

Report outlines problems of blacks for administrators

By Mary Fastenau

A new semester is beginning, but the same old problems are reoccurring for black UNL students.

These problems were summarized by the UNL chapter of the Afro-American Collegiate Society in a report given to administration officials, according to Hubert Brown, AACS vice-president.

Eleven situations that need to be addressed were listed in the report, Brown said.

Brown quoted figures showing there is 72 percent dropout rate among black students, compared with 25 percent for other students. Only seven out of 1,500 faculty members are black, he said. The only area where the percentage of blacks is above 2 percent is in service and maintenance, where 3.5 percent of those employed are black, Brown said.

The area that shows the most progress is an orientation for black students. He said Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs, formed a committee which has all of the plans for the program down on paper.

Orientation necessary

Brown explained that he thought the

orientation was necessary because UNL is "such a radically different environment" than what the students are used to.

He said all the plans have been made, but there is no funding for the project.

Armstrong said that within two weeks he will know if money is available for the program.

Traditionally, black students have not attended New Student Orientation because of lack of money or a conflict in their work schedule. Armstrong said he hopes next year to have one day, early in the summer, to bring in as many black students as possible for orientation.

An in-depth workshop for black students is planned early this semester and four to six seminars are scheduled throughout the year.

Another point mentioned in the report is a need for recruitment of top black scholars from throughout the nation, Armstrong said. He explained that the only recruiting done outside the state is for athletic teams and there is no money available to recruit out-of-state professors.

Pamphlet suggested

Brown said the AACS had suggested

a recruiting pamphlet be printed showing the advantages of UNL.

Another AACS plan is to go to high schools across the state during the last weeks of school to sell students on UNL.

Armstrong agreed the small number of black faculty members is a problem.

One aspect of the problem is that there is a small proportion of blacks in the state and in Lincoln, Armstrong said. When potential black faculty members come to UNL and see very few blacks in the community, it usually lessens their interest in the school.

Nationwide, the number of qualified black instructors is limited, Armstrong explained. They are in high demand and normally choose prestigious institutions or those that can afford to pay them more. UNL has neither advantage, he said.

Classes sparse

Another problem listed in the report was a shortage of black-oriented classes. Armstrong said such problems are not

handled by the administration so the class requests were directed toward the various departments.

A tutoring program, which was under the auspices of the Multi-Cultural Affairs office, also was criticized because last year the budget ran out before the end of the year, he explained.

Armstrong said the tutoring program has received a federal grant for this year.

A Campus Activity Programming staff member will work as part time adviser with the Cultural Center this year.

Brown said his concern would not be as great if the number of minority students and faculty members had remained stable, but it has been dropping. For example, he said UNL has been losing black faculty members at the rate of two a year since 1969.

Although he is happy about the things that have been done, Brown said his "optimism is very much guarded."

"We still have a lot of work to do," he said, "an awful lot of work."

Ten UNL students, professor to study in Bordeaux, France

Ten UNL students and one UNL professor will spend academic year 1978-79 in Bordeaux, France.

They will be there as part of a study abroad program sponsored since 1963 by the University of Colorado Office of International Education. UNL joined the program in 1966, and this year for the first time a UNL faculty member will be resident program director in Bordeaux.

That faculty member is Frans C. Amelinckx, associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literature. He, his wife Carol, and their children Andrea, 15, Alan, 11 and Andrew, 8, left for France August 2. While there, the children will attend French schools and Mrs. Amelinckx will help her husband with the program.

As director, Amelinckx will serve as a liaison between the French campus and the 47 students from Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Texas. He also will serve as counselor and adviser for the students.

The University of Bordeaux, founded in 1441, is in the center of the Bordeaux wine area and has a student body of nearly 25,000. The city of Bordeaux dates from the days of the Roman Empire and is a major seaport with a population of about 400,000.

The students will leave Denver for France Sept. 3. From the middle of Sep-

tember to the end of October they will receive an intensive language refresher and orientation courses to prepare them for their studies.

The 10 UNL students participating are:

-Susan Bailey, an Omaha junior majoring in journalism.

-Stephanie Blackman, a Papillion senior majoring in music.

-Loretta McDonald, an Omaha junior majoring in secondary education.

-Mary Jo Pitzl, an Omaha senior majoring in

French and journalism.

-Laura Wiedman, a Lincoln junior majoring in French.

-Deborah Yamamoto, a McCook junior majoring in French.

-Jonna Hunt, a Kearney junior majoring in French and Russian.

-Betty Cheung, Hong Kong, a junior French and journalism major.

-Rebecca Lea Thomas, a McCook junior majoring in political science.

-John Scott Melchert, a McCook junior majoring in French.

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Plant building nearly finished; to house teaching, research

Expanded teaching and research facilities will be available to students and faculty members this fall as the Plant Science Complex on UNL's east campus nears completion.

The \$6.4 million addition to Keim Hall will house the agronomy, horticulture and plant pathology departments of the NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Construction also includes 22 greenhouses and a headhouse control center for the greenhouses. This addition will greatly expand the plant growth area for soil and crop research, said Robert Gast, chairman of the UNL agronomy department.

Classes will be in the complex beginning Monday, but completion of the

project is not expected until Thanksgiving, Gast said.

"Our teaching facilities will be greatly expanded and we will be offering lab classes never available before," he said.

The new buildings also will allow scientists to expand current research projects and begin new projects previously limited by lack of space.

The plant pathology and horticulture departments will occupy the third and fourth floors of the building, vacating space in the Plant Industry Building to be used by the entomology department.

The first two floors of the new structure will house classroom and lab facilities.



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