

Black Studies Unit Backed

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(Of The State Journal Staff)

A black studies department should be established at the University of Wisconsin's Madison campus, according to the faculty.

The go-ahead for setting up the department — to be known as the Department of Afro-

American Studies — was given by the faculty at a meeting Monday afternoon

APPROVAL CAME on a voice vote after a proposal calling for creation of an interdepartmental black studies program was defeated, 540-414.

Creation of an autonomous black studies department controlled and organized by black

students and faculty was one of 13 demands by black students which led to recent campus demonstrations.

MONDAY'S action stopped short of that demand because the proposal adopted by the faculty would give students only two of nine votes on a steering committee which would set up the department.

Students would have voting rights only on curriculum matters, with personnel questions being the exclusive domain of faculty committee members.

Setting up the department followed the recommendations of a Committee on Studies and Instruction in Race Relations chaired by Prof. Wilson Thiede. A minority of the committee recommended the black studies program.

EVEN UNDER best condi-

tions, the department could not become a reality before July 1, 1970, and several other steps in the approval process are still required.

The College of Letters and Science faculty would have to approve the new major setup by the steering committee, and central administration and Board of Regent approval also would be required.

APPROVAL then would have to be given by the Coordinating Council for Higher Education (C C H E). Madison Chancellor Edwin Young said after the meeting he will confer with the University central administration and regents on methods of funding the department.

He said he did not yet know when he will name the members of the steering committee. He had no comment on Monday's meeting other than to say "It was a good-tempered, serious discussion."

PROF. CHARLES E. Anderson, a black faculty member,

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termed Monday's action "a helpful step, although I don't know how this will please students. This is just the first step on the way toward having a meaningful black studies program," he added.

Leaders of the Black Students Alliance could not be reached for comment Monday night. A press conference will be held at 4 p.m. today in Great Hall of the Memorial Union.

Prof. Stephen C. Kleene, speaking for the University Committee, urged acceptance of the minority recommendations. He noted that "None of the recommendations meet the demands of those who disrupt."

A MOVE BY Prof. Sheldon Klein, to delay action on the recommendations "until one year passes without violent stu-

dent demonstrations" was defeated overwhelmingly on a voice vote.

Prof. Julius Weinburg argued that "The existence of disruption is no reason for us not to do what in our best moral judgment the situation calls for."

Another proposal defeated by a voice vote called for establishing at least one new course by next fall in seven subject areas which would be acceptable to the steering committee.

ANOTHER recommendation approved Monday calls for expansion of the existing Afro-American concentration of the American Institutions major and appointment of a faculty member as director or coordinator of the Afro-American major.

Also approved was a proposal to have the University president appoint a committee "to explore ways in which the Afro-American and Race Relations Center, University Extension, and other appropriate bodies might cooperate in the development of community-oriented and action-oriented programs for the benefit of Afro-American students and the wider Afro-American community."

DURING THE early part of the meeting in the Wisconsin Union Theater a group of black students attempted to enter the theater, but were told that only voting faculty members could enter.

A group of about 15 black students waited outside the theater, but left before the meeting ended. There were no incidents reported.

PROF. ROBERT I. DeMars contended that the new department "will be concerned in a major way with a major illness, that of racism." He said the department should concern itself with looking at the illness from all aspects.

Prof. Richard Hartshorne disagreed. "Problems implied in racism are multi-racial," he said. "Does it make sense to say that we will get at the problem of racism by setting up a department concerned with one race?" he asked.

SPEAKING FOR the proposal to establish a black studies program rather than a department, Prof. E. David Cronen told the faculty that "We have the best African studies program in the nation.

"We fear that for many, the establishing of a department will be the end of a commitment to move ahead," he said. "It could be a symbol of a job completed when actually the job is just beginning."