

3rd, April, 1968

Dr. Samuel Myers, President
Bowie State College
Bowie, Maryland

Unedited

We, the students of Bowie State College, found it necessary to bring to the attention of the proper authorities, the nature, gravity, and significance of the problems which have had and are continuing to have, a detrimental effect on the production of qualified graduates,

It is our conviction as well as that of insisting state officials, that this state has definitely been negligent in its responsibility to Bowie State College. In conjunction with these facts, we resent the fact that our school has been rated by a professional rating service as being among the poorest in this country. We resent the handicaps imposed upon us by an inadequate educational institution. We demand the right to an education and an institution which is at least equal to any other college within the state system,

The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community; which we have been denied. We feel that some of this is the result of insufficient and inappropriate qualifications of some instructors combined with a laizze-faire attitude on the part of the administration under the guise of academic freedom. In addition the total absence of an adequate active media of communication results in the spread of misleading information and deprives the student body of any participation in the overall functions of the college.

We feel that the educational process is a two-way street and that the modern college is or should be structured with this in mind. We as students will exercise our freedom with maturity and responsibility in the sincere hope that the other parties will do the same.

The following is a partial listing of greivances which we feel require resolution or immediate action in order to improve the conditions which confront us daily.

LACK OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES IN THE LIBRARY

1. Inconviences caused by students having to go to other colleges and city libraries to get information which should be normally found in the library:

- a. Lack of scholarly journals
- b. Lack of late editions in numerous areas necessary to keep the students abreast of the times.

- c. The need for foreign language and social science magazines to aid the students in becoming more acquainted with the language, people, and culture of a particular country.
2. An operative seven day a-week library
3. Students should receive courteous and respectful treatment from members of the library staff.

2. INEFFICIENCY OF FACULTY MEMBERS

1. An explanation as to why obviously inefficient, poorly trained, unqualified teachers are retained, given tenure, promotions, and salary increase while teachers of demonstrated abilities are effectively eliminated from the Bowie State College system.

2. We further request an explanation as to why we retain professors who read word for word from the textbook, use old yellow notes that are not updated, do not know their fields, and do not require students to reason or think.

3. MEDICAL SERVICES

= We feel that the safety and health of the students is far more important than budgetary considerations; and we therefore request that a twenty-four medical service be made available here on campus. Previous instances have demonstrated a need for this service.

4. THE DORMITORIES

Tubman Hall

Tubman Hall is in deplorable condition. The administration has said that Tubman Hall would be remodeled shortly. This promise is not going to be kept in the near future. The blame for this situation must be placed squarely on the shoulders of the state government. The State has refused to provide adequate funds for the promised remodeling.

Holmes Hall

Holmes Hall is also in deplorable condition. Considering the fact that room and board expenses are continually rising, the students residing in Holmes Hall do not feel that their demands are unreasonable.

1. Poor heating systems
2. Poor lighting and electrical outlet function
3. No window locks and screws and poor shades

4. Poor bathroom and shower facilities
5. Poor maintenance help
6. Dormitory in general order of deplorable condition
 - a. plaster falling out of walls
 - b. rodents in dormitory
7. Furniture in dormitory is in very bad condition
 - a. Poor beds
 - b. Poor chairs
 - c. Poor lounge furniture
8. Unlawful entry of rooms by dormitory director. Clarification of his authority as dormitory director.
9. Need for kitchenette in dormitory.
10. Need for intercom system in dormitory.
11. Need for laundry in dormitory

Kennard Hall

Preventive small maintenance now could avoid large problems of this type in the future.

5. TRANSPORTATION

The student body of this college feels that the college is in a position to provide the students with adequate transportation to the local shopping areas to supplement the transportation problem until the Washington-Alexandria public transportation system has evaluated and made a valid system for the college students.

1. We propose a shuttle bus service to BelAir to accommodate the students' needs in the local shopping areas.
 - a. A daily schedule should be established.
 - b. The driver, if not supplied by the school, can be a member of the student body who possesses a chauffeur's license.
2. We propose that the shuttle schedule be correlated with the schedule of the W.M.A., to provide students the social and cultural opportunities of the neighboring metropolitan areas, if the school is unable to supply such a service.

6. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

A. Mistakes have been made on students permanent records and little or no effort has been made to correct them.

B. The office is very tardy in sending out student's transcripts upon their request.

C. Juniors and Seniors have been denied evaluation sheets for this current school year.

D. Records are often misplaced and mishandled. For example student's averages are made available to unauthorized persons.

E. Students have been dropped from courses without being notified before hand.

F. Some students records are not kept up to date.

G. No one has been made available to handle problems concerning Vetran's administration.

H. Office closes daily at 12:00 noon as does all other administrative offices.

** 7. DINING HALL CONDITIONS

The quality of the food is not consistent to the price paid for it. It seems that the State Board of Health has neglected to inspect the conditions under which the food is prepared.

1. Roaches in the food.
2. Food not looking nutritious
3. Inadequate diet
4. Frequent repetition of diet
5. Food is not fresh
6. Workers in the cafeteria should wear hair nets
7. Silverware, tables, and plates are not clean

Further, this modern facility leaks when raining, the ceiling is already beginning to sag--hence, correction of this matter requires prompt action before it gets worse.

8. BUSINESS OFFICE

The following are grievances that express the lack of communication and professionalism in the Business Office.

1. We feel that the students who are to receive scholarships, when their scholarship money has been received by this office. This office neither contacts the students upon the receipt of his money, nor does the office notify the particular scholarship organization upon receipt of this money.

2. We feel that there should be corrections made concerning the excessive amount of time a student pays his bill and the time he receives his receipt. This is particularly applicable to new students who sent their applications and acceptance fees by mail.

2. Corrections should be made in the failure of this office to establish an effective criterion for communications between it and the student body.

9. TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

The telephone exchange needs to be 262 and not 464; especially since all administrative offices and some faculty residences have enjoyed the lesser rate due to this exchange.

STUDENT GOVT. PRESIDENT
/s/ Roland B. Smith, Jr.

** Grievance number seven (7) follows grievance number three (3) in priority and in significance.