

Woodard: Still Interim at Office of Student Counseling

By Shauna Fitts

STAFF WRITER

Two years have passed and the Office of Student Counseling still operates without a permanent director.

As of Feb. 1, 1994, Dean Harold Woodard has been holding the position of interim associate dean.

"I expected that the hiring of an associate dean would have happened a lot sooner," said Woodard, who agreed to hold the position until someone permanent was hired.

Woodard currently serves as the interim and assistant dean of the department. The resignation of Dean Sibby Anderson-Thompkins on Jan. 31 left another vacancy in student counseling.

"The first six months after the resignation of Rosalind Fuse-Hall (former associate dean), there was a lot of turn-over in the office," said Dean Stephen Birdsall, who heads the College of Arts & Sciences.

Birdsall is responsible for hiring an associate dean for the Office of Student Counseling.

After Fuse-Hall left, new people came into the department, leaving Woodard to be the only experienced staffer.

"Our main goal was to ensure that the programs available to students continued uninterrupted," Birdsall said. "Because the office was running smoothly, we thought it best to let things stay the same."

Woodard has received great praise as interim from his colleagues.

"He has tremendous knowledge of the

office," said Anthony Locklear, associate dean. "He is a wonderful resource person. He is easy to work for and with."

Birdsall said that Woodard had brought it to his attention early last semester that the office was still operating without a permanent director.

"I have talked with several individuals about being on the search committee," Birdsall said. "I hope to have the search for an associate dean completed by mid-summer."

Birdsall also said that students would serve on the search committee.

The committee will not limit their search to only individuals who currently serve in the Office of Student Counseling. Woodard plans on applying for the permanent position.

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Anderson-Thompkins Leaves UNC

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After 13 years of ties to the University, first as an undergraduate and graduate student and later as a faculty member, Dean Sibby Anderson-Thompkins is calling it quits.

On Jan. 31, Anderson-Thompkins resigned from her position as assistant dean to the Office of Student Counseling; however, some may still be wondering why?

"I have chosen to leave UNC for Spelman (College) because I think I can gain something personally from the experience," said Anderson-Thompkins, who will work at the college's student and academic affairs departments.

"I am going to be in a setting where the majority of the women look like me," she said. "I am going to be in a supportive environment and I haven't been getting that support here at UNC."

Anderson-Thompkins said that although there is strong student support for minority programs, the University doesn't fund these programs sufficiently.

"There is a lack of commitment from

this institution to provide funds and support for the black women on this campus," Anderson-Thompkins said. "This institution needs to make a much stronger commitment to African-American students."

She added that the University's lack of commitment was evident by the fact that the Office of Student Counseling has been operating for two years without a permanent director.

Here for over a decade, Anderson-Thompkins has been dedicated to the minority students on campus, especially African-

American women. She also played an active role in the development of the Sonja H Stone Black Cultural Center.

Before becoming assistant dean to the Office of Student Counseling, Anderson-Thompkins, was assistant dean of Student Affairs, representing one of a few minorities in administrative positions at the University.

"I only hope I've made a difference in the lives of some students," Anderson-Thompkins said. "The students have definitely made a difference in my life."

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against oppression and degradation to start schools so African American children would have a chance to learn. When we want to fight and kill one another for Hitler coats, we need this month as a reminder of Martin Luther King's dream of peace.

Until we wake up and take responsibility for learning our history 365 days of the year we need black history month as a

starting point. Until we start determining how we are going to contribute to that long history we need black history month to reflect.

When everyone can say Garret A. Morgan invented the stoplight just as quickly as they say George Washington was the first president, there won't be a need for Black History Month, but until that day it is our duty to ensure that Black History Month is not obliterated and our history does not go untold.