

[3/22/70]

BLACK FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK RESPONSE TO BAM DEMANDS

The Black members of the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Social Work issue this statement to express their support of Black Action Movement's (BAM) efforts to obtain a firm commitment from the University of Michigan to increase the numbers of Black students and faculty.

It is our considered opinion that the University of Michigan must take whatever steps are necessary to increase the number of Black students to equal at least ten percent of the total student body by no later than the 1973-74 academic year. It is equally important that the number of Black faculty similarly be increased within this time period.

Because many of the Black students entering the University suffer from inferior educational experiences, we believe that it is essential for the University to launch a comprehensive program of academic supportive services for these students. They must be given assistance and opportunities to succeed according to their abilities. To increase the enrollment of Black students without an accompanying program of supportive services would be illusory and cruel.

We expect that many of the Black students recruited to attend the University of Michigan will come from low and middle income groups, and will need substantial financial support to complete their education. Therefore, the University must place support for Black students at the top of its present and future priorities. A pledge must be made to guarantee adequate funding for a group of Black students to number no less than ten percent of the total student body by 1973-74.

We believe that an essential component in any program to recruit and better educate Black students is the establishment of a Black Studies Center. Such a Center should serve to promote understanding of Black Americans for the total University community.

An organizing committee representing Black students and faculty, the University administration and other interested groups should be appointed immediately to move this project ahead.

Further, we believe that it is imperative that a multi-party "monitoring-board" be established to review and report to the University community on the implementation of this total program. Such a board should include representation from students, faculty, administration and the Regents of the University.

We recognize that the above recommendations will require a significant shift in the University's priorities and resources. We believe that such action is essential. We implore the University to spell out how it plans to operationalize these recommendations.

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