

U.C.M. Luncheon Discussion

Reports Cite Racial Progress

by Bob Ridley

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At the luncheon discussion sponsored last Thursday by the United Campus Ministry, Drs. Harvey Young, Edward Holmes and Irwin Knopf and Mr. John Outlar [[Outler]] continued the series of reports to the university on progress to date in the twelve areas of responsibility set forth in President Atwood's letter of May 29.

Speaking in the area of black membership on college committees, Dean Holmes spoke of the ambiguous situation of the placement of a black student on a committee.

"The formal statement of the Black Student Alliance...does not contain any reference to membership on college standing committees. The document appended to the statement acknowledging racism in the University contained this recommendation."

"The faculty has before it a proposal which will be considered at the next meeting. The point now is that the college faculty is awaiting recommendations from the College Council as to the means by which the committee will be increased by one, and the faculty must incorporate this into its own proposal."

John Outlar [[Outler]], director of personnel, claimed that progress has been made in the area of improving the working conditions of black employes [[employees]].

"We brought to fruition a program in May on Affirmative Action. The goals and purposes of this program, which affects the entire University population, are to eliminate discrimination based on race; to provide ways and means of upgrading minority employes [[employees]] who have heretofore been blocked from being able to ascend to the level of competence that they could achieve; and to seek to recruit into the University at all levels above the semi-skilled minority persons into the work force."

"The program was approved in April and initiated in May."

Reporting on discussions with the BSA concerning hiring a black psychiatrist, Dr. Knopf, of the psychology department, said he felt the black students were looking for a psychologist and not a psychiatrist.

“As we talked it became clear that they were looking for a professional—it need not be a psychiatrist—who had faculty status and with whom they could relate, a psychologist, for example. They went back to discuss it with their entire group and said that was exactly what they wanted, a full-time psychologist.

“The key to the entire problem is that no one has time to carry on the program that these students did last May. For these students to be a constant irritant for our conscience requires a complete dissipation from their studies.

“What they’re looking for, in part, is a faculty member who could help them be part of the irritant, who could—maybe in less academic terms—be a spokesman, somebody they could follow.