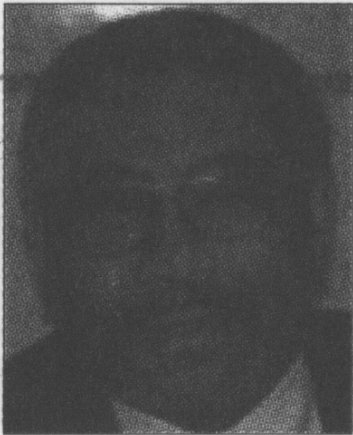


Stennis named new diversity coordinator



STENNIS

BY MELISSA MOSCHELLA
Jambar Reporter

Leon Stennis, former YSU news editor, marketing and communications, has been named coordinator of diversity initiatives in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity by University President Dr. David

Sweet.

Stennis said he asked to be transferred to the position because, "I served nine and a half years and felt I needed a change."

"Sometimes in writing, you feel you're not growing, said Stennis. "To be honest, there were some philosophical differences with the new executive director."

Walt Ulbricht is the new executive director of marketing and communications.

Ulbricht said he had no comment on the differences between him and Stennis.

He said, "The transfer was completely voluntary. I think Leon's skills as a professional communicator and his new position are a good match."

John Habat, special assistant to the president, maintains that although he had a con-

frontation with Stennis in December, the issue was resolved and had no direct relationship to Stennis asking to be transferred.

Stennis said he will help Sweet implement changes in terms of recruitment of minority faculty and staff, as well as minority and diverse students. He said Sweet has made diversity one of his top three priorities at the university.

Stennis said, "There are definite areas of diversity that we can improve upon, racially and religiously. I think we are doing excellent in the area of women, but are lacking in the area of minorities."

Some of the plans Stennis said he has to improve the university's program of multiculturalism include diversity-training courses for faculty and staff.

"More can be done in sensitizing the staff through courses," said Stennis.

Stennis said the greatest thing he brings to the job is communication. He said, "A lot of people don't see the need for diversity. Communication will be as vital as to

why it is an important issue at the university. I think I can be very useful."

Stennis will be working under Barbara Orton, director, Equal Opportunity and Diversity. Orton said there were 75 applicants for the position. Two of the applicants were part-time YSU employees.

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Renee Johnson, YSU Metro College, and Donna Sloan, philosophy and religious studies, also applied for the position.

Dr. Anne McMahon, professor, management, headed the search committee.

Stennis said he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1973, as well as his master's in English last year.

He has been employed at the university for nine years.

Prior to his position at YSU, Stennis served as a reporter at The Vindicator for 21 years, two as a general assignment reporter and 19 as the religion editor.