

Manoa Faculty Senate Backs Ethnic Studies with Changes

By Gregg Takayama
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The Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Hawaii received support yesterday from the Manoa Faculty Senate, which unanimously voted to ask that it be made permanent with increased funding.

But there must be changes made in the present program to make it "academically acceptable," said a faculty committee report.

A permanent, highly qualified director should be chosen after a nationwide search led by a campus faculty-student advisory committee, which also would guide the development of ethnic studies, the Faculty Senate decided at its meeting.

THE PRESENT faculty, which would be replaced under the upgraded program envisioned by the Faculty Senate, should be given help by the UH to help them obtain doctorate degrees, the senate said.

The faculty panel which studied the program was critical of its "ideologically narrow" focus on study of class struggle; high grades awarded to students; and faculty, all of whom lack doctorates.

The faculty report's criticisms are nearly iden-

tical to those of Manoa campus administrators. But while campus officials earlier this year proposed that ethnic studies be disbanded, the faculty said it promises to be a good program if improvements can be made.

THE FACULTY decision goes to the Manoa chancellor's office, and from there to University President Fujio Matsuda for his decision.

Davianna MacGregor-Alegado, acting director of the program, told the Faculty Senate that she basically agreed with them, but added that the new director should be acquainted with Hawaii's ethnic culture.

SOME MEMBERS of the committee visited ethnic studies programs offered at University of California campuses, and found that those programs had stronger course offerings than Manoa's.

A major reason, however, for the weakness of the six-year-old UH program is its lack of funding and status as a "provisional" rather than permanent program.

This year it operates on a \$110,448 budget, a cut from \$117,743 the previous year.

More money would mean that better-qualified staff could be attracted, the committee said.



Davianna MacGregor-Alegado

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Ethnic Studies