

# Discrimination:

## PSU will contribute to state plan

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graduates to be at least proportional to the number of white high school graduates entering undergraduate institutions.

- Take "all reasonable steps" to reduce any disparity in the proportion of retention rates between black and white students.

- Adopt the goal that the proportion of black state residents who graduate from undergraduate institutions and enter graduate or professional study or schools be at least equal.

The federal courts and civil rights office also have set time limits on the establishment and ultimate success of the plan.

At the trustees' meeting, Bartoo explained that the state has "roughly five years" to reach the plan's goals once they are approved by the court.

The University's drafting team — which in addition to Bartoo includes Robert E. Dunham, vice president for undergraduate studies; Robert J. Scannell, vice president and dean, the University's Commonwealth Educational System; Loren M. Furtado, director of the Office of Planning and Budget, and William W. Asbury, assistant to the provost and affirmative action officer — has worked hard with the state officials and officers from the other schools to produce an acceptable plan, Bartoo said. But, he added, he must remain realistic about the eventual productivity of the drafting team's work.

"I have to be a realist and say that there is not going to be a dramatic change overnight," Bartoo said in a recent interview. He explained that the University will also add a "price tag" to the report it submits to the state and the Office of Civil Rights because many of the programs the University plans to suggest will involve additional expense.

Although the 1978 regulations also contain sections on increasing black faculty and staff, the University has not focused on that area, Bartoo said, because of a previously approved affirmative action plan.

Therefore, the University's efforts have focused on black student enrollment. And in line with the federal requirements, Bartoo said the drafting team has set a black enrollment goal of about 5 percent. Now, according to the latest figures available, the University has a black

enrollment of about 2.3 percent.

The drafting team established the 5 percent figure by setting a goal of doubling black enrollment and adding the additional 0.4 percent from the desired increases in retention rates, Bartoo said.

With the University's centralized administration process, it will be easier to increase the number of first-time enrollments of black students than to significantly change the University's retention rates, Bartoo said.

In contrast to the admissions system, Bartoo said, the University does not have a centralized retention system. The admissions office, financial aid office and minority support services all report to different administrators, Bartoo said, which forces inherent difficulties in the University's efforts.

Incoming University President Bryce Jordan, when asked about the University's minority enrollment problem at a recent news conference in Harrisburg, said he will be "doing some work in" those areas.

"I do look to the possibility of reorganizing some of the recruitment efforts at the University and also some of the support mechanisms that help minority students acclimate themselves and take full advantage of what Penn State has to offer," said Jordan, executive vice chancellor of academic affairs at the University of Texas System.

Jordan, who will take office on July 1, declined to elaborate on his comments.

Bartoo declined to release some specifics on the drafting team's plans in this area until the state plan is sent to the civil rights office.

Bartoo did, however, say the University will most likely select certain Commonwealth campuses — which he declined to specify — where additional support services for minorities will be established.

The drafting team has recognized that "a lot of (black students) are going to come into the Commonwealth campus system," Bartoo said. "It's unrealistic to say we are going to put a support system at each campus."

In addition to the enrollment and retention proposals, the University's plans will also focus on cooperative efforts with predominantly black

schools, Bartoo said.

At the Harrisburg news conference, Jordan said he had seen the draft of the University's plan, which he called "an excellent good faith effort."

The University's plan, Jordan said, included suggestions for joint programming and cooperative efforts.

The Office of Civil Rights is working with the general theme of providing better access for black students to professional and graduate schools, Bartoo said.

Bartoo said he had discussions in Harrisburg with Lincoln and Cheyney "about ways and means that we could perhaps admit more black students from Lincoln and Cheyney into our medical school, for example."

Most likely, Bartoo said, a joint effort among Penn State, Temple and Pitt will be conducted to assist Lincoln and Cheyney with pre-medical curriculum, counseling of students and, possibly, a similar program in the other sciences.

"I am reasonably sure that we are going to end up appointing some kind of liaison committees to enter into discussions about ways and means that programs can be enhanced with cooperative programs."

At the trustees' meeting, Oswald had warned the board that an integration plan could possibly result in the elimination of academic programs. In April, for example, the education department approved a desegregation plan in which some programs had been eliminated from some institutions.

However, Bartoo said he does not think the state's plan will include any suggestions for program elimination.

For instance, Bartoo said programs in special education are offered at several institutions within a 20-mile radius of each other. Penn State offers its programs at the King of Prussia Center. West Chester State College, Cheyney and Temple also have graduate programs in that curriculum.

A recent study found that 2,500 teachers in that area needed or wanted certification or higher degrees in special education, Bartoo said.

"Quite frankly, I don't think that the discussion (about program elimination) is going to be a high priority."

# Lock Haven residents get reassurance from Corman

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ago." Letterman said health records for screenings of former Drake employees were then being gathered with state Health Department funds. He said he believes the money could have been spent by the June 30 deadline because of the urgent need for the tests.

Against a tax increase and believes the governor is trying to gain his vote in return for health screening funds.

To pass the budget in the House, Letterman said Thornburgh "needs at least 25 Democrats."

Explaining that tax increases are inevitable, anyway, Letterman said he would vote for Thornburgh's budget if that would secure the money for the health screening.

Both Letterman and Corman were angered that the governor did not consult them before blue-lining the amendment. Letterman said he tried unsuccessfully to speak to Thornburgh before the governor received the bill. He said he wanted to convey to the governor the urgency of the screenings.

"Unless you live with it, you can't know the extent of the problem," Letterman said.

Corman said: "I couldn't believe the governor could be that insensitive to the problem."

Corman met on Friday with Arnold Muller, director of the state Department of Health and some of Thornburgh's aides.

After the meeting, Corman announced that information on the pos-

**'I couldn't believe the governor could be that insensitive to the problem.'**

—state Sen. J. Doyle Corman, R-Centre County

sible health affects of chemical exposure at the Drake plant would continue to be gathered with Department of Health funds despite the fact that no screening of individuals would take place yet.

Deputy Secretary of Health Donald Reid said one of the ways information would be gathered is through a questionnaire for former Drake workers and nearby residents. Another test would document the incidence of cancer in Clinton County and then compare that with cancer rates of the surrounding counties.

Corman said that if significant evidence of a health problem exists due to chemical exposure, a strategy for health screening would be developed.

But Letterman said he is not satisfied because he believes enough information has been gathered to warrant individual health screenings.

"I don't need any more studies. I need people tested," Letterman said.

Frank Furl, president of Citizens and Laborers for Environmental Action Now (CLEAN), said the studies "will help the Department of Health to nail down a little closer cost (for the health screenings) and to determine whether the federal aid will be needed."

CLEAN is a group of former employees of Drake and other concerned Lock Haven residents who have banded together to push for health screenings and a prompt cleanup of the site.

**'I don't need any more studies. I need people tested.'**

—state Rep. Russell Letterman, D-Centre County

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