

Black Admissions Decision Expected by Semester End

By Ken Roberts

Despite delays, Sweetbriar is likely to have some new policies on Black admissions before the end of the semester. According to the latest plans of the Admissions Committee, as described by Dean Frederick Hargaden, policy changes could still be applied to evaluation of this year's applications.

The Admissions Committee will



FREDERICK HARGADEN

review its long-delayed tentative policy recommendations tomorrow evening. Hargaden said the joint-faculty-administration committee, which advises the college on admissions policy and decisions, had hoped in September to have the statement ready by Thanksgiving. However, delays cropped in October with Sweetbriar Afro-American Student Society, and the Student Council over the content and distribution of Hargaden's report to the Admissions Committee on Black admissions at the college.

While attempting to deal with NAACP and BC and to involve the college in its discussion, the Admissions Committee has had to push on to meet its semester-end goal, said Hargaden.

He said the report will be distributed to the faculty and to all Black students, and made available to all others, right after Christmas vacation. The committee will hear and evaluate comments, and try to present a final policy recommendation to the faculty by mid-January.

Student Council was informed of this timetable a week before Hargaden read to President Ellen Schell at the regular faculty meeting (Council decided to send the Admissions Committee a report that student views on the report be collected before the initial faculty discussion).

President Schell listed three reasons why such participation was desirable: 1) students had had little significant participation in the discussion of Black admissions; 2) it would make it clear to the faculty that there is not consensus on what the policy should be; and 3) it would allow NAACP to present and have discussed some of its basic concerns about college policy towards Black students.

Hargaden chose not to preview the Admissions Committee's report in detail before its finalization. He listed, however, the three general areas it would cover:

1) recruitment and enrollment of Negro students at Sweetbriar.

2) recommendations concerning aspects of life for Negro students at Sweetbriar College, and

3) recommendations concerning contributions Sweetbriar might appropriately make in enhancing opportunities for Negroes in student college in general.

Some of the major issues with which the committee has had to deal, and around which community discussion has centered, are as follows:

1) admission of so-called "black" ones

distates — in general, students with poor educational backgrounds and academic achievement for below normal Scholastic Aptitude test applicants often also have serious financial needs).

It support programs—pre-college and in-college study and counseling efforts to make up for previous deficiencies;

It recruitment procedures for reaching more Black students, and making opportunities more attractive to them; and

It improvement of Black life on campus.

Rapagosa suggested that because of the late date at which new policies would be decided, the Admission Office could make little use of the previous recommendations. He added that the regular recruitment procedure was not hurt by the lack of new guidelines, except in that the time spent in deliberations could not be spent on actual recruiting. Rapagosa suggested the present Black recruitment program as including visits to predominantly Black high schools, contact with special agencies, and the

travel visits to schools around the country.

If there are changes in admission policy, he added, they can be applied to this year's applicants. The deadline for applications is January 1. Rapagosa noted that the office's admission policies were often a felt for a year or two, because the might have their real effect on the school's underrepresentation.

As a result of the friction dispute between SAAS and the Admission Committee, concerns between the two have been divided. Phrases arose over the past weeks have threatened and described the disagreements. The time for a final decision on SAAS remains disaffected in its policy, and the administrative, privately concerned.

At a meeting with the Admission Committee on November 1, most of SAAS spoke on the Black admission issues. They subsequently issued a memorandum detailing concerns about admissions, admission responses to SAAS, its students, and life of Black students of Swarthmore, and offering ten recommendations.

Some of the recommendations were:

- 1) that the college accept "big rig" students, and define that as going privately;

- 2) that the college consider and support four private schools, the Upward Bound program, and U. of Maryland school into support programs;

- 3) that the college hire a "Black admissions graduate assistant" as from a Black Shaping Committee institution;

- 4) that recruitment efforts be intensified and extended in the form in travel agents, in private schools (personal visits), and among Philadelphia students and college junior.

Condon, Ellsbridge, chairman of SAAS, questioned in a later interview, whether the admissions policy did not at present resemble a "prudent" "integrational" plan.

Ellsbridge said he felt the Admissions Committee had not seriously considered the question of if Swarthmore were more Black. He suggested that as long as the college puts off recruiting improvements in the situation for its students (such as the appointment of a Black administrator and more Black teachers and institutions of a Black studies program), he and others will question seriously whether the college is really welcoming Blacks.