



Dartmouth College HANOVER • NEW HAMPSHIRE • 03755
Native American Visiting Committee • 323 College Hall • TELEPHONE: (603) 646-2110

June 8, 1993

President James O. Freedman
Dartmouth College
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Dear President Freedman:

The Native American Visiting Committee met at Dartmouth in Blunt Alumni Center on May 7th and 8th. The meeting was convened at noon on Friday with eight members present including Mr. Stephen Mullins, Mr. Arvo Mikkanen, Ms. Viki Blackgoat Sorci, Mr. Raymond Rasenberger, Mr. Gordon Russell, Mr. Trudell Guerue, Mr. William Yellowtail and myself. As chair of the NAVC, I am forwarding to you the findings from our meeting and our recommendations. In light of our discussions, we have responded quickly since there are two issues which need immediate attention – the Native American Program Director candidate search and recruitment at summer enrichment programs.

Native American Program. The Director of the Native American Program, Colleen Larimore, has played a key role in the success of the Program. Despite a growing Native American student population and budgetary cutbacks, she has nonetheless enhanced the tutorial and counseling services offered to Native American students. And, the emotional and academic counseling that she has provided for students indicates her extraordinary dedication to their success. Colleen has earned the Committee's admiration and a special place in each student's heart. Her resignation is a great loss for the Native American Program and Dartmouth.

Based on our conversations with Colleen, she has spent an increasing amount of time counseling students, and a decreasing amount of time on administrative duties. As Director, Colleen estimates that she spends over 75% of her time counseling students. Since the search for Colleen's replacement is underway, the Committee recommends that the Native American Program's Director job search emphasize counseling responsibilities rather than administrative duties and that the final candidates have counseling experience with Native American youth. Most importantly, students must play a critical role on the search committee and in the search process.

The Full Circle Program has completed its first of three years, and based on initial impressions, it has had a positive affect on Native American retention. The grant requires a review within the second year of the Program, and the Committee considers the review process critical to solicitation of additional funds for the Program's continuation. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the new Director initiate the Full Circle Program review process as early in the 1993-94 academic year as possible.

Counseling and Human Development (Dick's House). Mr. Jack Turco (Director of College Health Services) and Mr. Michael Gaylor (Director of Counseling and Human Development) met with the Visiting Committee to discuss the counseling services which Dick's House provides to Dartmouth students. The Committee also had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Alethea Young (a Cherokee psychologist in private practice) who described the counseling needs of students whom she has assisted and who also described the Full Circle Program which provides important peer support for Freshmen. Based on our conversations with these individuals, the Program Director and Native American students, Dick's House must enhance its availability to students. For that reason, the Committee strongly recommends that the Office of the President require Dick's House to initiate a proactive outreach program to address the unique emotional and academic needs of Native American students. We suggest the following strategies: