

150 minority students sit-in at Firestone



Photos by Jim Dorsey

Students debate policy in reference room

Discussions precede actions

Protest leaders, administration meet

By DAVE ELKIND

Disagreements over the university's scholarship aid plans for next year's freshman class had sparked a rash of meetings between minority leaders and the university administrators before the issues boiled over into this morning's sit-in at the library reference room.

Representatives of the Third World Coalition handed President Gohsen their final list of "objectives" Thursday noon, a day after top minority group leaders and university administrators had met for 90 minutes.

The petition was signed by 170 latinos, blacks, Asians and poor whites, according to Union Latinoamericana (ULA) Chairman Larry R. Garcia '72.

The demands included:

- "A pledge that all minority students admitted will receive adequate financial aid, as defined by the director of financial aid and his staff.

- "Elimination of artificial disadvantaged category constraint of 10 per cent of the entering class.

- "The Priorities Committee or some other appropriate body convene as early as possible and re-examine these financial constraints for undergraduate aid for the Class of 1975 and specifically for disadvantaged students.

- "A task force be named from faculty and students including minority group members from each, which will seek to define the university fiscal commitment to Third World Students, including poor whites, and submit its recommendations to the president of the university."

Meeting promised

Gohsen sent a letter to Garcia Thursday promising to meet with minority leaders next Wednesday.

At a special meeting called by Dean of the College Edward D. Sullivan Wednesday morning, Provost Bowen explained to minority leaders that the 10 per cent figure was a flexible "planning figure."

He said that while there was a fixed pool of funds for scholarship aid, there could be "trade-offs" between the number receiving disadvantaged level scholarships and the number of "others" receiving scholarships. He said the flexible figure for "others" in the Class of 1975 receiving scholarships was 40 per cent.

Bowen said the number of trade-offs would depend on "the

quality of the applicant pool and other considerations of that kind."

"That's not the kind of flexibility we want," Garcia said. He criticized the plan for lowering the number of scholarships to the "others" if the number of scholarships to the disadvantaged were raised.

Present at the meeting were: Dean Rudenstine, Ewen Sullivan, Yang Sheng Liu '72, leader of the Asian-American Student's Union, Marjorie Humphrey '72, co-coordinator of the Association of Black Collegians (ABC), Garcia, Edgar G. Ries '74, vice chairman of the ULA, and Assistant Dean of Students Joseph P. Moore.

"They did not name one instance where they made an attempt to increase the financial aid budget," said Liu.

'Moral not technical'

"All the 11 answers were along technical lines, not moral lines," he said. "This is a moral question, not a technical one."

"If they had delivered to us solid programs, then we probably wouldn't have thought the action was necessary," Garcia said.

"We weren't saying to cut this or cut that," he said. "We just wanted a university commitment to look for money and review its budget."

Humphrey was not available for comment.

Bowen said, "There has been an extensive study of these matters and there will continue to be extensive study."

"As we made clear all along, we are glad to have the input and ideas from anyone who is willing to make them," he said.

By MARK STEVENS

About 150 members of the Third World Coalition occupied the Sterling Morton Reference Room of Firestone Library for nearly three hours after closing time early this morning to protest the university's plan to maintain the percentage of disadvantaged students in the Class of 1975 near 10 per cent.

The group — about 50 of whom had departed earlier — left voluntarily at 2:45 a.m. after cleaning up the room.

Nine proctors, gazing into the reference room from the lobby and waiting at the exits, took down as many names as possible for disciplinary action.

Dean Rudenstine, present at the library throughout the sit-in, warned the group in the reference room at 12:40 a.m. that they were in clear violation of university regulations before he was shouted down. The dean said early this afternoon he would press charges against the group before the University Council's Judicial Committee.

