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ORIENTAL STUDENT UNION
SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 10, 1971

TO: Albert J. Smith, Assistant Director for Minority Affairs
FROM: Alan Sugiyama, Chairman, OSU
Mike Tagawa, Chairman, OSU
SUBJECT: HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO MARCH 2, 1971 RALLY

During the last few months, there has been much said about the OSU and its request for five Asian administrators at Seattle Community College, District VI. Most of what has been said the OSU has felt to be of a distorted nature. Therefore, we have prepared this chronological history of the negotiations that OSU has had with various administrators of District VI in the hopes that it will clarify the reasons why OSU had to hold an "ill-advised" and "juvenile" (as Board of Trustees Chairman Siegal called it) demonstration on March 2, 1971.

OCTOBER, 1970

Negotiations began in October of 1970 when OSU Chairman, Alan Sugiyama went to Dr. Moore, President of Seattle Community College, to get his response to the idea of hiring Asian administrators. Dr. Moore at this time expressed sympathy with the OSU request and stated that he was trying to hire Asians and would support the OSU in its request. Nothing more was said on the subject until January 19, 1971.

JANUARY 19, 1971

It was on this date that Alan Sugiyama, Steve Tamura, Dan Badion and Mike Tagawa met with Dr. Moore and presented him with a formal request for five Asian administrators and for the reasons why OSU felt justified in its request. (See Item #1). The main reason was that at this time, there were absolutely no Asians within any administrative positions at Seattle Community College, District VI. Dr. Moore then stated that "Mr. Peter Koshi is an administrator", but then backed down on this statement when OSU

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pointed out he was "part-time Director of Minority Affairs", that he had no decision making powers, and that he was not funded. Dr. Moore then had the gall to suggest that Ben Yorita was an administrator. Mr. Yorita is an instructor in the Social Sciences Division and nothing more by any stretch of the imagination. When confronted with this fact, Dr. Moore then stated that George Iwasaki was an administrator! Mr. Iwasaki is part-time Minority Affairs Director at the North campus and is also an electronics instructor. After Dr. Moore was challenged on that point, he immediately stopped that particular charade, and started challenging our contention that we have the largest minority group on campus. (As Asians we have in our constituency: all Chinese, Japanese, "others" such as Filipinos and Southeast Asians and foreign visa students, the majority of which are Asians.) Dr. Moore stated we did not, and that the Blacks comprised the largest grouping and threw out the figure of 1,100 Blacks on campus. OSU challenged him on this point and he left the room saying he would get us the evidence. During the time he was gone, Dean Bob Terry, who was also present, confided to us that Dr. Moore's figures were wrong and that the figure was more like 700-900. When Dr. Moore returned in a few minutes, he stated he could not find his source for his figure but that it was "someplace around there". The meeting then proceeded and Dr. Moore stated that he would speak to the Board of Trustees on our behalf and would also write a "letter of support" for our request. Dr. Moore said the letter would be ready the following day at 2 p.m. and that we would all meet the Board of Trustees on January 21, 1971. The OSU felt encouraged by this meeting despite the contradictory statements made by Dr. Moore until the following day. Briefly what happened is as follows.

JANUARY 20, 1971

1. The "letter of support" from Dr. Moore was late by two hours which caused co-Chairman Tagawa to become angry because he was the one designated to pick it up and he was supposed to be at work by 4 p.m. of that day. Tagawa, in frustration, made an obscene remark that was overheard by Dr. Moore's secretary while he was talking to Chairman Sugiyama.
2. When Sugiyama and Tagawa were called into Dr. Moore's office to pick up the letter, Dr. Moore immediately started raising his voice, accusing Sugiyama and Tagawa of saying he was a "cop-out" and that they were trying to intimidate his secretary by "swearing" around her. When Sugiyama asked where he got this idea that "he" was a "cop-out", Dr. Moore admitted he eavesdropped on us as we left the meeting the day before. The sad point about this is that Sugiyama was directing the

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word "cop-out" to OSU members Tamura and Badion for not having contributed to the discussion. Dr. Moore then immediately backed off in apparent embarrassment and wanted to drop the whole thing. Tagawa then pursued the point about the "intimidating" of his secretary and Dr. Moore then stated something to the effect that he saw Tagawa's point about being angry, but losing one's temper was "not the solution". This incredible statement came seconds after he was pounding his desk and yelling at Sugiyama and Tagawa because he didn't eavesdrop "properly" enough to know that Sugiyama was not talking about him.

3. If the preceding wasn't bad enough, it was also revealed that he (Dr. Moore) did not intend to "speak up" for OSU in front of the Board of Trustees as he had stated earlier. Sugiyama found this out when he asked Dr. Moore when he would speak, and Dr. Moore stated he would only be there for the first half hour or so of the meeting scheduled for January 21, 1971, at 10 a.m., because he had a meeting in Olympia. When Sugiyama asked when was the Olympia meeting, Dr. Moore hesitantly said, "10 a.m.". Sugiyama then said "well, how are you going to speak to the Board if you're in Olympia at 10 a.m.?" Dr. Moore sheepishly said that "he wouldn't be able to".
4. Disgusted. OSU leaders went back to their office and re-read the "letter of support" from Dr. Moore where it was discovered that Dr. Moore implied that there were Asians in the administration by saying that there were no Asians at the "Dean level or above". So much for a "letter of support". (See Item #37.)

JANUARY 21, 1971

On January 21, 1971 at 10 p.m., the OSU met with the Board of Trustees and they promised to check into the possibilities of opening positions up so Asians could be hired. (See Item #38.)

JANUARY 29, 1971

On January 29, 1971, after having had meeting times changed on three occasions, the OSU was prepared again to meet with the Board of Trustees, they did not show up. The OSU was met by Dr. Moore, Dr. Saxter and Mr. Smith and were handed an irrelevant list of figures etc. that had nothing to do with what the OSU and Board of Trustees had agreed upon the week before. Dr. Moore at this time also stated that they would not hire Asians immediately. (See Item #40.)

Albert J. Smith

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FEBRUARY 9, 1970

Due to this negative response, the OSU felt its only recourse was to organize a support rally on February 9, 1971. The rally came about and was successful in that it was non-violent and drew attention to the fact that Seattle Community College, District VI had no Asian administrators.

On the evening of the rally, George Corcoran delivered to Alan Sugiyama another list of irrelevant information; and on the following day, a meeting between the Board of Trustees and the OSU produced the same irrelevant material. (See Item #5).

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The OSU, out of sheer frustration with the totally non-committal attitude of the Board of Trustees, the dishonesty of Dr. Moore, the "run-around" treatment by the Board of Trustees and the extremely distorted picture painted by the news media, felt it could do nothing but stage another rally. The OSU tried to work through the "System", but was met with patronizing contempt from Dr. Moore and the Board of Trustees.

Yes, the OSU is made up of students and perhaps we don't have the lofty credentials of the Board members and of Dr. Moore, but we are not as contemptible and stupid as they would have us portrayed.

Chairman Siegal said the OSU was "irresponsible". What about the irresponsibility of the Board in not fulfilling their own mandate as to the hiring and recruiting of minorities? Why did it take a demonstration that had some unfortunate aspects to it to get the Board moving in a direction it was morally and legally obligated to pursue? Why couldn't the Board of Trustees averted all of this trouble by dealing as honestly and positively with the OSU as it did with the community leaders? (See Item #6). If the Board of Trustees didn't treat the "Students as Niggers" all of the negative aspects of the past few days could have probably been avoided.