

To President Hartung

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

From S.B. Rolland

Inter-Office Memorandum

Subject Proposed text of a letter to Kirk Sorenson on Black Studies

Date June 8, 1971

Dear Dr. Sorenson:

The following courses available to students at the University of Idaho are concerned either all or in part with Black peoples.

Anthropology	320	Peoples of the World
Anthropology and Sociology	322	Racial and Ethnic Minorities
Anthropology	427	Peoples of Africa
English	327	Black Literature
History	432	The Negro in American History
Political Science	485	African Political Systems
Social Science	103	Introduction to Black Culture

There is no formal "Black Studies" program at the University. The courses indicated above are handled by the departments listed except for Introduction to Black Culture, which is an interdisciplinary course. Nevertheless there has been some coordination of effort. The Black Literature and Negro history course instructors have cooperated in the planning of library, audio-visual materials and outside speakers. The Social Sciences Co-ordinating Committee which is responsible for the course Introduction to Black Culture utilized the services of staff from more than half dozen departments when the course was last taught. During the planning for the Negro history course Black students regularly met with the course instructors and contributed important ideas both in matters of content and procedure.

During the past semester Black students at the University organized themselves while at the same time Faculty Government created an Intercultural Relations Committee. These groups have interested themselves in the future of Black Studies at the University. It is presumed that from discussion currently in progress a policy concerned both with the education of Blacks at the University of Idaho and the education of whites in the areas of Black experience will emerge. Precisely what form a future program will take, whether or not the emphasis will be on a Black Studies curriculum or upon the expansion of Departmental offerings under a loosely structured coordinating body, it is difficult to predict at this time. There is substantial interest in this problem at administrative and teaching levels and very likely there will be an expanded curriculum and greater formalization of structure during the coming academic year.