



News from the University of Rochester

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March 10, 1969

For immediate release

University of Rochester Provost Robert L. Sproull announced today (Monday, March 10) that normal use of the third and fourth floors of the Frederick Douglass Building is expected to begin tomorrow (Tuesday) following the evacuation of those floors, which the Black Students Union has held since last Tuesday night (March 4).

Classes usually held on the third floor were carried on elsewhere on campus; the Faculty Club on the fourth floor was closed during this period.

Sproull and Associate Provost Frank Dowd have been holding discussions with the Black Students Union since Tuesday.

Sproull said that "even though we could not negotiate any proposals under these conditions, the discussions showed that the objectives underlying their proposals are consistent with the University's present policies and plans. These discussions have afforded an opportunity for us to inform the black students and other members of the community of our various plans and have elicited a number of constructive suggestions, both from the black students and from others during this period."

He said that the discussions were "at all times carried on in a friendly atmosphere and one of mutual respect," and noted that "we will continue to work vigorously with the black students."

The talks have covered recruiting, admitting, and counselling of black students, hiring of additional black faculty and staff, opportunities for the University's black personnel, library materials in black studies, consultation with black students by University groups and committees, and community programs.

Sproull said that the "many positive outcomes" of the discussions included the clarification and firming up of the University's Educational Opportunity Program for recruiting and counselling of black students. He said he had reported to the Black Students Union last week that the University since last September has been planning to recruit 45 black freshmen and 10 black transfer students "and will certainly encourage more students to apply than would be enough to attain this number."

When 55 black students are admitted, the University's financial aid to present and incoming black students is computed to be \$200,000 in direct aid from University sources, plus substantial aid from state and federal sources.

There will be other costs for student personnel services, together with tutoring during the academic year, a summer orientation and study program, library books, and office expenses. A number of black graduate students also are expected on campus, including those recruited through the Consortium for Graduate Study in Business for Negroes in which the University participates. (Black students in this program receive fellowships and free tuition.)

Sproull said that the University faculty "is trying hard to recruit additional black professors, although the prospects are uncertain because of the scarcity of them and the great demand for their services." He pointed out that "the University intends to continue its intensive efforts, which began in the summer of 1968, to hire a coordinator for the Educational Opportunity Program, a counsellor, an admissions officer, a graduate assistant, and the necessary supporting staff for the program."

Sproull pointed out that the faculty of the University's College of Arts and Science last week requested from all departments of the College and from other sources proposals for meeting the needs of the black students, and said "the demonstration by the faculty of their determination to create new educational programs and the imagination they have applied to this task have been impressive."

He explained that last December the University consulted two authorities in black studies on materials needed by the University library and had ordered the items recommended.

The University of Rochester provost noted that the "wide ranging discussions throughout the University during the past week have brought a better understanding of the problems of black students in a predominantly white university, and a better understanding of the extent and depth of the University's efforts to meet these problems."

He said he had requested that when campus groups deal with matters relating to the needs and interests of black students, a black student be asked to sit with the committee.

He praised the suggestion of the Black Students Union that the University encourage interest in college among the University's part-time high-school-age staff members and expand its program of training for staff members.

Associate Provost Dowd said that disciplinary action concerning the occupancy of the building will proceed through the University's normal student judicial system. (Cases involving student misconduct are handled by the Undergraduate Judicial Council.)

University officials today said the University premises occupied by the Black Students Union are in "very satisfactory condition."