

NAACP accuses University of racial discrimination

By JOSEPH KAYS
Collegian Staff Writer

The NAACP may file a class-action suit against the University because of what it calls insensitivity by University President John W. Oswald to its complaints of racial discrimination.

No specific details of the proposed suit were released.

Representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People met yesterday afternoon with Oswald to discuss discrimination at the University.

The Rev. Gerald Loyd, pastor of Unity Christian Ministries at the University and an NAACP member, said the representatives were upset because Oswald referred their complaints to University committees and refused to talk about specific cases of alleged discrimination.

The NAACP alleges that Haroon Kharem, a former University employee, and other University employees were fired because of racial discrimination.

After the discussion became argumentative, Oswald walked out of the room, the representatives said.

At a news conference following the afternoon

meeting, Loyd read from a prepared statement: "We see this as an insult to an institution of the caliber of the NAACP and the black people across the Commonwealth."

Oswald did not attend the news conference, but according to a news release distributed by the University Office of Public Information: "Complaints of discrimination have been brought to the attention of the appropriate offices of the University, have been reviewed, and no evidence has been found to support the allegations of discrimination."

"The employees have the option of pursuing their complaints further within the University's grievance procedures."

The University's statement also said that about 15 different programs for minorities have been initiated since Oswald became University president in 1970.

Included are the University's Black Scholars Program, the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, community centers in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, the University's educational opportunity program (EOP) for academically and financially disadvantaged students, and a developmental year program for EOP students, the statement said.

But Loyd said only 232 of the 11,500 employees in the University are blacks or other minorities.

"In the past several years, there have been numerous complaints of racial and sexual discrimination," the NAACP statement said. "In numerous departments there is a total exclusion of blacks, and tokenism in others."

Of about 32,700 students at University Park, Loyd said, about 740 are black.

"There is a climate not really conducive to good race relations," he said.

Matthew Moore, state chairman of the NAACP, said the University should recruit all black students the way it recruits basketball and football players. "I think Dr. Oswald is living in the dark ages," he said. "He hasn't been confronted by black people."

Last night, the NAACP held an organizational meeting in State College at which about 80 people came to listen to Moore and to start a new branch of the group in the area.

Moore, along with other people who were at the afternoon meeting with Oswald, urged those in attendance to work together to fight discrimination, not only at the University but throughout the area.

To start a branch of the organization, he said, 50 people willing to pay the \$10 membership fee are required; 37 paid last night.



Photos by Renee Jacobs

Left, an unidentified woman and Matthew Moore, state chairman of the NAACP, listen as an audience member addresses the problem of racial discrimination at an NAACP meeting last night. Right, former University employee Haroon Kharem, left; Moore; and Ann Shields speak at the meeting.



Report could change PSU admissions policy

By DAVID MEDZERIAN
Collegian Staff Writer

A major change in the University's admissions policy could result if a report compiled by the Provost's Admissions Review Committee is implemented.

Under the proposal, which would take effect Fall Semester 1983, admissions to the University would be based on academic program, location and student quality, University Provost Edward D. Eddy said.

"The student would be judged on the basis of what their predicted grade point average would be in that particular curriculum," he said.

"If the recommendations of the report are

accepted, the quality of the applicant directly would be important. That (would be) a major shift in the University's admissions policy."

Acceptances are now based mainly on when and to which campus a prospective student applies, Eddy said. Applicants must, however, meet minimum requirements for admission to the University.

The report is still in the drafting stage and would have to be approved by the University Faculty Senate's admissions committee, the Council of Academic Deans, the provost and the president in order to become University policy, Eddy said.

"It's a very carefully considered report, and one that we will want to examine in detail," he said. Donald G. Dickason, chairman of the Admissions

Review Committee and dean of admissions, said: "My own view is that it should help us University-wide to improve the quality of the student."

At its July meeting, the University Board of Trustees discussed rising enrollment, said Paul Bell, student member of the board.

"Our recommendation was that overall enrollments are too high," he said.

Although Eddy said he requested the report be compiled because of the unexpected enrollment surge last year, he said the proposed policy change was not intended to decrease enrollments.

"Right now, Penn State finds itself in a period of high demand. It would be foolish of us not to take

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Educators disagree on Reaganomics' effects

By ANN H. FISHER
Collegian Staff Writer

President Reagan's New Federalism program will definitely affect the future of the nation's higher education system, but University faculty members and administrators disagree as to the extent.

Every administration in the past 20 years has had its own brand of "new federalism," but Reagan's priorities could bring about the downfall of certain educational programs, said Sheldon R. Gelman, professor of social welfare.

Programs that provide educational opportunities for minorities, which the government has promoted in recent years, are no longer high on Reagan's priority list, Gelman said.

