

Black Faculty Group Brands UW as Racist

By GAY LESLIE
(Of The State Journal Staff)

The University of Wisconsin was branded as a racist institution, seriously remiss in meeting the needs of black people, by a group of black faculty and administrators Tuesday morning.

"The University should hang its head in shame," said Prof. Donald Harris, of the Economics Department, who acted as spokesman at the 10 a.m. news conference in the blue room of the Wisconsin Center.

"THIS UNIVERSITY is as guilty as any other institution in society, and is as deficient in meeting its responsibilities to black people," Harris said.

In proportion to the general population, he said at least 10 per cent of the faculty and students at the University should be black.

"The existing structure is implicitly racist," he said, adding, "Ten per cent of the white students are here by virtue of discrimination against black people and at the expense of black people."

HARRIS OPENED the news conference by reading a statement which he said had been passed on to University Pres. Fred Harvey Harrington, Vice-President Robert Clodius, and Chancellor Edwin Young. Seven of the 14 signers were at the conference.

The statement urges "imme-

diately and forceful measures on the part of the whole administration and academic structure of the University to effect change in the direction pointed to by the demands of the black students."

"Specific matters the students have focused attention upon we feel are just and right," Harris said.

LATER HE said, "We do not see our role in this as intermediaries between the students and the University. Our role is to pressure the University to act."

Harris said the group did not intend to deal directly with the question of admission here of expelled black Oshkosh State University students.

ASKED IF the 14 signers represented all black faculty and administrators, Harris branded the question "ridiculous."

"You don't ask the chancellor who he speaks for," he said.

"Our small proportionate representation in the University is indicative of the racism here," he added.

THE BLACKS disagreed with other University faculty and administrators who have recently painted a picture of progressive action in meeting the needs of blacks and providing black programs.

Compared with Harvard and other universities, the University of Wisconsin is seriously remiss and has fallen behind in implementing black demands, Harris said.

He called the University's black curriculum "a series of ad hoc programs the University has knocked together" with a different purpose than the blacks desired.

HARRIS SAID the black faculty and administrators support the demands for a black studies program that is run by blacks. He called a question of whether the same principle would apply to programs such as Indian studies an attempt "to exaggerate and ridicule" the demands.

"Indian studies are to study Indians in India," he said, but black studies are for blacks to learn about themselves and how to live in this country after leaving the University. "The solution would be qualitatively different because the problem is different."

AS FOR GIVING students power to hire and fire, Harris said, "It is undoubtedly the most democratic procedure that one could adopt." But he softened the statement by adding that it is a matter to be worked out "once the commitment has been made."

The black faculty members asked that the University show its sincerity by outlining specific steps to be taken to meet demands in line with those of the black students.

THOSE WHO attended the news conference included James E. Baugh, counselor coordinator in the Department of Student Affairs; Merrit Norvell, assistant to the vice-chancellor for student affairs; Harris; Marshall Colston, University Extension; Billy Tidwell, Department of Social Work; and Wilbur C. Thomas and Frank Best, both specialists in commu-

nity leadership development, University Extension.

The other seven who signed the statement to Harrington, Clodius, and Young, were James H. Latimer, assistant professor of music; Cornelius Hopper, assistant professor of neurology; Charles E. Anderson, professor of meteorology; Charles Murphy, business; Curt Cear, Suzanne Lipsky, and Dianne Johnson.