

**INTERVIEW
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Russell M. Magnaghi: Good afternoon Rachel. Diane and I are revising and upgrading the NMU encyclopedia and want to fill in the section on Black Students. I would like to have a brief discussion about the Black Student Union. Are you able to help me?

Rachel Harris: Yes I am as I have been working directly with them for the past six years.

RMM: Tell us how Black student you are working with?

RH: Right now there are about a little over 100 Black students on campus although here might be more. You should check with Jason Nicholas in the Institutional Research as they gather these figures.

RMM: I would like to observe that back in the 1970s there were some 300-400 Black students on campus. They were able to maintain three fraternities and two sororities. So, what is the organization that Black students work through?

RH: It is the Black Student Union which has been on campus for many years.

RMM: What are some of their activities?

RH: The basic activity is to be on campus and provide the students with a family setting where they can come together and interact. They find this very helpful in their lives on campus. They have a place to go to. Up until 2019 and then the start of the pandemic the BSU would travel to Milwaukee, Chicago and Detroit to help recruit Black students. I would travel with them on these expeditions. More recently they have been have thoughtful discussion sessions about Black lives. Recently Dr. Carter Wilson, head of the Political Science Department headed up a discussion that was extremely helpful to Black and White students. The Union also provides student with voting information, how and where to vote. As you can image given today's situation with voting laws being attacked to keep Black, Brown, Asian people from voting this has been extremely important to their work on campus. I would have to say that their activities have been very useful and help to the Black students on campus.

RMM: Thank you for your time. As I said we are revising and upgrading the NMU Encyclopedia. I would like to meeting with you for a scheduled interview so that you can go into more details for the record on Black and other minority students on campus. Will that work for you?

RH: Yes it will and a good time would be after the holiday break in January.