Allen
116 S. E. 6th Court
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Dear Attorney Allen:

Through lines of communication that I dare not mention, I have received a draft of part of the plan, that pertains to FAMU, to be submitted to HEW. I am enclosing a copy for your information.

If this is sent, I will be forced to file a minority report, and I think that every FAMUAN should be inflamed and ready to take appropriate action. The statements are opinionated and not based on facts. To me, it is an outright attempt to downgrade the institution.

In the first place, it uses the reorganization attempt by the University as a basis for its report. I have consistently stated that our reorganization was not based upon HEW pressure, but upon the need for economic and efficiency measures.

Secondly, the statement on quality indicates not only an elitist attitude but racism. The inference here is that now that whites are to be admitted to FAMU it must be improved and the quality upgraded; that up to this time every thing that happened was good enough for blacks and programs offered were inferior.

Thirdly, the attack on the admission standards is unreasonable since for years FAMU offered equal access to higher education in Florida, and still gives opportunities to many who would not be enrolled in other colleges throughout the State University System. The fact that our Placement Office has been bombarded by recruiters who want our graduates should be an indication of the quality of our products.

The statement that FAMU has been successful in attracting non-black students in Pharmacy through its Continuing Education Program is

Attorney W. George Allen
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only partially correct. The majority of non-black students come because of the quality of programs offered. The graduate programs were not expanded because of documents written to us in 1967 prohibiting us from offering graduate programs except in education. These restraints came from the then Board of Control. I am not certain of the kind of stance I would take, but if this document is included in the plan, I would have to take issue at every opportunity. I may be presumptuous since this has not been officially presented, but I see no reason why all of us cannot be prepared.

Yours very truly,

B. L. Perry, Jr.

BLPjr/bh

cc: Dr. Gilbert Porter

February 26, 1974

Dr. Gilbert Porter
1081 56th Street, N. W.
Miami, Florida 33137

Dear Dr. Porter:

On February 22-23, 1974, a committee of the Black Concerned Citizens for Higher Education met in Tallahassee, Florida to discuss Florida's Plans for equalizing educational opportunity in public higher education. A copy of the agenda is enclosed.

In addition to the discussion of the Plans, the committee presented a draft of a letter addressed to Governor Askew voicing its objection to Florida's Plans and recommending certain changes in the system to effectuate desegregation at all levels. I found certain elements of the letter extremely objectable and not in the best interest of FAMU and the Black Citizens of this state. The most noticeable of these points being the merging or consolidation of all four year institutions into a University of Florida matrix. Such structural change would be tantamount to closing FAMU and promoting a greater University of Florida System. A copy of the draft letter is enclosed.

It was recommended to the committee that a letter be sent to Mr. Peter Holmes reflecting the group's objections to the Florida Plans. A copy of the draft letter to Mr. Holmes is attached.

I would feel more secure in knowing that you are maintaining close liaison with this committee, and providing the necessary input to any proposals to insure that the vital interest of FAMU and the Black population is adequately served. Moreover, I would recommend that you meet with the other group's chairman to chart the best course for this most sensitive and important issue.

Yours very truly,

B. L. Perry, Jr.

BLPjr/bh

Enclosures