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## *Sproull Hears Complaints at BSU Meeting*

**By Rick Friedman**

The Black Students' Union asked UR President Robert Sproull for a "guaranteed level of funding" at an informal meeting last night in Wilson Commons. The meeting came in the wake of an SAAC budgeting session at which the BSU was subsidized \$8,212, with a contingency of \$1,600, for the 1983-84 school year after the BSU had requested \$24,000.

"I'm sympathetic but I don't know what to do...it would be foolish for me and frustrating for you to make guarantees," Sproull said.

The BSU members said they needed more money in their budget to recruit more black students.

Sproull explained that he could guarantee nothing but said he would look into the problem of recruiting black students with Academic Advising and arrange a meeting between himself, Director of Security Walter Mauldin, and two or three BSU members.

The meeting with Mauldin was planned to discuss the many complaints voiced last night that blacks are being harassed regularly by Security officers requesting ID checks.

The purpose of last night's meeting was to make Sproull aware of the plight of black students on campus, BSU President Zachary Harris said.

The BSU members said that the "invisibility of black faculty," the lack of a black cultural center, the lack of courses about black history and culture in America and Africa, and the lack of role models all contribute to an unfavorable atmosphere for black students at the UR.

Sproull said that progress is being made in these areas, citing how the number of black faculty has risen recently from two to eleven. Sproull said not to expect a lot of progress quickly, however, because the "University moves with the same kind of speed as moving a cemetery."

The BSU said they would like to raise the level of consciousness of the entire university towards blacks by forming a workshop. A graduate student said he would have a proposal for the workshop on Sproull's desk within two weeks.

One student said that "white folks are so involved in what they're doing that they are not aware of what they're doing to other people," causing racism to be on "automatic pilot." Another student said that the

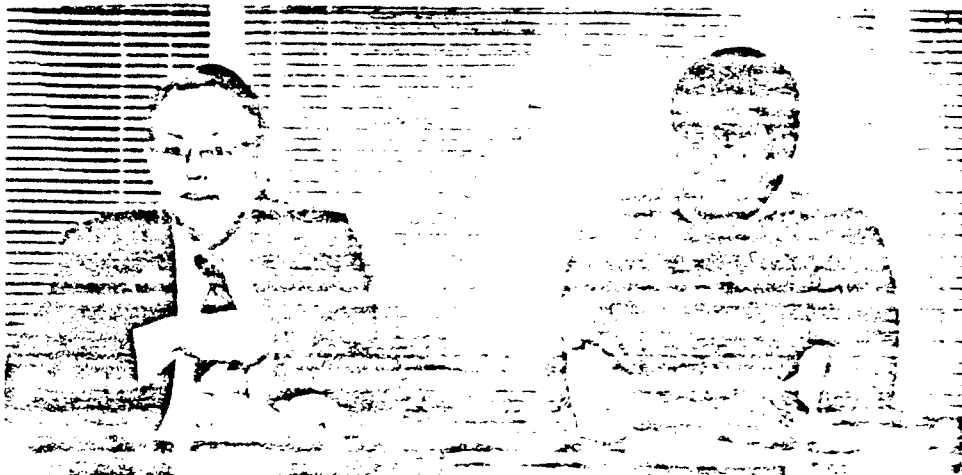
"SAAC was ignorant of what the BSU is all about."

A number of BSU members suggested that the low number of black students at the UR is the result of the unfavorable atmosphere for them caused by ignorance and the lack of programming directed towards black students.

Harris said that the attrition rate for blacks is nearly 50 percent and that this fact was "appalling." He said that there are only 15 to 20 blacks in the class of 1984.

Lisa King said that the BSU hopes "that he [Sproull] is going to make an effort. How much, I can't say. We hope that he will follow up."

Another student said that the black students were "angered about the campus community situation. You [Sproull] can do something about it or we will. I would hate to see a rehearsal of the 1960's."



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UR President Robert Sproull and BSU President Zach Harris