The protest revealed deep divisions within the black leadership as Leonard G. Brown '71, co-coordinator of the Association of Black Collegians (ABC) and ABC members Jerome Davis '71 and Eugene Y. Lowe '71 entered the reference room several times to plead with ABC co-coordinator Marion Humphrey '72 and others to end the sit-in. After speaking to the group at 2:15 a.m., Davis and Brown led about 35 persons out of the library with them.

Earlier in the evening before midnight, more than 100 latinos, Asian-Americans, blacks and American Indians met at the engineering quadrangle to discuss possible actions on the university plan. According to Tshombe Abdul, who was at the meeting, "No one was sure where to go or what to do."

Then, around midnight, a group of about 75 students marched to Firestone. Most of this group broke through a reference room window to join the students already there. Abdul said there were several movements back and forth between the library and engineering quad before the break in.

Davis said he and Brown at one time persuaded two thirds of a large group of students not to enter the room and sent them back to the engineering quad.

Rudenstine arrives

Dean Rudenstine joined Assistant Dean of Students Joseph P. Moore and Assistant Dean of the College John P. Wilson in Firestone at midnight. Provost William G. Bowen and Dean of the College Edward D. Sullivan arrived shortly afterwards. Rudenstine immediately ordered the doors locked to prevent any additional students from entering the library.

At 12:15, after hurried consultations with Rudenstine, Davis and Moore tried to convince about 60 students standing by the reserve reading room to return to the engineering quad.

Humphrey, however, urged the crowd to stay, and after about five minutes of discussion he led them into the reference room.

Rudenstine and Bowen then entered the room, asking to make a statement.

Humphrey asked them to wait, and standing on a chair, he delivered a five-minute extemporaneous speech on why the group would stay.

"Over the past year or two, we have not really made ourselves felt around here," he said. "What we are saying now is, raise the number of disadvantaged students altogether so that the number of blacks doesn't go down but latinos, Asians and Indians go up."

In a reference to those minority students trying to prevent the sit-in, Humphrey said, "All Johnny-come-lately's have forfeited any right to develop strategy."

"Some of the people who didn't show up to talk with the university earlier are now saying we shouldn't be here," he said.

Rudenstine then took the floor and urged the group to return to the engineering quad "where we can talk all night if necessary."

When he told the students that



Rudenstine and Ewen

if they failed to leave they would be violating university policy, the crowd started clapping and shouting to drown him out.

In the turmoil, Larry R. Garcia '72, chairman of the Union Latinoamericana, leaped on a table and requested fifteen minutes for the group to decide on its future actions. Rudenstine and Bowen agreed and left the room.

Ten minutes later, at 1 a.m., Yang Sheng Liu '72 left the reference room and, striding up to Rudenstine in the lobby, said "Dear sir we'll be here all night."

Rudenstine went back into the reference room, announced that the students were breaking regulations and was hurriedly pulled from the room by several of the students.

The dean then met Director of Security Allan N. Kornblum in the lobby and told him that "identification is the crucial thing."

"We really should work around the clock on this and particularly at the points of exit," he said.

As proctors clutching Freshman Herald's stared into the room, an emotional discussion involving the protest developed around the door to the reference room.

Speaking to Brown in the reference room, Vera Marxus '73 said, "The point is this is the most together thing we've done. If you bust this up then it's all over," she said.

Davis later attacked what he called bad planning and organization of the action and said, "Three quarters of the people don't know why they're here or understand the issue."

"It puts us in a very bad position. I think there are a lot of people who want to leave but are afraid to," he said.

Shortly afterwards at 2:15, he and Brown convinced 35 of the group to leave.

Rudenstine said the time they left was noted and that it was "in their favor that they left early."

"But it doesn't exonerate them completely," he added.

Ninety minutes after the dean had issued his warning the rest of the group left quietly.

"If they really press disciplinary actions, like we've, that's like adding oil to the fire," Liu said this afternoon.

The strategy committee of the coalition had met Friday afternoon to discuss what action the group should take. Davis said the committee decided not to sit-in or take any other action that night, but other members of the coalition said results were "inconclusive."



Proctors talk in Firestone lobby