

Black Studies Department Backed

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Plans for more black studies courses at the University of Wisconsin are likely to contain a proposal for a black studies department, Prof. Wilson B. Thiede said Saturday.

Thiede is chairman of the Faculty Committee on Studies and Instruction in Race Relations.

THE COMMITTEE met Saturday in closed session.

The Thiede committee is exploring the alternatives between a black studies program, which would spread courses among

departments, and a black studies department.

"I can't really say more than that we've made a great deal of headway and that the majority of the committee still tends to favor a black studies department," Thiede said.

"WE'RE GOING to meet again at 2 p.m. Sunday (today) at the Law School faculty lounge and then again after the faculty meeting on Monday," said Thiede. "We hope, barring any snags, to release the finished proposal to the faculty

and the public on Tuesday."

Thiede said he could not say whether further meetings of the committee would be open to the public.

The committee voted 17 to 3, with some abstentions, to go into executive session Saturday morning after several members said they could not speak freely before newspaper reporters.

HISTORY PROF. John Willis, a visiting professor to the University, said that previous meetings had been sensationalized

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Black Studies Department Gets Backing

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and that members had been misquoted.

"I cannot speak freely in their (reporters) presence," said Willis.

He said he felt the press tended to report only scattered points of the meetings and not the overall content.

POLITICAL science Prof. Fred Hayward, who voted against the closed session, said after the meeting, "We were able to get things done faster because some members felt they could speak openly.

"We've had trouble in the past. Recently, a member was misquoted by a local paper and the mistake wound up in the New York Times," said Hayward.

Hayward is the chairman of a subcommittee on the institution of a black studies department. At the beginning of the meeting Saturday he submitted a position paper recommending that such a department be set up.

"THE INDEPENDENCE that would result from organization as a department would help insure that those whose interests are in such a program do not become 'second class citizens' within other departments," said the subcommittee proposal.

History Prof. E. David Cronon submitted an alternative paper supporting a program shared by many departments.

"An interdisciplinary program can draw on the faculty strength and budgets of existing departments and is much more likely to receive regent and Coordinating Council on Higher Education (CCHE) approval," said Cronon in the paper.

THIEDE acknowledged that his committee's black studies proposal would have to win acceptance first from the faculty, then the University administration, then CCHE, and finally the regents before it could be put into operation.

Each of these bodies could ask changes before giving approving the proposal.