

# Students Reject Ketter Reply to Black Demands

By KATHY KELLY

Saying he had not dealt with "specific questions," the "Black Populace" at the State University of Buffalo late Thursday afternoon rejected UB President Dr. Robert L. Ketter's response to demands they issued Wednesday.

About 100 minority students attended Thursday's second meeting with Dr. Ketter over the demands. Earlier in the afternoon, he had read a statement answering what he said he understood to be their five summary demands.

At the second meeting, in a switch from earlier sessions when the students left rapidly after statements were made, they offered to discuss the disputed points.

But after a few minutes talk about tenure for two black faculty members, a major student demand, a spokesman said:

"Irregardless of what we wanted, we're getting treated the same run-around way. You read it (their latest statement), evaluate it and we'll contact you at some other time."

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THEY LEFT without setting another meeting.

Comparison of the three major documents — the student's original statement, Dr. Ketter's response and the student's answer — indicates that agreement was reached on only one demand — that perpetual dialogue be established between the president's office and the minority group students and faculty.

To his offer to continue his practice of meeting with any minority professional or graduate student who requested it, the students said that such talks should take place "only with students elected by the minority student body."

"I was very surprised that they feel like limiting the freedom of speech," Dr. Ketter said after the session.

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ALTHOUGH DR. Ketter reported that steps are under way to make the Black Studies Program a full-fledged department, an original demand, the

students said the response did not go far enough because the new department has not been guaranteed control of African and Puerto Rican studies or immediate space.

The students renewed their demand that Charles E. Gayle Jr., assistant professor of music, and Dr. David J. Banks, assistant professor of anthropology, be immediately given tenure as associate professors.

Both in his statement for Thursday's first meeting and at the second meeting, Dr. Ketter said that both cases were still under consideration and refused an immediate decision.

Mr. Gayle is in the second year of a three-year contract and his faculty voted "overwhelmingly" not to renew it, Dr. Ketter said.

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DR. BANKS, he continued, has been given a three-year re-appointment and the President's Review Board is scheduled to review his request for tenure today.

Although Dr. Ketter had promised minority representation on all future tenure and promotion committees, the students repeated their demand for a special minority tenure committee and grievance board.

The areas which the students charged Dr. Ketter ignored in his reply include:

A minority-elected board of review compliance with Office of Equal Opportunity guidelines; minority representation on the Faculty Senate and curriculum review committees; two minority placement officers; minority housing on the North Campus and an investigation of racial problems in the dormitories; minority student orientation, and an "integrated," quality remedial program.

Black Student

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