

Forum calls for minority in a top post

By KIRSTEN LEE SWARTZ
Collegian Staff Writer

In light of the University's continuing failure to meet its minority recruitment and retention goals, the Forum on Black Affairs has called on University President Bryce Jordan to create and fill a vice president or vice provost for minority affairs position.

In a 10-page report submitted to Jordan yesterday, the Forum, an organization of about 65 faculty, staff and graduate students, requested the establishment of a top-level administrative position to ensure compliance with the desegregation mandate.

"The University will not see progress until some type of leadership is allowed at a top level in the administration," Forum President Collins O. Airhihenbuwa said.

Last week, the University released its 1987 enrollment figures, revealing its failure to meet minority goals for the fifth consecutive year and to fulfill the five-year mandate.

Penn State, the University of Pittsburgh and 13 state-owned schools were under pressure to boost black enrollment figures following a 1983 federal mandate ordering the desegregation of universities by the current academic year's end.

The court order stemmed from a 1970 law suit by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It said schools must comply with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which states that no public institution can discriminate on the basis of race, color or creed.

"They are doing only grudgingly what has been mandated by the courts," the Forum's paper stated.

"Recruitment and retention of black American students essentially appears to be approached as social welfare programming rather than as fulfilling true obligations to a significant proportion of the tax-paying public," it stated.

The burden of implementing programs that support black student recruitment and retention now falls upon black faculty and staff. And while they have the responsibility for planning such programs, they do not have the authority to administer them, the document stated.

Enlisting broader participation in those efforts has been a problem because few incentives exist in the form of compensation, the paper stated.

Forum Treasurer Larry Young said the assumption that black faculty and staff are responsible for recruiting and retaining black students shows lack of understanding and sympathy.

"A system-wide problem requires a system-wide solution," Young, director of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, said.

"If a department or division assigns all of its recruitment and retention to one or two faculty members... the rest of the members don't have the responsibility," he said.

Jordan was out of town yesterday afternoon and could not be reached for comment. In a prepared statement, he said he plans to carefully study the copy of the report he received.

"We are very much interested in continuing the success Penn State has seen since 1983 in the recruitment and retention of black students," he said.

Although minority student enrollment increased on the whole this year, the percentage of black students declined from 3.7 to 3.6 over the last year. In a prepared statement last week, Jordan said he was pleased with the University's progress.

Airhihenbuwa said "it boggles the mind" that the administration is "pleased with retrogression, not progression."

The report noted that black students are still failing and leaving the University because of "inadequate advising, lack of information about available resources to ensure their academic survival and attitudes and behaviors conveyed to them that they can't do the work and don't belong at Penn State."

The paper also said non-competitive funding was another obstacle the University faced.

"Funding appears to be the primary problem in attracting black students to (the University)," it said. "In our judgement, (the University) could attract and retain more black students if funds were shifted from certain budgets... and used for bona fide Black Scholar awards at realistic levels."

Lastly, the report pointed to the recruitment and retention of black faculty and staff, citing that since 1985 the University has lost 35 black employees through resignation, retirement or dismissal.

No one injured in Beaver Plaza fire

By VALERIE DU PONT
Collegian Staff Writer

No one was injured in a fire started in a Beaver Plaza apartment bedroom early yesterday afternoon when a reading lamp fell and ignited "some combustible materials," Alpha Fire Company Chief Marv Robinson said.

Firefighters contained the fire, which was limited to the bedroom of apartment 205, within minutes of arriving, Alpha Fire Company Captain Mike Groff said. Four of the company's vehicles responded to the call, which the company received at about 12:30 p.m., Robinson said.

Robinson said smoke damaged the entire apartment. An estimate of the damage was not known.

Residents of Beaver Plaza, 222 W. Beaver Ave., say fire alarms go off a lot but no one takes them seriously.

Tony Pegnato (junior-aerospace engineering) lives across the hall from the damaged apartment and said he reported the fire around 12:20 p.m.

"The fire alarm goes off all the time. It goes off enough that you don't pay attention to it," Pegnato said.

Pegnato said the alarm rang, stopped and then sounded again.

Ed Kennedy (senior-marketing) lives in apartment 203 and was also home at the time of the fire.

"Around 12:30 the whole (second floor) hallway was filled with smoke," Kennedy said.

None of the apartment's three occupants were home when the fire broke out, but Elizabeth Narvaez (senior-speech communication) said it was a "scary feeling" when she returned home early from classes and found her apartment full of smoke.

