



## Dartmouth College News Services

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### DARTMOUTH FACULTY CONTINUES BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM, CHANGES NAME TO AFRICAN AND AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

HANOVER, NH--- The faculty of arts and sciences at Dartmouth College, in a unanimous vote, decided recently to modify the Black studies program at the college and to change its name to African and Afro-American studies. The faculty vote accepted without change a recommendation of its executive committee in the matter.

The executive committee recommendation called for expanding the scope of study of the program to include Black history and culture in Africa and in the New World prior to the following emancipation. Therefore, it asked for the name change. It also said that African and Afro-American Studies should continue as a special program, and that it be reviewed, as is customary, at the end of five years, in academic 1984-85.

The executive committee and faculty actions came after two other faculty groups studied the existing Black studies program for a year. These are the faculty committee on instruction and the faculty council on special programs.

Prior to that an External Review Committee visited the campus and interviewed students and faculty members concerned with the program. The committee was comprised of Prof. Eileen Southern (chairwoman), head of Afro-American studies at Harvard; Prof. George E. Kent, English, University of Chicago; Prof. Tilden Lemelle, head of Black and Puerto Rican studies, Hunter College; Prof. Robert Thompson, African American studies, Yale; Prof. Hoyt Alverson, anthropology, Dartmouth; and Prof. Charles E. Hamm, music, Dartmouth.

The Black studies council at Dartmouth also reviewed the program.

All of the reports of these groups favored the continuation of a Black studies program in some form or another and the final recommendation of the executive committee was a distillation of these reports.

As now approved, the African and Afro-American studies program will focus on three major cultural areas. These are Black history and culture in Africa; the middle passage, or Black history and culture in the New World up to emancipation; and Black history and culture in the Americas after emancipation.