

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT STUDENT AFFAIRS

LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071 October 24, 1969

Mr. Willie Black, Chancellor Black Student Alliance University of Wyoming

Dear Mr. Black:

It is my understanding that as the representative of an University recognized organization you have made arrangements for a demonstration sponsored by the Black Student Alliance prior to the football game to be held this Saturday, October 25, 1969. In accordance with the University policy that demonstrations are authorized so long as they do not interfere with the rights of other persons and are conducted in an orderly manner, your demonstration was planned on the basis of participation by members of the Black Student Alliance. The site approved for this demonstration was a portion of the sidewalk immediately south of the University Fieldhouse which was to be delineated by the placement of barricades. Since initial approval of these plans, the following factors have come to light:

- 1. Another group of students who do not belong to any University approved student organization have indicated their intent to join your demonstration. You have disclaimed any responsibility for their conduct. The administration has not received information from this group as to their numbers or plans, but have received reports that their number may be from 50 to 150.
- 2. Your faculty advisor, Professor Daniels, has called the President's Office this morning to inform the President that the local BSA organization has received pledges of support for the demonstration by 2000 persons who are not residents of this community or the student body. He stated that 200 to 250 of these persons could be expected. He further stated that you can assume no responsibility for their conduct.

In view of the foregoing, it is necessary that the University require that the plans for your demonstration be changed. Due to the probable increase in numbers of demonstrators the sidewalk area south of the Fieldhouse is too small to accommodate the demonstration and permit open access to the football stadium gates. You are familiar with the area and aware of its size. The football game is a University function and is not to be disrupted. Members of the student body and general public attending the game are the invitees of the University and we must assure them of unobstructed access. There is a clear and present danger resulting from the events of the past week that any obstruction would be a provocation for violence. The University cannot assure the presence of sufficient law enforcement officers to prevent a disruption and protect demonstrators, the student body and the invited public.

Accordingly, with the express approval of the President, I must direct that the location of the demonstration be changed. The practice football field south of the sidewalk and parking area is hereby designated as the area for your demonstration.

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Any activity of a demonstration nature outside of this area will be viewed as unauthorized and without the consent of the University which could, after notice to any individual concerned, result in arrests for trespass. If you desire to have a very limited number of persons of your organization at the original location, this must be cleared with Chief Miller and the city police.

It is not intended to unreasonably restrict the activities of a recognized group or suppress its demonstration, but it is felt that the new area presents an open area in which the public will be able to observe your protest and not result in disruption of University activities.

This letter is not to be construed in any way as approving or authorizing the presence on campus of persons to take part in a demonstration who are not students, staff or faculty of the University of Wyoming.

I ask for your cooperation and that you review your plans again with Chief Miller of the University Police and the Laramie City Police. I am available for discussion of any questions.

Sincerely yours,

J. R. Geraud

Executive Assistant to the President for Student Affairs

cc: Dr. Daniels

Faculty Advisor