

April 25, 1989

Material re: Committee on Racial and Curricular Diversity
for Faculty Meeting, Tuesday, April 25, 1989

To: Sarah Lawrence College Faculty
From: The Ad Hoc "Negotiating Committee"

Re: Proposed Standing Committee on Racial and Curricular Diversity

At our faculty meeting of Tuesday, April 4, we asked for and received your support for the idea of establishing a standing Committee on Racial and Cultural Diversity through a Faculty By-Law change.

We have continued, in our discussions with CSOC, to press for such a standing committee as the unique way to build into the fabric of the institution a duly elected group of faculty, administrators and students bearing the responsibility for evaluating our progress with regard to such racial and curricular diversity.

Our view of the case will be presented orally at this faculty meeting. The object of this memorandum is to place before all of you a number of questions or propositions on which we would like to elicit your ideas. We do not ask for a vote on any proposition now. Rather, we seek your guidance as we attempt to shape a possible Faculty By-Law change for consideration at a later date.

Following the April 4th meeting we asked Frank Randall if he would draft some By-Law language. Frank chose as his model ARTICLE IX, "the Curriculum Committee." We have not offered this draft for discussion with CSOC as yet. It raises for us a number of questions -- as we believe it would for CSOC.

But first --

What is the role of this proposed standing committee?

How would it function vis-a-vis the Curriculum, Advisory, and Admissions Committees -- to mention only three possible areas of concern? Who shall chair such a committee? CSOC has offered a proposal which would make their proposed advocate/advisor the chairman. We do not agree.

Assuming the apportionment of persons to be elected from the various constituencies (faculty, administration and student body) would be acceptable along the lines of other committees, the more important question is -- would our normal non-defined slate as established by the Nominating Committee (and for the students by the Student Senate) meet the needs of this particular committee? That is, would it not be necessary to see that elected members of this committee be nominated as representatives of certain curricular groupings within the institution? Our immediate reaction is that it would indeed be necessary. Do you agree?

The above questions are by no means definitive. We hope they will elicit discussion. We assume they will provoke other questions.