Dear Chancellor Fortune:

Committee members are pleased to know that you will be able to attend the meeting of the Black Affairs Committee Monday. We have invited several black student leaders to the meeting, and you can count on it being a lively one, as you well know from previous experience.

The accompanying report attempts to convey the mood of the black students we talked with as well as to relate specific concerns and opinions of them. A reading of the report should help you anticipate some of the questions that might be raised at the meeting.

It is the feeling of several of us on the committee that it would advance campus race relations if the Administration could take the initiative in matters relating to black students instead of reacting to demands and under pressure. This thought stood behind the committee's suggestion of setting aside a room for black students. Other innovations might include a coordinator for minority affairs as the University of South Carolina has and an overt and University endorsed, accelerated recruitment of black students, as the University of Virginia is doing. Steps such as these, it seems, would cast the University in the role of ally with the black students rather than in an adversary role, as I fear some blacks see it. Now one can counter, you are not going to satisfy the activists, they thrive on ferment. I think such a view is valid, but it is not all that can be said. I believe if we try to work as partners with the blacks (in a manner in which the University acted on censorship and the way in which it accommodated the wishes of the students for delay in resumption of school after the Christmas break), try to anticipate legitimate needs, and implement them before they are requested (or more accurately, demanded), then a new ingredient will be introduced in the white-black relationship here. I am not unconvinced that a more cooperative spirit between both races can prevail on campus, and that spirit will benefit the Administration and student alike. Even though such a spirit won't eliminate all our interracial tensions, I think it will help to minimize them. Differences between the Administration and white students have not vanished, but such differences are not of serious proportions, because the Administration has repeatedly demonstrated that it is on the student's side.

On the proposed room for black students, perhaps it should be pointed out that the students did not request this; it was suggested by the Black Affairs Committee. The committee suggested the room after noting other Southern schools have provided such a gathering place for their black students. We see