STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PROGRAMMING: SSOC Spring Conference 1965

The last five years of southern history has stripped the "southern way of life" of its magnolia blossoms and southern belles. Mythical racial harmony has been replaced by fire hoses, cattle prods, and police dogs, and the illusion of comfortable plantation living is slowly fading in view of sharecropper shacks and the poverty stricken homes of coal miners in Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. The decaying system of segregation has helped to clarify other social and economic problems of the South, so that today we are living in a region where there is an obvious need for broad secular changes if the "New South" is to be a well balanced and just society where all of its citizens have the opportunity to grow and live in freedom.

The technological revolution followed closely by the Negro revolt has projected the South into 20th century America. We have a choice of meeting and dealing with the problems of a new era, or retreating into traditionalism and struggling vainly for a way of life that was always more myth than reality.

As students living in this generation, and believing in the dignity of all mankind, we affirm our belief in a new South that will bring democracy and justice to all of its people. The freedom movement for an end to segregation inspires us to make our voices heard for a beginning of a true democracy in the South. The South that we would work for must be free of racial prejudice, of poverty and deprivation, manipulation by vested interests, and the tensions that come from the threat of nuclear war.

SSOC emerged in response to the need for a Southwide interracial, intercollegiate, campus group. The goals that we would work for are:

1. Accomplishment of a completely integrated society, and the rise of full and equal opportunity for all.

2. An end to personal poverty and deprivation.

3. An end to "public poverty" which leaves us without decent housing, schools, parks, medical care, and communities.

4. A democratic society where politics poses a meaningful dialogue, and where each man has a voice in the decisions that affect man's lives.

5. A world working toward the easing of the tensions of the Cold War with positive emphasis on peace and world-wide understanding.

6. An end to man's inhumanity to man.

In view of these stated goals SSOC will work to promote campus education and participation in these areas of social change.

Our program will be:

1. A campus traveler program to encourage local student groups to work on issues relevant to their campuses as well as to become a part of the broader movement for freedom in the South. It is hoped that we can eventually have one traveler for each state. The duties of the traveler are:
a. Inform college students about activities on other Southern campuses.

b. Assist students in evaluation of their local situations.

c. Encourage student involvement in issues relevant to the local situation.

d. Assist students in the implementation of their own local programs.

2. A newsletter to act as the central channel of communication among the student groups. It will publish reports on the various types of activities of local action groups on Southern campuses. In addition, the newsletter will try to encourage discussion of issues relevant to the building of a new and just order in the South.

3. Initiate programs and help local campus groups and advise SSOC contacts of opportunities to participate in projects in areas of poverty, desegregation, university reform, capital punishment, peace, labor unions, academic freedom, and unemployment.

4. Conferences—state, regional, and southwide, to kindle interest and participation in the issues which confront the South, the nation, and the world.