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[Memo from the Negotiating Committee to the College Community, May 3, 1989]

Negotiating Committee, Sarah Lawrence College

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SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

May 3, 1989

TO: The College Community

FROM: The Faculty/Administration Negotiating Committee

Since we last communicated with you after the breakdown of negotiations with the Concerned Students of Color, a number of things have happened. We write to tell you of our progress.

-- On Tuesday, May 2, the negotiating team and representatives of the Concerned Students of Color met with the Executive and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees. The Executive and Finance Committee agreed to present the proposals for a Chair in Multi-cultural Studies and a Lecture Series fund for the approval of the entire Board of Trustees. (All proposals that involve major changes in policy and/or substantial claims on funds have to be approved by the full Board)

-- We will use the upcoming faculty meeting to continue our discussion of an administrator for multi-cultural affairs. We will also begin the discussion of a Center.

-- We have already begun to implement our commitment to hire faculty of color to both regular tenure-track positions and guest positions. We have made the first regular appointment of a political scientist who will teach courses focusing on Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. A number of faculty of color have been and will continue to be interviewed in a broad range of disciplines and we will be able to make several appointments of faculty of color for the fall.

-- The Curriculum Committee has begun to plan a full review of the curriculum. All members of the community will have the opportunity to offer their views.

-- Interviews and workshops with racial awareness educators are in progress: Two possible proposals are being considered and additional facilitators and their proposals will be presented to faculty, students and administrators in the coming weeks. We want to select a program carefully to ensure that it addresses the particular needs of Sarah Lawrence.

-- Black therapists are being reviewed by Health Services and appropriate candidates will be interviewed by administrators and students within the next two weeks.

The Concerned Students of Color's withdrawal from negotiations has made it much more difficult to proceed. We have invited them to resume discussions with us and we await their reply.

We very much appreciate the dialogue we have had with all members of the community these past weeks, and we appreciate your continued communication and support.