

Educational Policy Committee
Black Studies Supplemental Report
February 4, 1997

Several questions were raised at the previous faculty meeting concerning the Black Studies concentration and minor proposed by the EPC for approval. Prof. McGlennon raised a series of four questions, and there was a question about funding the program. Below the EPC relays the responses by the Black Studies Committee to Prof. McGlennon's questions and the proposed budget for the program.

Questions and Responses

1. Why is the concentration "Black Studies" rather than "African-American Studies"?
2. Was any thought given to having this concentration as a subfield of American Studies? If so, why the decision to do it under Interdisciplinary Studies?

Fully aware of the significance of names and naming (Nommo, the word) in the African/ African American tradition, our decision to call the program "Black Studies" was not made lightly. We agreed after much deliberation that this name best suits the aims of the program as global and interdisciplinary. Black Studies is not, therefore, a subfield of American Studies with reference points and meanings confined within the boundaries of the United States. As stated in our proposal, the program concerns itself with the creative and theoretical expression of African Americans in particular as they have material links to, or are influenced by, people outside the United States

Our intent was also to distinguish our concentration from the existing African program at the College, whose focus is geographically bounded as compared with the proposed program.

Further, our proposal clearly states that in recommending that the Black Studies Program begin under the auspices of the Charles Center, the Advisory Committee is following the precedents of similar interdisciplinary programs at the College: International Studies, Women Studies, American Studies, and Literary & Cultural Studies.

3. What consultation occurred between the advisory group who put the concentration together and the departments and faculty members whose courses are listed as part of the concentration?

In the fall of 1995, Joanne Braxton sent a copy of the proposal in early draft stage to department chairs and program directors, asking for comments/suggestions and she received few responses. Additionally, Braxton discussed the proposal extensively with the Director of American Studies, Bob Gross, and the Chair of English, Terry Meyers.

When Jackie McLendon took over as coordinator, she continued those efforts by talking to Professors Gross, Meyers, and Schwartz, as well as to Nancy Gray, Director of Women's Studies; Tomoka Hamada,

Chair of Anthropology; Richard Palmer, Chair of Theater; and the University Registrar, Monica Augustin. Prof. McLendon and Melvin Ely, of History, met with the Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies (CHIS) to discuss the aims of the program and the proposed Introductory course, which later became INTR. 205. CHIS approved both the Introductory course and the Program proposal, sending its recommendations on to the EPC. Kim Phillips, of History, discussed the possibility of her participation with Judy Ewell, Chair. The proposed program has been discussed widely around campus, and in every case, discussions were encouraging and productive.

From the course catalogue we listed all related courses that concentrators could possibly take to construct, along with an advisor, a focused concentration. This list will be continually updated, probably changing from semester to semester. Discussion with departments about specific courses took place in some instances but was not an immediate concern in every instance at the time of submitting the proposal because of the likelihood of the list's changing. The exception is the required course in History (HIST 351 or 352) and the few elective courses we anticipate crosslisting (i.e. ENG 460 and 461), all of which are taught by those of us directly involved in the Program. Because the required courses are so few and the possible electives are many and varied, we expect the typical enrollment impact for most affected courses to be slight.

The finalizing of the proposal and its approval by the CHIS and the EPC in no way signals an end to our talks with department chairs, program directors, and various other faculty/staff. We consider such relations to be ongoing and necessary.

4. What are the resource implications of the new concentration? How many majors and/or minors are expected, how many spacs will be needed in courses, how will "BLS" courses be staffed?

From the beginning we sought to use, as much as possible, existing staff and curricular resources as a major form of support for our program. A thorough census of potential Black Studies primary and related courses--and affiliated faculty--was made, followed by consultation with Swem library personnel as to the adequacy of holdings to support the proposed concentration. Both were determined to be sound. One of the outcomes of the process, in fact, was the conclusion that the College would be required to commit to the creation of less than a handful of new courses and to the equivalent in released faculty time to teach the core courses.

We hope the budget (see below) will answer detailed questions concerning the resources needed for the program and the source of funding for those resources.

Finally, the statements made at the last Arts & Sciences meeting that led to the confusion about concentrators' completion of requirements were simply made in error. We want to stress that Black Studies is a stand alone concentration as we have described very thoroughly and clearly on pages 3-5 of the proposal.

BLACK STUDIES BUDGET

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|---|------------|
| Arts & Sciences Contribution (five years) | \$11,300* |
| Charles Center Contribution | 3,000 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | \$14,300** |

* The Dean has agreed to set up an account in this amount for the purpose of funding the program, contingent on its approval by the CHIS and EPC.

**The total figure represents the amount needed to get the program up and running. It is based on having in place four concentration courses (one section of each) and a course release for a coordinator (see details below).

Year I (1997-98)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 2 adjunct course buy outs | |
| Instructor for INTR 205 for fall 96 | \$3,000* |
| Program Coordinator 96/97 | 3,000* |
| Journals, films, speaker | 8,300** |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | \$14,300 |

*The Charles Center has committed to provide one buy out each year to support INTR 205. This course has been approved and will be taught by Professor Hermine Pinson in Fall 1996. In addition, one course release per year for the coordinator will come from funds committed by the dean.

**These constitute one-time expenditures in the first year. In subsequent years, this money will fund buy outs to staff other concentration courses.

Year II (1998-99)

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 5 adjunct course buy outs | \$14,300* |
|---------------------------|-----------|

*This is the amount needed for years two through five for a coordinator and one section each of four concentration courses. Expansion of our needs to include a Director and an Administrative Assistant (at least 20 hours a week) will depend on whether or not we receive outside funding.

Office Support: Office support will be provided by the Charles Center under whose aegis the Black Studies Program will begin.

Space: Common meeting room and classroom(s). Although the program will be under the aegis of the Charles Center, the committee anticipates that the program will generate much traffic on the part of participating faculty and students. The

availability of a physical location will both expedite academic and cocurricular functions and serve as an enhancement of campus climate. Plans for space are currently under discussion.