

Black Studies Unit to Be Urged

By **ROBERT PFEFFERKORN**
(Of The State Journal Staff)

A University of Wisconsin faculty committee recommended Monday night that a Black Studies Department be established on the campus.

The Faculty Committee on Studies and Instruction in Race Relations — known as the Thiede Committee — will make its recommendation to the whole faculty at a meeting next Monday.

Prof. Wilson B. Thiede, committee chairman, said that a minority report also would be submitted. The minority report will suggest that black courses

be spread among departments rather than have a new department created.

THE ACTION came after the faculty earlier had heard black speakers explain their demands.

But parliamentary tactics nearly severed another line of communication at the Wisconsin Union Theater.

The faculty met Monday afternoon in Committee of the Whole to continue the discussion of the 13 black demands which started last Wednesday after more than a week of campus disruption.

The Committee of the Whole took no policy vote Monday.

The University Committee,

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headed by Charles W. Loomer, noted that the faculty never had heard directly from black students themselves and invited seven speakers through formal and informal black groups and the Wisconsin Student Assn. (WSA).

STAUCHEST defender of the "faculty's right" to limit who speaks before it, J. Robert Moore, said, "In the most recent case of suspending the rules, we were treated with a

rude and abusive speech with no demand for an apology.

"I object to placing a student on a pedestal over faculty members," Moore said.

THE FIRST of the black speakers, Willie Edwards, first thanked the faculty "for allowing students to express their opinions, but there are two other speakers, Susan Ogami from Honolulu and Salvador Santiago of Puerto Rico."

It was suggested the rules might further be suspended after the first speakers had finished.

Edwards said quietly, "I would like to speak very much, but I said I wouldn't until, or unless . . ."

THE PARLIAMENTARY talk began in earnest as Edwards walked out. The other speakers declined to talk when called on or followed Edwards outside.

The question of waiting until

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after the other speakers had finished had become meaningless. "There are no speakers left," Loomer said.

An unidentified faculty member said, "It is sad that a deliberative body seeking to restore communication can get so tied up in procedure that no communication can take place."

THE FACULTY then voted to allow the two new speakers to join the others, and all were led back to the theater. The chairman did not hear a few shouted motions to adjourn.

Edwards finally spoke. He wore his black beret, characteristic of the more militant black power groups. Someone shouted for him to remove it.

Edwards said, "That's the way whites push their own culture on black people. In Africa, costume or dress indicates social position — this cap indicates my political position."

He said the black demands are designed to create a new intellectual class that can relate to the black community. He said such a class doesn't now exist.

"You teach me to take my cap off when I come inside, and to tell you who wrote some symphony, and to quote Shakespeare," Edwards continued. "In fact, you teach us to negate our own culture."

SANTIAGO explained that "black" has become a social concept not only applied by skin color and said, "We are asking you for a meaningful education."

Miss Ogami brought chuckles when she spoke of reading American history in Hawaii and learning that her "ancestors landed on Plymouth Rock."

DAVID GOLDFARB, president of WSA, expressed the hope that it would not be so difficult to speak with the faculty in the future as it was Monday.

He said, "We must use reason in the resolution of problems and you must stop treating students like intellectual, social, and moral inferiors."

"The crucial guideline in setting up a black studies department is relevance — you can't disregard them."

TWO BLACK faculty members, Donald Harris and Charles Anderson, again voiced their strong support for the demands.

Harris noted that throughout all the discussion during and after the disturbances there was "little clear recognition we have a problem here. As a matter of fact, most rhetoric seems designed to cover it up."

"The University is in a unique position to move ahead and set the example — carry the ball — but people have just stood around fumbling."