"His solutions give more problems than they solve," he added. "We're moving backwards in many areas."

Reagan's New Federalism proposes to reduce the federal government's involvement and funding of the individual states' programs by lumping many separate programs into block grants. All programs — including education — would have to compete for a share of the dwindling federal funds allocated to each state.

"Concerning education, I regard Reagan's New Federalism as old feudalism," said Henry J. Hermanowicz, dean of the College of Education.

Charles L. Hosler Jr., dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, is "not quite as excited" as the others about what Reagan is doing.

"This is just a shaking-down period" in the nation's economy, Hosler said. Until five or six years ago, many of those minority programs did not exist, and "right now, society can't afford all the good things they want to do."

"You cannot assume that government will grow forever," he added.

Noting that he was "aware of a lot of waste and a lot of nonsense" among research projects and certain educators across the nation, Hosler

thinks federal spending should be reviewed.

The disparity between defense and education allocations has some deans worried. In his 1983 budget proposals, Reagan proposed increasing defense spending by 17 percent, while reducing education spending by 23 percent.

However, Hosler is not one of those who is worried. He said he thinks that clever people can always find ways to tap the defense money — thus the disparity could be lessened.

"There is not anything in the sciences that can't be geared toward the defense industry," he said. "You just have to put the things you want to do in their terms."

"I think that science and engineering are going to come out of this smelling like a rose — if they are clever and fast on their feet," Hosler said.

Unfortunately, the proposed cuts may go deeper than just eliminating waste — cutting good and bad programs alike, he said.

Paul H. Rigby, assistant dean of research in the College of Business Administration, agreed that Reagan's budget proposals go beyond just eliminating the inefficiency in the bureaucracy but said he believes that Reagan's policy is inconsistent.

"Why is there less waste in defense than anywhere else? It's as bad there as anywhere," Rigby said. "He should look at all aspects of the government."

Because of Reagan's increased defense spending, the sciences should be able to survive direct education cuts. The deans agreed that other education programs, such as the humanities and the social sciences, would feel the impact of the cuts more.

"If I was involved in the humanities, I would be more distressed," Hosler said.

Inevitably, deans from the colleges that deal with the social sciences are more vigorously opposed to the 1983 budget proposals.

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weather

A return to winter is in store. Increasing cloudiness today, high near 45. Periods of rain will develop this evening. Rain may be mixed with sleet or snow at times, low near 34. Turning sharply colder and windy tomorrow with rain showers changing to snow showers during the morning. Slowly falling temperatures.

Very cold and windy tomorrow night with snow flurries. Lows in the teens.

—by Mark Stunder

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Minorities a topic at USG debate

By MARCY MERMEL
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Candidates for Undergraduate Student Government president and vice president debated last night about how the University's minority recruitment and retention problem should be dealt with, in the second of five debates sponsored by USG.

The candidates were asked questions by a panel consisting of WDFM News Director Mark Bomberger, USG President Bill Cluck, Daily Collegian Editor Phil Gutis and USG Vice President Ken Reeves. Sharon Taylor, Collegian managing editor, and Pam Wheeland, WDFM news staff writer were also on the panel. Members of the audience were also able to ask questions.

Bomberger asked the candidates what role USG should play in minority recruitment and retention and how the problem can be solved.

Presidential candidate Jim Krauss said USG should concentrate on retaining minorities and create a task force to deal with the issue.

Leni Barch, a presidential candidate, said USG should be supportive of groups working on the problem by pledging resources and workers.

Another presidential candidate, Matt Wolford, said minorities should be dealt with like other student groups. The University should emphasize retention, he said.

Because students sometimes leave the University as a result of difficulties with academics or atmosphere, the University should try to solve these problems and get minority students involved in activities in the residence halls, Wolford said.

Candidate Andy Leisner said as USG president he would "sit down and

talk and understand where (minorities) are at and then find out what needs to be done and see if we can work together to accomplish that."

Emil Parvensky, also a presidential candidate, said the University should update the recruitment and retention policies determined by a 1975 task force.

Pilot programs with students promoting the University to minority students from a student perspective and a buddy system to help new students deal with problems could help solve the problem, he said.

Cluck asked the candidates to choose one of their planks and explain why it is important and how it will be accomplished.

Parvensky said the calendar conversion is an important issue and "people do not realize the scope of the conversion."

Getting the student councils of the University's 10 colleges involved would "break (the calendar conversion) down into more manageable parts," he said.

Work on proposals like the "Super Summer" of extra courses for students who would have had to go until Christmas in order to graduate and a waiver system for courses that would not directly affect the student's degree should be continued, he said.

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Photo by Kathleen A. Prince

Leni Barch, candidate for USG president