

Afro-American Center Dispute Boils at UW

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Disenchanted black students apparently have taken over leadership of the University of Wisconsin's Afro-American and Race Relations Center in a disagreement with the UW over who should be the center's new director.

Sam Salter, 24, a graduate student and contender for the post, appeared to be in charge of the center at 935 University Ave. Wednesday afternoon.

EARLIER in the day, Acting Director Eugene Parks, Madison's Fifth Ward alderman, and Associate Director Horace Harris offered their resignations to Stephen C. Kleene, dean of the College of Letters and Science.

Neither could be reached for comment, but they reportedly resigned under pressure from blacks who are backing Salter for the job.

Kleene said he had not decided on whether to accept the resignations.

SALTER Wednesday denied a claim by Kleene that the black students are split over who the new director should be. He said the only split was between the black community and Kleene.

The post has been vacant since last spring when C. Elrie Chrite resigned, also under pressure from black students.

In a letter to black students Wednesday, Kleene said Salter "is very seriously in the running," but that he would not make an appointment until he

received a slate of several candidates from a student-faculty committee.

"IF SAM Salter wins out then, he should be better equipped to unite the community than if he were appointed now in response to pressure tactics," Kleene said.

He did not elaborate on "pressure tactics," but said if they were instigated by Salter they would "hurt his candidacy."

About 50 black students demanded Tuesday that Salter get the job.

THEY apparently feel that Kleene is dragging his feet on the appointment because Salter would be too militant in the UW's eyes.

During the summer, the student-faculty search and screen committee submitted the names of Salter and Mervin Hall of Milwaukee to Kleene. Hall withdrew recently leaving Salter the only candidate.

Last week, Kleene asked the committee to provide more candidates. The job pays \$17,500 per year.