"I opened the door and there was a bunch of smoke," Narvaez said. "I walked to the back of the apartment, opened the door to my room and it was all black."

Firefighters threw Narvaez's damaged mattress and pillows out the window. The wall, ceiling and contents of the bedroom were stained black from the smoke.

Associated Realty property manager Dottie Kolton said the owners of the apartment unit, Michael D. and Andre Keebaugh of Annapolis, Md., have been notified.

The State College insurance company Kissinger and Bryant is investigating.



Elizabeth Narvaez (senior-speech communications) talks with Associated Realty property manager Dottie Kolton. Narvaez's apartment caught fire yesterday.



Fun with midterms

Amy Wargo (sophomore-biochemistry) gets down and dirty with her midterm.

Black enrollment increases here; down elsewhere

By MEENEKSHI BOSE
Collegian Staff Writer

Enrollment of black students in the University's graduate school is increasing, although some graduate schools have experienced a decline nationally.

Black enrollment in the graduate school increased from 202 to 224 students for the 1987-88 academic year, according to statistics from Penn State's Department of Public Information.

Blacks now comprise 2.6 percent of the graduate school, as compared to 2.4 percent last year, which represents an 11 percent increase in the number of blacks attending graduate school at the University.

Howard Palmer, senior associate dean of the graduate school said, "Considering the national trends in graduate school enrollments of minorities, Penn State is doing very well indeed."

"We are continually increasing our black graduate enrollments, contrary to the national diminish-

ing of black graduate enrollments," he said.

Palmer said the graduate school set an unofficial goal in 1983 to double black graduate enrollment within five years. Black enrollment in the graduate school has increased 59 percent since 1983, he said.

"We will continue to work toward that goal (set in 1983)," Palmer said.

Black students comprised 1.9 percent of the graduate population in 1983, with 141 black graduate students enrolled in the school.

Palmer said financial support from the state and active recruiting on the part of the University have contributed to the increase.

Recruitment procedures include visiting both historically black colleges, as well as predominantly white institutions with a large percentage of minorities, said Byron Wiley, director of the Center for Minority Graduate Opportunities and Faculty Development.

"The benefits begin to perpetuate," he said. Please see GRADUATES, Page 5.

Minority efforts can improve, grads say

By MEENEKSHI BOSE
Collegian Staff Writer

Minority enrollment is increasing in the University's graduate school, but some black graduate students said the University can improve its recruitment and retention efforts.

Eufard Cooper, president of the Black Graduate Student Association, said the University is making an attempt to help minority stu-

dents adjust to Penn State, but "the support systems are far from what they should be."

Cooper said the University should make a better effort to prepare black students for graduate life.

"We need to discuss ways to help the transition in coping with the situation here, both academically and socially," Cooper said. "Seminars would increase awareness." Please see OPINIONS, Page 5

Grad minority figures please PSU officials

By MEENEKSHI BOSE
Collegian Staff Writer

Graduate minority enrollment at the University increased 5.3 percent for the 1987-88 academic year as overall graduate enrollment increased by almost 300 students.

Officials are pleased with the increase in graduate minority enrollment, but said the University can do more to boost minority enrollment figures.

"In terms of what's actually happening, the increase in overall enrollment in the graduate..." Please see MINORITY, Page 5

Weinberger to resign this week

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger intends to resign this week and will be replaced by President Reagan's national security adviser, Frank Carlucci, sources said last night.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Reagan approved the appointment in recent days and it will be announced Thursday.

Carlucci will be replaced by his deputy at the National Security Council, Lt. Gen. Colin L. Powell, the sources said. Powell would be the first black to hold the White House job.

Neither Weinberger nor Carlucci would comment on

their reported moves. The White House officially had no comment, but did not dispute the report.

Sources have said Weinberger's decision to step down after seven years came for personal reasons rather than any dissatisfaction with the prospective arms control treaty with the Soviet Union or any policy disagreement with the president.

Weinberger, 70, is one of the oldest members of the Cabinet. He is one of President Reagan's original Cabinet members and has already served longer in the post of secretary of defense than all but one of his predecessors.

Indeed, Weinberger is less than four months' short of the longevity record set by former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, who spent slightly more than seven years in the job.

tuesday

weather

Today variable cloudiness and warm with a high approaching 70. Tonight partly cloudy, low 48. Tomorrow partly sunny and unseasonably warm, chance of nighttime showers, high 72. Ross Dickman