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MINORITY STUDENT SURVEY

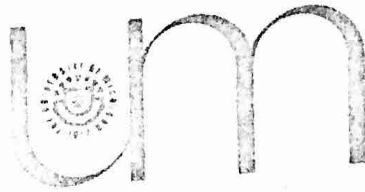
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
APRIL 19, 1973

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

NEWS

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ANN ARBOR---The University of Michigan has met its commitment on financial support for the Opportunity Program, but will be a year late in meeting the goal of 10 per cent black student enrollment set in 1970.

In a report to the Board of Regents Thursday (April 19), University officials estimated that a total of \$6 million in direct student aid went to minority group students this year (1972-73). That will rise to about \$7.6 million in 1973-74.

The officials said their conservative estimate of black student enrollment for fall 1973 is 2,787 (8.6 per cent), in increase of 606 black students over the 2,181 black students (6.8 per cent) enrolled last fall.

Total U.S. citizen minority group enrollment in Ann Arbor next fall should be 3,488 persons (10.8 per cent), compared with 2,745 students (8.5 per cent) last fall---a net increase of 743, according to U-M estimates.

On March 9, 1970, when an estimated 3.5 per cent of the Ann Arbor campus student body was black, the U-M Regents set a goal of "10 per cent enrollment of black students and substantially increased numbers of other minority and disadvantaged groups" by 1973-74. Other colleges and universities moved forward on the same front, so that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recently reported that in the fall of 1972 47.1 per cent of black high school graduates went on to college, while the percentage for whites was 49.4 per cent.

The University's experience in its Opportunity Program, begun in 1965 to assist economically and culturally disadvantaged Michigan students, suggested that some 85 per cent of the black students would need direct financial assistance. In addition, the University anticipated that existing supportive services would have to be supplemented. (more)

U-M officials told the Regents that minority student recruitment and support have been given priority consideration, even though the University has been in a period of increasing financial stringency. Because of that priority, direct aid to minority students at the University moved from \$2.7 million (out of a total of \$17.6 million) in 1970-71 to an estimated \$7.6 million (out of \$24 million) in 1973-74.

In addition to direct assistance, the University's expenditures in recruiting, counseling, tutoring and other supportive services for minority group students have gone from \$176,890 in 1969-70 to more than one million dollars this year.

U-M officials said the major difficulties in reaching the goals are (a) identifying students who are likely to succeed in a highly competitive environment; (b) enrolling enough of these students after admission (about 80 per cent of those admitted are expected to enroll in the fall of 1973); and (c) designing the supportive services needed to help them stay.

A sampling of students in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts---the major undergraduate unit of the University---indicates that academic attrition is somewhat higher among minority students and voluntary attrition is somewhat higher among non-minority students. But a combination of careful screening of applicants and supportive services has maintained attrition of minority group students at about the same level as that of all students.

The minority student recruiting program, U-M officials said, is now well established and a new balance of funding between recruiting and supportive services may be in order to improve retention.

Minority group graduate student enrollment is expected to have more than doubled between fall 1970 and fall 1973, according to U-M officials. But they report some trouble in attracting black students into areas such as natural resources and business administration, rather than those such as social work and education, for which black candidates have shown a preference.

(OppProg;Minorities) (R1-3;D1,2;EW;RTsp;Ed1-5;N1,2) (50sp)

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