

# UW Black Studies Program Clears Next to Last Hurdle

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(Of The State Journal Staff)

Creation of a black studies department at the University of Wisconsin's Madison campus this fall cleared its next to last hurdle here Thursday.

It came with approval of an academic major in Afro-American studies by the Coordinating Council for Higher Education (CCHE) Program Committee.

Final action is scheduled for a Mar. 26 meeting of the entire CCHE.

Creation of a black studies department was one of the demands by black students here a year ago which culminated in a series of campus disorders.

"THIS IS NOT a program for the disadvantaged," said UW Regent Pres. Dr. James Nellen, Green Bay. "The same types of people would be in it that are in other courses. I'd be very much disappointed if all the people in it were blacks."

Letters and Science Dean Stephen Kleene said a committee "has been working hard on recruiting and four (faculty) candidates are in view."

Kleene said that two of them are now members of other departments here. He said the equivalent of six full-time faculty members are being sought for this fall.

ROY KONNAK, Racine, CCHE chairman, said, "One of the things that bothers me is whether the problem that we have in this country will be

solved at the college level.

"The level at which we ought to attack this problem is back in the communities where they (black people) come from at the elementary and high school level," Konnak contended.

He noted that some of the proposed courses "seem to be talking about the conflict in which the Negro finds himself."

Nellen acknowledged that that was the case, but suggested, "When they're in the sociology department, I guess that's involved."

HE TOLD KONNAK he had been assured that "They'll try to get the best faculty possible and not people whose desire is to inflame" or make accusations about racism.

Thomas Cheeks, Milwaukee, the only black CCHE member, said he hopes "They would not run into a program without the right kind or type of faculty. I hope this program would throw more light than heat on the subject."

From 1,200 to 1,500 students are expected to enroll in courses involved in the major this fall — the first time such a major will be available in a public institution in Wisconsin.

BY 1973-74, enrolment is expected to increase to 2,100 or 2,400. The number of graduates from the program that year is expected to be 25 to 30.

The total undergraduate enrolment in 14 related courses at the University in 1968-69 was 3,170.

The estimated cost of the program the first year is \$99,500. Nellen explained that several departments at the University had made a commitment to provide part of their funds to insure operation of the new department.

Also approved Thursday was a major in safety education at Whitewater State University.