

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
ANN ARBOR

Advisory Committee on Graduate Minority Affairs

Summary Report  
of  
9 November, 1977 Meeting

Present: Professors Larry Flanigan and Willis Patterson; Reginald Alexander, Rosy Douglas, Carol Hollis and Jay Walker.

The meeting was convened by the chairperson, Professor Patterson. The committee considered scheduling of future meetings, agreeing to a 9:00 slot on Monday mornings. The final meetings for fall term were scheduled for 28 November and 12 December.

Membership. Mr. Alexander reported that there are four vacancies on the committee (three student members and one faculty member). Mr. Walker indicated that it would be desirable to appoint a faculty member from Division I so that all divisions would be represented. Student appointments should be made with consideration to representation across the divisions and minority groups. (At present, Division III is represented by Janice O'Neal, a black student in Political Science.) The committee instructed Mr. Walker to bring it to full membership as soon as possible, and to notify all members of their terms of appointment within the guidelines adopted last May (i.e., calling for staggered terms).

Visitation. Mr. Walker indicated that thirteen of the twenty-one students who participated in the March 1977 Visitation enrolled at U-M this fall, and that another student, a recipient of a Merrill Scholarship to London, intends to enroll in Fall, 1978. Visitation for 1977-78 will be planned for February.

Fellowship Support. Mr. Alexander reported that the maximum stipend support available to students via the University Fellowship for Minority Students is \$325/month. For most other fellowship programs administered by the Office of Student Affairs stipends are at a maximum of \$415/month. Under current guidelines students are not permitted to accept employment in order to supplement stipends they receive via the minority program although, in many cases, this option is available to other fellowship recipients. Professor Flanigan indicated that this type of discrepancy, along with rising educational costs, has a negative impact on effective recruitment and retention of graduate minority students. Professor Patterson inquired whether or not the Graduate School has communicated with Vice President Radock in regard to the upcoming major fund drive, indicating that this could be a source of additional support. Mr. Walker indicated that he did not believe such a discussion had taken place to date, but a couple of other options had

been considered under the assumption that fellowship dollars specifically earmarked for minorities would remain stable. One of these would be to allow minority students to accept employment which would equalize their stipend support to that of nonminority students. Another option would be to decrease the number of students who are supported while increasing the stipends of those who are. A third would be to actively pursue external funding opportunities designed to increase access for and support to minority students. One such program (a new HEW fellowship) is currently under investigation.

The committee requested statistical data reflecting current enrollment of minority students, a comparison of first-time enrollees for 1976-77 and 1977-78, and general fellowship support available to these students. Mr. Alexander said he would include this information along with the agenda for the 28 November meeting. Further discussion pertaining to fellowships was tabled until that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15.

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