



the university of wisconsin-green bay

1587 DECKNER AVENUE • GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54302

May 9, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: DR. GEORGE O'HEARN

FROM: PETER W. ODELL *P. Ode*

SUBJECT: AMERICAN INDIAN APPLICANTS

Since I am aware that you have done considerable ground breaking in order to assist the Menominees in pursuing higher education, I feel I must pass on to you serious concern on my part for their well being on our campus.

It has become increasingly apparent to me that the normal guidance and counseling avenues do not meet the specific needs of these students. That is to say, the Indian student is less apt to take initiative in pursuing assistance no matter how badly he knows he needs it. Most recently, Gary Boyd a student of considerable promise, with whom I had had considerable contact during the stages of application, withdrew from UWGB to pursue musical interests. I do not feel Gary's decision was made rationally, but I do agree with Gary's decision. Still more recently, I had the opportunity to talk with Robert Kohler who works with the Menominees and two young men about their past and future with UWGB. One was Lew Boyd, brother of Gary, who withdrew improperly from UWGB last December and consequently recorded three F's, one Incomplete, and was dropped. We have applications from Indian candidates who show promise, relatively speaking, but for whom the challenge of the University is going to be difficult.

What I am getting at is, that until the New Opportunities Program returns from its current state of suspended animation, somehow the advising void must be filled before we can encourage these people to begin or continue their education. Someone, not necessarily with a guidance or counseling background, needs to be available on at least a daily basis. This person would be one to whom the Indian student could come at any time and about any matter. Furthermore, it would seem desirable to have him check on the progress of these students frequently. If The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay does not meet this obligation, I shall be unable to encourage these students in good faith to matriculate at this campus.

I would be most anxious to hear your thoughts on this matter and anything you are able to do to effect progress will be appreciated very much.

am

CC: Mr. Ronald Dhuey  
Dr. Richard Fontera  
Dr. Donald Makuen

*uwgb*  
*Memo*

TO Peter Odell  
FROM George T. O'Hearn

① Shawano project  
① Send to files for  
pub files  
DATE 5/22/69  
① VISTA folder

SUBJECT: American Indian Students at UWGB

Your memo of May 9 has caused me some deep concern since I have been trotting around Menominee County encouraging students to attend the great UWGB. I have indicated that one of the best hopes for their school system is to encourage their own young people to go through the teacher preparation program at an institution such as UWGB and then seek employment in Menominee County. However, to do this we need a program which will accommodate the Menominee students without sacrificing any of our program quality.

I have discussed this problem with Dick Fontera and think we have a very fine solution. Dr. Frank Evans who will be joining our faculty in the fall has worked extensively with the Navahos in New Mexico and has been involved with their learning problems, both at the school level and at the university level. Dr. Evans will be working with me part-time on the Shawano project, teaching one course in education--tests and measurements and working 1/4 time in the Special Learning Program. I think it very appropriate that Dr. Evans work with the students, from Menominee County and perhaps from Oneida, who will be attempting to obtain a degree via UWGB. It probably would be well to have Evans and someone else who might be designated by Dr. Fontera identify directly and immediately with the students from Menominee County and Oneida when they enroll at UWGB. This would provide continuity to the students and would give them a faculty adviser on whom they could rely and with whom they can communicate. I think this is a fine solution and certainly worth trying.

I would assume that some special programs would need to be set up to help these students, but I doubt if we can really do anything before next fall. Please be assured that the School of Professional Studies will cooperate with you in every way possible to guarantee that these students will have a fair chance at UWGB.

GTO:jp

*cc. Dear Posey  
Dr. Fontena  
Dr. Vlasin*