

An Opportunity for Minorities

by Dick Dykeman

Beginning its second year, the Special Education Program endeavors to present to students



Dr. Charles Evans
SEP Director

of minority heritage or impoverished backgrounds, the opportunity to obtain a college education.

Statistics show that until this

According to a report from the University, at this time one year ago, the number of Black students enrolled in the SEP, had jumped from 150 to 465. The report also indicated that 103 American Indians, 90 Spanish American, and 955 Orientals made up the 1,563 total enrollment.

Dr. Charles Evans, director of special programs indicated that there has been a substantial increase in SEP enrollment, but because of budget problems that haven't been resolved yet, this year's total is unavailable at press time.

year, the chances were four or five times as great for a white person to become a University student, than if he were of a minority race. The University gives two reasons why this program was implemented:

1. "Justice to these young Americans demands it;
2. "To solve the difficult problems rooted in racial differences and to relieve the inequities suffered by the poor of any race, our society needs large numbers of well-educated citizens who have personally experienced the problems that must be solved."

The program is aimed at recruiting blacks, Mexican-Americans, American Indians, and economically and educationally disadvantaged white students.

Because of demands for inclusion, students of Asian background, including Filipino and Orientals will be a part of the SEP this year.

The student enrolled under the SEP, will be able to enter the University with less than a 2.5 GPA, if he has shown the ability to work. Some students will be allowed to enter on the basis of evidence not obtainable from their prior scholastic records.

To assist the SEP student in adjusting to University life, faculty members and graduate students have volunteered their services for a special tutoring program.

This area needs to be expanded this year according to Black Student Union, president Larry Gosset, who said at a news conference this summer: "Remedial programs call for massive changes in the University, such as the tutorial program which was too small."

Several types of counseling are available to the SEP stu-

dent. These include academic counseling, and personal counseling in matters relating to finances, housing and living accommodations, behavior, and disciplinary matters affecting the student.

Financial aid will be arranged through combinations of Federal Educational Opportunity Grants, National Defense Student Loans, scholarships, and full or part-time jobs under the work-study program.

A parallel program that will benefit SEP members, is a series of Black studies in the Arts and Sciences department, that will lead to a degree in Black Studies.

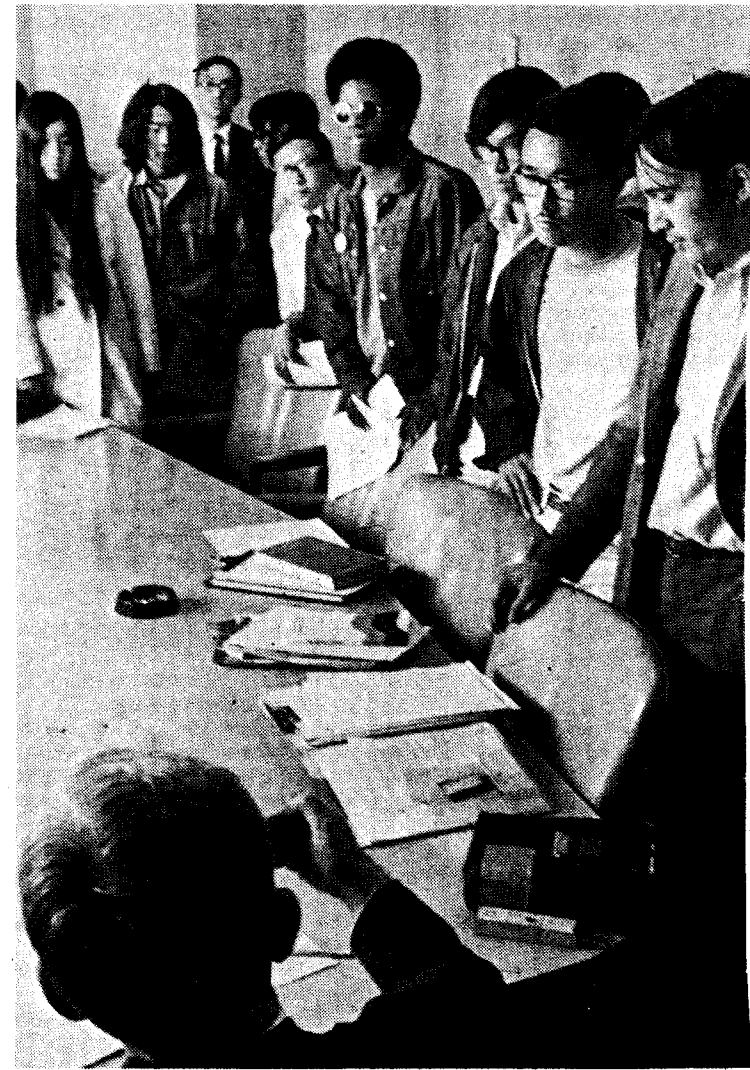
Professor James Goodman of the graduate school of Social Work is chairman of the Supervisory Committee on Black Studies that determines the curriculum.

Courses such as Afro-American History, Philosophy of Racial Conflict, Afro-American Culture, Social Biology of the American Negro, Music and Art of Africa, and History of Jazz and Sociology of Black America, are available.

More advanced courses also will be introduced in Black Studies and related subjects in Anthropology, Art History, Literature, Music, Psychology, and African languages and linguistics, will be available to all students.

In a letter to the Arts and Sciences faculty, Dean Cartwright stated:

"There will doubtless be many modifications of existing courses as faculty members examine their own instructions in the light of an increased awareness of elements of racism, however subtle or latent, which may still exist. I would urge each of you to examine carefully your own instruction to make certain that your students acquire an awareness of the culture of Black America as it impinges on your own field and make certain that our instruction neither reinforces, perpetuates nor fails to dispel racism of any sort."



SEP students confront Dr. Charles Evans with demands for including needy Oriental and Filipino students in the program. All minority groups backed the Asian Coalition in its confrontation. Evans responded, explaining that "there was no intention to exclude Asians." Now students from these backgrounds are part of the Special Education Program.