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[Harambe Agenda, 1988-89]

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HARAMBE Agenda 1988-89

HARAMBE is a Swahili word which embodies the concept of unity. HARAMBE is a coalition comprised of people of African descent in the SLC community. HARAMBE's purpose is to promote political and cultural awareness of the issues surrounding the Black experience and to function as a support group for Black students. Anyone wishing to participate in HARAMBE is welcome, but must recognize our purpose and be willing to work under Black leadership around Black concerns.

HARAMBE proposes that the SLC administration take the following action in 1988-89:

- 1) Curriculum:-- The SLC curriculum does not reflect the true diversity of the student body and the larger society. There is only one tenured and one other full-time Black faculty member. There has been no commitment to any continuous Black faculty appointments or African-American related courses.

HARAMBE proposes the following action by Spring 1989:

- a) The hiring of five (5) Black faculty, three (3) of whom will teach Afro-centric courses; two others should be hired in non-race specific concentrations, i.e., Philosophy, Math, Psychology, etc. Three of these five positions should be filled by Black women. This will lay the foundation for a comprehensive African-American Studies Department which should be the school's ultimate goal.

(2)

- b) That present faculty members make a commitment to diversifying their course readings and focus.

2) Security -- HARAMBE is concerned with a series of recent racial incidents initiated by SLC security and the Yonkers community. In light of the seriousness of these incidents and the larger community's concern with regard to security issues, HARAMBE proposes:

- a) That security patrol a wider radius of the campus.
- b) That security provide a shuttle service to and from bus stops.
- c) That security immediately follow up on any reported incidents hereafter.

The SLC administration and community need to recognize the volatile racial tensions in Yonkers and be attentive to the particular concerns this raises for Black students.

3) Support Systems -- HARAMBE feels that there is a lack and breakdown of support systems for Black students in all areas of the college, i.e., donning, Dean's office, Health Services, Student Affairs, Admissions, etc. The college must recognize that there are fourteen (14) new Black students this year (the largest number in many years) and that it is crucial for the retention and future enrollment of Black students that these support systems be in place. It is a particular concern of HARAMBE that the recruitment of Black men is essential and be made a priority. The SLC administration must be sensitive to the special needs of Black men.