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Weekend weather

Cloudy with
chance of rain.
Highs into the 50s.

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Minority enrollment low despite active recruiting

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Assistant News Editor

Despite expanded efforts, the University's recent attempts to recruit minority students have not been as successful as hoped.

"We've put so much into it, and what we've seen coming out in terms of students is frustrating," said the Rev. Bernard McIlhenny, S.J., dean of Admissions.

These increased efforts include recruiting at inner city schools and attending college fairs in large cities.

"We make it known to all high schools that we are actively recruiting minorities," McIlhenny said.

McIlhenny also believes that a greater minority scholarship fund

would be helpful.

"I want to see that source expanded," he said, explaining that many times minority students are accepted at the University, but instead choose a bigger school that can offer them more financial aid.

Minorities often choose urban colleges and universities because they want to stay in their areas and because urban schools tend to have larger minority enrollments.

The University's minority population has been increasing for the most part, but it is still far behind the state average.

In the fall of 1988, the average proportion of full-time minority undergraduates in Pennsylvania was 9.14 percent, according to Don

Deitz, an education statistics associate of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The proportion of black students alone was 5.88 percent.

Marilyn Headley, a sophomore finance major from Wintergarden, Fla., is a member of the University's African-American Society. The members of the club counted a total of 15 black students which they knew of on campus, according to Headley.

"I'm the only black in my classes. My teachers know when I'm there and when I'm not," Headley said.

Minority enrollment has been a pressing issue for colleges and universities, according to a source from the Department of Education who

wished to remain anonymous.

"It's been quite a problem in Pennsylvania in increasing minority enrollment because of the small pool of eligible applicants," the source said.

Another possible explanation for the University's low minority population is the fact it is a private, Catholic institution, according to the Department of Education employee.

"This produces a reduced pool of (minority) students who might go to Scranton," the source explained.

The low minority population in the local area doesn't help the situation, the source added.

The University's low minority enrollment "decreases the diversity of students on campus as far as bringing in different students in terms of background and culture," said Mark Costello, a University

admissions counselor who recruits minority students in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.

A larger minority enrollment would be better for students socially, according to Headley.

"It might be more encouraging for other students," she said.

Being black wasn't an issue when choosing a school, Headley said.

"I just wanted to go to school to learn, and I'm learning a lot here," she said.

Both Headley and McIlhenny believe quality education is the best benefit the University has to offer students, whether minority or non-minority.

"The main reason students come to school is education, to get a sense of the goals and values which we stand for," McIlhenny said.

Rank and tenure policy revised; first major changes in 20 years

MARISEL RAMIREZ
Aquinas News Staff

The University Board of Rank and Tenure recently implemented the first major changes to their policy in nearly twenty years.

"These (changes) are the first revisions in four years, the last big revisions go back to the '70s," said Richard H. Passon, University Provost and vice-president for Academic Affairs.

Under the tenure policy, professors are under probation for the first seven years of employment.

During the sixth year, they apply to the board for rank and tenure.

After the board's decision, they are either approved for tenure by the president or they are rejected and given a terminal contract and leave after a year.

The first main changes to this policy deal with department recommendation.

Faculty are evaluated in three areas: teaching, scholarship, and community service.

"In evaluating, teaching, by far, is the most important area. Scholar-

ship and community service are equally divided," said Leonard Gougeon, professor of English and a board member.

Under the old policy, candidates would submit to the board a faculty self-profile which indicates in what way they fulfilled in those three areas, Gougeon said.

The nine members elected from the faculty would evaluate the self-profile, student evaluations, and evidence of scholarship.

The committee then would make a judgement concerning tenure, Gougeon said.

The new policy still has the three areas of evaluation. A copy of a faculty member's self-evaluation is made available to all members of that department.

The department is then required to take a formal vote on all applications.

Before some did and some did not. The result of the vote and the rationale behind it would then be forwarded to board.

The second major change was the expansion of the board.

Under the old policy, the board

consisted of nine members elected at large, eight full professors and one assistant professor with the provost as chairperson, Passon said.

Under the new policy, the board has eleven faculty members.

It is comprised of two representatives from the School of Management, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Health and Human Resources. Five additional faculty members are elected at large.

This allows for the representation of more associate professors.

Nursing and physical therapy are new departments which don't have full professors.

SOM also has very few full professors, Passon said.

Tenure offers protection for academic freedom which means a professor cannot be fired for teaching unpopular ideas.

It also offers financial security, Passon said.

This is the first year the new policy has taken effect and is very much in line with the rank and tenure policy of other colleges and universities, Passon said.



Acclaimed journalist and civil rights author Juan Williams speaks to a crowd of nearly 100 persons in the Houlihan-McLean Center on Thursday night. Williams praised the courage of anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela who was released after 24 years of imprisonment for his political beliefs. He also called upon students to recognize the "history-making" potential each one of us possesses to promote change throughout the world.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN POKOWICZ

Inside
this
week:

AIDS. It's one of the greatest health threats facing the world today that concerns everyone. Learn how it affects you.

Since spring break runs into St. Patrick's Day this year, Student Government is sponsoring activities for the Irish and the Irish at heart this weekend.

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