Black officials here ask support for Central State reconstruction

By William Rados

A group of black administrators and faculty members at Ohio State announced its support for the rebuilding of tornado-ravaged Central State University (CSU).

The Coordinating Council for Minority Programs issued a statement Friday stating, "We categorically support the restoration of Central State University as a citadel of higher education for the Black youth of Ohio, and for others who can benefit from its program."

William J. Holloway, vice provost for minority affairs and chairman of the council, condemned the "contradictory statements from high state officials" and pledged the council will "work with state and federal agencies as well as Central State alumni and (CSU president Lionel H.) Newson to set up the machinery to rebuild the university."

Frank W. Hale Jr., associate dean of the graduate school and member of the coordinating council, said, "Black institutions have a rightful place" in higher education. "Between 85 and 95 per cent of the black professionals who received graduate and professional degrees at prestigious universities first attended black institutions to get a solid foundation of learning," he said. Hale was chairman of the English department at CSU from 1959 to 1966.

William E. Nelson, council member and chairman of the Black Studies department, charged "the whole matter is permeated with racism."

"I am angered and upset with Gov. (John J.) Gilligan. If Ohio State were leveled by whatever force, they'd never ask whether to rebuild it, they'd just ask how fast it could be done. Central State is just as important as OSU to educational life in Ohio and political or economic considerations should not get in the way," Nelson said.

Charging the matter has become political, Nelson called for "a strong statement by the governor that it (CSU) will be rebuilt and rebuilt quickly."

Jay Cummings, a Central State alumnus and now a graduate student at Ohio State, said a Central State University Reconstruction Fund has been set up and interested persons should write to P.O. Box 19253, Columbus, 43219.

Cummings also asked those supporting the rebuilding of CSU to petition state legislators and officials so that "the restoration and continuation of Central State be given top priority."
Minority ‘ultimatums’ received by University

By JoAnna Williamson

The University will not respond on an “ultimatum basis” to a six-page list of recommendations geared toward strengthening its Affirmative Action program.

The Coordinating Council of Minority Affairs, headed by William J. Holloway, vice provost for minority affairs, unanimously approved the recommendations last month, and voted Thursday to send them to President Harold L. Enarson “with the expectation that a positive response will be given.”

The proposals, which were taken to Enarson’s office Friday at noon, requested his “swift and categorical action” on or before noon Wednesday, warning the council would not engage in any discussion “designed to avoid, delay, or detract” from the stated goals.

THE GOALS include an increased number of black students and faculty members as well as increased financial aid for black students and programs.

Enarson left for an engagement in Chicago shortly after reading the recommendations and will not return to the University until Wednesday. However, he dictated a letter by phone that was delivered to Holloway’s office Monday afternoon.

The letter stated that “ultimatums” presented in the recommendations, as well as in a letter sent to him by Holloway on May 16 concerning the formation of a Black Cultural Center, are “hardly in keeping with the spirit of honest, open dialogue that must characterize the University.”

Enarson also said the University has given a magnitude of dollar contributions to the Freshman Foundation Program operated by the Office of Minority Affairs, and has made “extraordinary efforts” to fund a program to expand the enrollment of blacks in graduate school. Increases will be made in the budget to be submitted to the Board of Trustees July 11, but he said the amounts recommended by the council are “far beyond the resources of this University.”

A preface to the council’s recommendations states that while significant sums have been spent on recruiting, scholarship aids and supportive services since the beginning of the Affirmative Action program five years ago, the program of implementation “leaves much to be desired.”

IT CITED underrepresentation of black students at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels, and the low number of black faculty members as areas of concern.

It emphasizes that all units of the University should not bear an equal share of reduced budgetary allocations, and instead, distinctions should be made between the “haves” and the “have nots.”

According to the preface, since minority programs are lacking in financial support, it is “irrational, improper and immoral” to apply the same standards as apply to those programs which have been adequately funded.

The proposals call for a black admissions goal of 12 percent for the 1978-79 academic year, with special offices and programs set up to aid and coordinate the recruitment of minority students and faculty.

The council proposed that black faculty members should constitute 12 percent of the total faculty, and the matter of tenure restrictions and hiring freezes “should not adversely affect the promotion and employment of black faculty.”

FURTHER, the University should require the various departments to make quarterly reports to indicate what efforts have been made in moving towards these goals.

The council suggested a considerable part of student aid be given in the form of employment and advised that $1,334,280 be allocated for fellowships to the professional colleges each year for three years.

Enarson said public comments and statements show that the leadership at the University is concerned about the underrepresentation of racial minorities. He said he will arrange a series of meetings “as soon as time permits” to discuss black enrollment and employment and financial commitments for Black Cultural Programs.