



University of Idaho

Office of the President

Moscow, Idaho 83843

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April 7, 1972

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Eddie Robinson, Advisor, B. S. U.
Mr. Jay Wheeler, President, B. S. U.

FROM: Tom Richardson, Vice President for
Student and Administrative Services

SUBJECT: University Relationship to Black Student Union

One year has passed since the Board of Regents accepted a University proposal to provide quarters for B. S. U. and its operation. It is now clear that the provisions of this action have not worked as anticipated. I would draw to your attention some specific problems in the hope that they can be discussed and resolved. Otherwise, the University cannot continue its present support for the B. S. U. program.

Business arrangements for the B. S. U house were shaky from the start and now seem to be in complete disarray. The item approved by the Board called for \$100 per month rental of a unit provided by the University. Heat, water, maintenance, and garbage disposal costs were to be borne by the University with B. S. U. responsible for the rent (later adjusted to \$85 per month), telephone, and electricity. At this writing, none of the items to be handled by B. S. U. has come up to the original agreement.

Rent Rent payments are six months behind. Only two month's rent have been paid by the combined first and second semester individual renters. Despite assurances to the contrary, Mr. Riley has not met this--and a variety of other--financial obligations. The current occupants will have to cover their share of rent or face collection procedures initiated by the Business Office.

Telephone Some "rip off" has occurred in the form of unauthorized long-distance calls. Mrs. Bush, who has worked with this, is faced with bills for which no one accepts responsibility but which must be paid.

Electricity Washington Water Power has indicated that these bills are so far behind that they may have to discontinue service. The University has held that these are the responsibility of B. S. U. and that W. W. P. must deal directly with you, taking whatever steps they feel necessary.

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Property The University is unable to locate one typewriter with an inventory number assigned to the B. S. U. house.

One obvious shortcoming is that no formal lease was drawn up for the year. This has left much uncertainty in trying to trace lapses and breakdowns.

My primary point is that the University cannot continue to participate in the kind of relationship with B. S. U. herein described. There is substantial faculty-administration-student support for minority student programs. If, however, such programs cannot be conducted with fiscal responsibility, whether on "good faith" or written agreements, the University must withdraw its support.

At your convenience let's get together to deal with these matters soon. Unless we can mutually resolve them, we all stand to lose. I hear real support for the concept of a B. S. U. gathering place. I genuinely hope Black Cultural Week is a success. I do think, though, that such activities are in jeopardy unless we can establish a solid footing for B. S. U. operations.

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TOM RICHARDSON
Vice President for Student
and Administrative Services

TER:ss
cc: Mrs. Bush
Dr. Carter
Dr. Hartung
Mr. Surfus
bcc: Dr. Coonrod
Mr. Eiguren
Mr. Robbins
✓ Dr. Rolland
Mr. Vettrus