

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR  
THE REVIEW OF THE BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM

Meeting Place: Buckeye Room III - Kilcawley

Meeting Time: November 15, 1984 - 4:00 P.M.

Members Present: Syretha Cooper, Lee R. Slivinske, Al Bright, Veral Adair,  
Glorianna Leck, Fred Blue, Sarah Brown-Clark, Homer B. Warren.

I. Thursday:

I. Fred Blue, proposed that we review the committee's progress. To facilitate this, Blue raised two (2) questions that each member responded to:

1. Is the BSP meeting its present goal?
2. What new goals should be incorporated so as to alter (if needed) the design of BSP?

II. To the first question the following responses ensued:

1. A.) As a general educational elective, BSP is not well coordinated across departments. An example is with the Education Department. Racism is a subject matter that should be discussed when training teachers.  
B.) The Black History month should be reassessed under a cost/benefit analysis. Possibly spread the events over each quarter.
2. Class selections are narrow and offerings are low.
3. On paper BSP is providing the intended services. Unfortunately, the numbers are not encouraging. The original assumptions of BSP were centered around the academic elements and not a practicum for the "War on Poverty." The majors are low, but one has to remember that the concentration was to be on giving general knowledge to general students, not a production of majors.
4. A.) Although BSP can help to broaden the scope and understanding of all students, who will undoubtedly eventually work directly with black clients, students, consumers, or fellow workers, there seems to be a discouragement factor somewhere that's causing students to avoid (or better, ignore) BSP classes.  
B.) Before we can discuss goals (past, present, future) we need an empirical foundation. A survey of students may show a surprising amount of conservatism (unfortunately, a present day euphemism for bigotry).

5. Internally and externally, there are debilitating limitations (restrictions) placed on BSP that have served to prohibit BSP from fully meeting a number of its goals. But even in the face of enrollments, interdisciplinary class offerings, faculty considerations, and budgeting, on the whole BSP has worked.
6. During the 70's the mix of students in BSP was about 50/50. Now the mix is more like 90/10 blacks in the introductory courses and mostly whites in the upper division courses. Furthermore, the enrollment in the upper division classes are between 8 and 12 students. Another problem is that BSP is without a full-time African History professor.
7. The masculine titles of some of the BSP courses are causing some consternation.

III. Under the question of what goals should be incorporated, the following discussion took place:

1. Stimulate sensitivity among advisors in all schools.
2. Examine guidance sheets in all schools.
3. Where feasible incorporate BSP classes into the curriculum of all schools.
4. Examine release time status for the director's position.
5. Recruitment of students and faculty.
6. Retention of students and faculty.
7. Review course offerings.
8. Increase size of staff.
9. Develop a clear definition of BSP.


IV. Fred Blue proposed that the committee be divided into subcommittees (composed of 2 members) to begin refining the analysis of BSP. Each subcommittee will report on one of the following topics:

1. A.) Current enrollment patterns of BSP.  
B.) Current mix of black/white students in lower level courses.
2. Curriculum evaluation.
3. Class requirements and offerings.
4. Faculty.
5. Status of BSP's directorship.
6. BSP's involvement with the community. (outreach)
7. Black student matriculation.
8. Examination of Black History Month.

V. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

VI. The committee will meet on Thursday, December 6, 1984 at 4:00 p.m. in Buckeye III, Kilcawley.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Homer B. Warren