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Commission for Blacks

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Abstract of Notes Taken at Task Force on Blacks Interview
with Dean McComas on June 1, 1973
Recorded by N. E. Dittrich

The College of Education has a central advising system. There are approximately 4,000 students in degree and certification programs. Three part-time staff advisers work mainly at registration and at the undergraduate level. Each Education student has his/her own adviser who is a faculty member. Recently, they have established a summer program advising center with Frank Benson [a black] and one other staff member. The advisee-adviser ratio ranges from 107:1 to 10 or 12:1, with probably the average being 40-70:1. During the last three years or so they have graduated approximately 80 doctoral, 300 Master's, and 900 Bachelor's degree candidates. They have had four or five black doctoral candidates.

Regarding the ratio of black students, they made a count in summer school approximately one year back and estimated that 220 of the 400 black students in the University were in the College of Education.

Regarding special problems related to the blacks, they indicated they were aware of none.

Apparently, a Sammy Wynn and a Nancy Foster (?) participated in a tutorial reading and study program for all students. They don't know how many blacks availed themselves of this service.

Regarding matriculation rates, as far as they know there is no difference between black students and other students.

Special recruiting efforts for blacks include a follow-up on all known black applicants; have paid some transportation cost for promising black students. In addition, some special assistantships are designed specifically for blacks.

Regarding special problems of black staff, special efforts have been made to accommodate black staff in every situation. Admission was made that some fleeting questions by selected staff members were evident at the outstart of their Affirmative Action Program.

The general feeling was expressed that compensatory hiring actions were justified and were taken and that the selection of personnel must go beyond the evaluation of mere relative competence.