

BSU director claims Department eliminating black history

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

Afro-American history will be "phased out" of the University curriculum within the next three years unless students act now to save it, the director of the Black Student Union says.

A coalition of student groups plans to rally at noon today on the EMU terrace to show support for the continuation of the University's only course in black history, adds BSU Director Wisson West.

Despite history department head Robert Lang's assurances, West says the department has "shown a commitment to get rid of African history rather than keep it and improve upon it," beginning with the decision last year to deny tenure to Afro-American history Prof. William Toll.

Toll, an award-winning specialist in Afro-American, Urban and Jewish history, leaves the University in June.

With no guarantee of funding for a new position and more department budget cuts on the way, West predicts that by



1980-81 Afro-American history will no longer be offered.

Currently, the history department is conducting a search for two United States history instructors. One position allows for a two-year renewable contract as an assistant professor in 20th century political history, while the other is a one-year visiting position in labor, ethnic or Afro-American history, "contingent upon funding."

Responding to Lang's request for names of qualified minority members for the two new positions, six black University professors wrote last month that they could not recommend the "contingent"

position to their colleagues.

"We view this latter position... to be an uncertain and clearly terminal position," wrote University professors Lawrence Carter, Edwin Coleman, Ray Poole, Ronald Rousseve, Maxine Thomas and Emmett Williams. The group called for the department to "reaffirm its commitment" to ethnic and Afro-American history in view of the University's commitment to Affirmative Action.

When asked about the history department's commitment to Afro-American history, Lang replied with a previously-issued policy statement, which states

that the course will be taught next year, either by new or current faculty members.

Lang added that although Afro-American history will be listed in next year's time schedule as a three-term sequence, he could not guarantee that all three terms would be taught.

The search committee has reviewed about 130 applicants for the two positions but has not yet reached a final decision, Lang says, though it will meet this Thursday on the matter.

However, West contends the committee is in the final stages of its deliberations, and adds that the insecurity of the position has already cost the University a black woman historian, who opted for another job offer.

History Prof. Robert Smith, who chairs the search committee, confirmed that an "interesting" black woman candidate accepted a position at a Los Angeles university because "it came up quicker" and because she was from that area.

"That set back the search a little," Smith said, "but it's not a hopeless situation."

Smith said he is "optimistic" that the committee can find a qualified candidate, though "maybe not a minority." The majority of department faculty "hope that the administration finds the funds to keep the position, and if the person is good and works out well, keep that person," he added.

Some of the faculty, however, feel that "because enrollment has dropped and because of the location of the University, there may never again be the demand for that course," said Smith.

West says he will not be satisfied until the history department changes the "contingent" labor-ethnic history professor's job description and puts the position on a tenure-track.

"If you don't have black history, how can ethnic studies survive?" asks West. "And if that goes, so go all ethnic- and minority-oriented classes at the University."

Boyd criticizes foreign student tuition hike

By KELI OSBORN
Of the Emerald

Gov. Vic Atiyeh's revised higher education budget will have an adverse impact on the University if its proposed tuition increase for foreign graduate students goes into effect, Pres. William Boyd said Tuesday.

Speaking in his monthly news conference, Boyd said Atiyeh's proposed differential between foreign and native students could become the country's first and could create more financial problems than it would solve.

Atiyeh last month suggested a 110 percent tuition increase for foreign graduate students to make up for losses incurred in lowering undergraduate resident tuition. He and his budget analysts predict that the State System of Higher Education could lose as much as 10 percent of its foreign graduate students with the hike.

"I'd say it's more like 50 percent than 10 percent," Boyd said, adding that such a loss of foreign students would mean a significant reduction of incoming tuition money. That, in turn, could mean cutbacks in

academic programs, he said.

"Even if the numbers remain the same," Boyd said, "only the wealthy would be able to attend. I have nothing against the elite being here, but I don't want this to be a retreat for the elite."

In a recent letter to Chancellor Roy Lieuellen, Boyd said that Oregon, more than most states, "needs foreign students to help create a cosmopolitan atmosphere to offset the prevailing parochialism."

"Classmates from other cultures help our students break down their stereotypical and prejudicial thinking about per-

sons different from themselves," he added. "That understanding will obviously speed up the day when American minority students can escape the damaging consequences of white prejudices."

In a brief legislative update, Boyd said that a course evaluation measure faces a close vote in the Oregon House. The bill, HB 2831, which would allow publication of faculty course evaluations, has earned the opposition of the University administration and lobbyists.

Though admitting that the issue was not high on his personal priority list, Boyd called it an ideological confrontation between students and faculty.

"I don't like to see campus issues settled in the Legislature," he said.

Students probably could achieve their aim "politically," if they sought not publication of course evaluations but carefully guarded access. He suggested keeping evaluations in departmental offices where access would be open to students "needing" such information.

IFC heats up again, over minority recruiting

Sparks flew at the Incidental Fee Committee meeting Tuesday night when funding for minority recruitment by the Black Student Union (BSU) came under debate.

IFC members with tempers and time growing short over their marathon task of trimming ASUO budgets, questioned the use of student fees to recruit potential students.

Janet Eggleston, IFC chairer, asserted that such a program is the responsibility of the University administration.

A representative of the University told the committee that the funds needed for minority recruitment are not available. She relies on the BSU to help her with the program.

Wisson West, director of the BSU, filled the room with students supporting his budget request of \$11,191. The IFC allocated \$10,486 to the BSU, which included minor cuts in their request for recruitment funds.

Janet Eggleston maintained that minority recruitment "... was in the best interest of the University. As soon as IFC quits paying for it (minority recruitment), they will (administration)."

West appeared to be skeptical. He mentioned the current status of the Afro-American History program as an example of his concern.

If the big winner was the BSU, who received an increase of 15 percent, the loser was the Graduate Business Administration Association. Asking for approximately \$1,200, they ended up with an IFC allocation of \$390.

The IFC has completed its recommendations on almost half the approximately sixty campus organizations it is expected to review.

Missing from the committee meeting was Harry Ricks. Scott Bassett, Kevin Chambers, Dusty Rhodes, Rocky Schatz, Janet Eggleston and Maria Rojo were present.

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