

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW PANEL  
FOR THE BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Black Studies Program was approved for the Boulder campus in 1968. Courses were offered in the Fall semester of 1969 at which time Professor Charles Nilon, rostered in the English Department, was named the Director and given a courtesy appointment in Black Studies. During the first semester 202 students enrolled in courses offered by the Black Studies faculty consisting at that time of one professor and three associates, supported by one secretary. The enrollment reached a peak in 1972-73 of 1,283 students and has declined steadily to about 800 in 1979-80 at the beginning of Program Review. The decline in enrollment has continued at an alarming rate. In the Fall semester of 1981 the total enrollment was 219 students followed by a total of 176 in the Spring semester of 1982. Among the reasons for the declining enrollment are the loss of faculty and other support, a decrease in the undergraduate population of black students, and the lack of visibility of the Black Studies Program.

A B.A. degree program in Black Studies was proposed in 1976 and was approved by the CCHE in 1977. It was formally instituted in the Fall semester of 1977. In the Fall semester of 1981 there was one student majoring in the degree program; most of those enrolled in Black Studies course offerings do so out of interest and/or the need of fulfilling requirements of the Arts and Sciences College for courses in social sciences and the humanities.

Faculty

There are two full-time faculty members. One, an Associate Professor, specializes in Literature. There are four part-time instructors. Their interests are in Music, African Politics, Art History, and Dance. Three F-89's complete the faculty. Their interests include History, Psychology, and Political Science. Teaching evaluations suggest that the teaching of this faculty

is good. Evaluations provide some indication that occasionally help might be desirable to improve teaching. All faculty members, including those teaching part-time are generous with their time in advising students and giving extra help.

#### Students and Instructional Facilities

According to the Program Director, many of the students need more help than is presently available for advising and counselling. He is distressed because there seems to be such a large gap between the intelligence and the achievement of many of them.

Of the 33 courses offered in 1978-79 the average section size was 19. Fewer course sections can be offered at this time because of the diminishing number of students. In the Fall semester of 1981, 14 sections were offered with an average size of 16; early Spring figures in 1982 show that only 9 sections were offered with an average size of 20.

The operating expense budget of \$2,800 apparently pays for necessities such as typewriter rental, telephone, etc., but leaves very little to enrich the program. Funds restrict the rental of films and the like for class use.

The library holdings of books and periodicals are reasonably good. Future needs will include the strengthening of areas related to faculty research interests and in support of courses.

#### Faculty Research and Scholarship

Both full-time members of the faculty are interested in research and involved in it. One is the editor of Umoja: A Scholarly Journal of Black Studies and is engaged in research supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation. Another has not yet been successful in obtaining grants for his research, but is interested in literary criticism related to the Black Literary Tradition. In general, the scholarly output of the faculty of the program needs to be increased.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Black Studies is a young program in need of restructuring in order to strengthen its program, to increase its visibility on the campus, and to ensure its continued presence on the campus. PRP supports its continuation and believes that the original purpose of the program is still valid. It is important that the Black experience should continue to be taught from the Black perspective. PRP urges the UCB administration to give strong support to the following recommendations:

1. The Black Studies Program faculty should be fully rostered in traditional disciplines.
2. The most appropriate home for the Black Studies Program would seem to be found in an affiliation with the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies along the lines followed by Asian Studies and Conflict and Peace Studies.
3. Members of the Black Studies Program faculty should enjoy the autonomy normally accorded to faculty in planning curriculum and setting program standards. In order to make this possible the Dean of Arts and Sciences should have the responsibility of seeing that a reasonable amount of faculty time is devoted to this end.
4. An acceptable division of effort between the Departments in which the Black Studies faculty are rostered and the Black Studies Program should be determined by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
5. In matters of reappointment, promotion, and tenure the quality of a faculty member's contribution to the Program should be recognized and evaluated by the home department, the Dean, and others involved in the decisions.
6. Negotiations on the issue of organization and structure should be initiated with the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies immediately upon receipt of the recommendations of PRP.

The Dean will report to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs on the decisions that have been made on the new structure of the Black Studies Program by June 15, 1982. The Dean will also report to the Vice Chancellor each semester on the effect that such changes have on the Program's success (indicated by enrollments, faculty research performance etc.)

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