

Faculty Discusses Demands

O.U.'s faculty met Wednesday night, and discussed demands made by Black students. The demands -- presented to O.U. president Dr. Peter Armacost Wednesday morning -- hinged around a proposal for a Black Studies Program, as well as increased emphasis on Black cultural heritage, and the employment of additional Black faculty members.

Specific faculty action was three fold, according to Dr. Armacost. First, the faculty acted to approve Black Studies beginning spring semester 1970. Second the president stated a Black person will be appointed as advisor and coordinator for the Black Studies Program. Finally the faculty acted to authorize the president to appoint an ad hoc committee concerning Black Studies. The committee will be required to report back to the president by Christmas as well as provide a final draft of specifics of the course before next semester for final faculty approval.

Faculty moves in this area were in response to two efforts by O.U. students. One group of students presented a specific proposal for a Black Studies Program. This group was one formed after the recent StuCo student power assembly and presented a course design as well as a rationale for Black Studies.

A second group, calling themselves "The Black Students of Ottawa University", presented the faculty with demands dealing with Black Studies and other issues. In a statement issued to the faculty, black students stated that they have "...up to now, been participating in many intellectual discussions and in-

Demands . . .

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effective organizations in hopes of off-setting the racist attitudes that have made a working relationship and a favorable educational environment virtually unobtainable."

Demands made by the group included the following:

"A Black Studies course be initiated by the spring of 1970.

The position of faculty advisor for the mentioned course be manned by a black person by the spring of 1970.

Ten per cent (10%) of the faculty be black and that two persons of this ten per cent be in the physical education department, by the fall of 1970.

The University take a definite stand on the community's relations with black students and black faculty."

Other demands made by the group dealt with problems of black student recruitment, financial aid for black students, and integration of black

religious heritage into current programs as well as next year's transition.

Dr. Armacost stated to the CAMPUS after the faculty meeting that the faculty interpreted the black student demands as a statement that there is "urgency to deal with specific problems." He said that the three faculty actions were taken in response to this urgency. Dr. Armacost noted, however, that some of the demands made by the group were not problems that the faculty could deal with and that there are "ongoing programs dealing with such demands as black student recruitment, financial assistance, and relations between black students and the Ottawa community." Dr. Armacost further stated that the university "needs help from its black students to determine whether these programs are effective."

Are Demands going to be met?

O.U. President Peter H. Armacost finds demands submitted to him by black students December 10 to be "things we'd like to see happen; with one fairly minor exception, they contain goals the University can support." (ed. note: see page 1 for details on University action)

Discussing the demands with the CAMPUS staffers the president stated he felt that "Black students have thus far acted constructively. Black leadership has helped to keep important issues before the University as well as assisted in the maintenance of a creative tension -- a tension which will lead to action."

Stating that the action by black students "required responsiveness, openness, and insight on the part of the ENTIRE O.U. community," Dr. Armacost pointed out that he feels the University is making "more progress than ever this fall in dealing with racial problems."

Specific areas in which the president stated the University is working are black student admission, relations between the community of Ottawa and

black students, and black faculty procurement. Noting that O.U. has ongoing programs in the first two areas and that both have been, up to this point, successful, Dr. Armacost expressed some concern over the hiring of black faculty.

"We are trying much harder this year to provide black faculty members even though we are experiencing problems in competing with larger schools. We may hire black professors on a part time basis, recognizing that this might impair participation in activities outside the classroom." The president also said that two promising areas for utilizing black professors are History and Psychology.

Dr. Armacost noted that "the new program holds exciting possibilities in the area of black studies -- particularly during the one month Winter term. In fact, the Winter term was designed specifically to make it possible to deal with issues like this." The president also expressed his concern that "the University strive for integration of the black man's unique contribution into classes presently being taught."