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Pre-Advisement and Registration: A Closer Look!

by Yolanda Jones

The registration process has not been easy for students or faculty over the years here at Winston-Salem State University.

The entire registration process, includes, pre-advisement, pre-registration, and the final step, registration.

WSSU has a policy of pre-advisement and not one of pre-registration, this causes the entire process to be one big problem.

The problems begin with pre-advisement, which consists of contact between academic advisors and students. These advisors are faculty members who are assigned to work with the General Studies Division or to work within their academic departments.

The next step is pre-registration which includes pre-advisement plus the depositing of requested schedules with the records office for processing before registration.

Registration is the final step of the process, which involves the establishment of the schedule, the payment of fees, and the storing of information for future use.

The registrations process is very complicated for students and faculty but, over the past five years the Student Personal Division has been seeking to change pre-advisement to pre-registration by

automating its total records system. This process, will not only improve the registration procedure, but it will also improve the service that can be offered to students.

Warren C. Oldham, director of student records, feels that registration should be changed. During the last three years, the Student Personnel Division has taken definite steps toward reaching that goal, by adding to the Administrative Data Center, a new software package, called Student Information Systems (SIS).

This package has been placed in pertinent offices, and training of staff personnel has begun.

Although this package will make registration easier in the future, Oldham states, that it is still up to the student to pre-register in order to obtain a schedule that leads to the accomplishments of their goals.

According to Oldham, it appears that there will be continued use of the present system of registration until provisions are available for the conversion to the Student Information System.

It is projected that the new system will have been installed and the staff fully trained by the spring, 1987.



Chancellor Cleon F. Thompson, Jr., WSSU's Eighth Chancellor.

by Karla Barksdale

Sitting comfortably on a couch in his sun filled office, Dr. Cleon Thompson talked enthusiastically about his first seven months as Chancellor at Winston-Salem State University.

Dr. Thompson said he was attracted to Winston-Salem State because it is a historically Black institution, and it led him to accepting the position of Chancellor. He has chosen to spend the next phase of his career on improving Winston-Salem State University.

Dr. Thompson feels one major problem facing Winston-Salem State is that of image. Before coming to Winston-Salem State he heard good things about the institution; but since his arrival, he has learned more good things about the college that should be known across the state.

"It's a well kept secret concerning what we have here and I consider it a real priority to try and get the image of the institution changed," stated Thompson.

Dr. Thompson feels good things are happening and will continue to happen at Winston-Salem State University. He'll continue to work on matters to make Winston-Salem State a comfortable, learning environment for students.

Collaborating and interacting with students is important to Dr. Thompson. Since he has been here, he hasn't gotten a chance to visit with the students as much as he had planned.

Presently, he's spending the majority of his time learning and studying the institution. He believes in knowing his job to the fullest.

Dr. Thompson feels once he has completed the bulk of his demanding job, he'll be able to spend more time with the students. He feels that the students are the

best teachers. It's important to him to meet and know the students on a personal basis.

When asked about student apathy on our campus, Dr. Thompson strongly feels it comes from the lack of having general assemblies attended by students and faculty. He feels students should be required to attend assemblies.

"It's not always what you learn in the classroom that deals with your politics or other various topics. Its through issue discussion and participation that you become knowledgeable," he explained.

He also feels that hearing lectures and discussion will raise the concerns and viewpoints of the students.

Dr. Thompson is very concerned about the happiness of the student body. He wants the students to ask for their needs and demand satisfaction by voicing their opinions, which are important in the success of the university.

In a closing question Dr. Thompson was asked, "What would he like to say about the condition of Winston-Salem State socially as well as academically three years from now?"

He said he would "hope that the general studies program would be in place. Once a student has completed it, he or she will have a sound basic exposure to the arts and sciences. Secondly, once a student has completed a major program, he or she has a demonstrated competency in that chosen field and finally, he'd like to see Winston-Salem State with a Graduate School."

On the other hand, socially Dr. Thompson would like to see "the student body taking more pride in their campus and surroundings." He feels "the student is the key to the well being of the university."

Pre-Advisement: Advisors Comment

by Melanie Valerie Beatty

In the last edition of The News Argus students voiced their opinions about pre-advisement. In this edition of the paper, academic advisors, departmental advisors and the General Studies advisors were interviewed.

Various advisors gave their opinion about pre-advisement and the changes they feel should be made.

Mrs. Margaret Poston, instructor of mathematics, feels pre-advisement is very important.

"It is more of a hassle for students than it is for instructors, but it is important. I think computerization will help a great deal," commented Poston. "I also think they should speed up the process of installing computerization."

Dr. James McLaughlin, associate professor of History feels that "When ones goes for pre-advisement and when they receive their packet, they should receive their course cards. Because of the sequence of alphabets during registration, a lot of people loose out and that isn't fair to those who are pre-advised.

Dr. Valerie S. Saddler, assistant professor of journalism, feels that pre-advisement is an important procedure.

"Students should check with their general studies or academic advisors to make sure they are taking the right courses in the current sequence," explained Saddler. "I also think that computerizing the registration process will help speed up the process and eliminate many of the problems the current process presents.

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