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# Race Relations Surveyors Invite Debate

By Matthew Goldstein

The 1982 Race Relations Survey of River Campus undergraduates should be the impetus for campus-wide discussions on the race relations problems at the UR, said ex-Vice President for Student Affairs Bernard Gifford.

Gifford said shortly before he left the UR that he would like to see "open debate over what should be done with the results of the survey."

The survey, which was responded to by 40 percent of the students who received it, included recommendations that the UR increase minority recruiting, hold minority workshops, and add minority-related courses to the curriculum.

The survey was the first of its kind at the UR and was modeled on one recently done at Harvard University. Gifford said many of the survey responses at the UR were similar to those at Harvard.

Gifford said he "hopes that every other year something similar to this is done."

The results of the survey can be seen as a "mirror" of student views, Gifford said. Students will be able to look at the survey and "decide whether they like what they see."

Gifford said he did not want to draw any conclusions from the survey because he wanted to let other people make conclusions. But he said the survey did show that "there needs to be more opportunities where we can be learning from each other on campus."

The survey "says to me that we need opportunities for students to come together on campus as non-

ethnic group members," he said.

Provost Richard O'Brien said he was disturbed by a survey result which said "a large fraction of white students were not interested in race relation problems." 36 percent of the white students responded that they should "assume an active role in improving race relations," while 60 percent of Asian students, 96 percent of black students, and 71 percent of Hispanic students said they should play a role.

He said that apathy and concern for personal matters probably attributed to the low figure for white students.

Gifford, however, did not feel that the response by white students on their role in improving race relations was discouraging. He said he was "pleased that the number was as high as it was."

"To bring about change you don't need an overwhelming majority," he said.

O'Brien agreed with Gifford that there should be open forums to discuss the survey next year. He said he also plans to have discussions about the survey results in the cabinet of deans.

Before committing himself to a decision on conducting the survey next year, O'Brien said he wants to see how useful the survey is in producing new ideas.

Gifford said that the survey also showed that white students tend to overestimate the number of non-minority students at the UR. He said that this is not a surprising find for surveys like this.

The problem is that "we're not aware of individuals in different groups."

Black students, Gifford said, should be encouraged by the fact that the survey exists. He said this will enable black students to gauge the feelings of non-minority students on campus.