

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXVII, Number 3, 21 January 1993 — Two deaths force GS reorganization [ARTICLE]

Two deaths force GS reorganization

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Due to the recent loss of two deans last October, administrators in the School of General Studies have been shuffling positions to reassign responsibilities until the vacant positions are filled.

The administrative shifts are a result of the death from complications from a brain tumor of Dean of General Studies Ward Dennis and the long-term medical disability leave of Acting Dean of Students Jacob Brown, who has an AIDS related illness.

Associate Dean Frank Wolf has assumed the position of acting dean of the school until a search for a permanent dean is conducted. Wolf said the positions will not be filled until positions within the University's central administration are named.

"There will be no search for a permanent dean until a [University] president and vice president are named for Arts and Sciences," Wolf said.

University President Michael Sovern will step down at the end of this semester and Vice President for Arts and Sciences Martin Meisel plans to return to teaching after this semester.

Wolf said he did not expect the new deans to be officially announced until July 1, when the new University president begins his or her term.

With Wolf's move, Dean of Students David Lelyveld has taken on the position of acting associate dean at the School of General Studies. Mary Jerome, a senior lecturer in the school's American Language Program, is now serving as acting dean of students.

Lelyveld said he is working closely with Wolf to maintain order during a period he described as a bad transition.

"We're going ahead on the assumption that whatever we are doing is worth doing," Lelyveld said.

The temporary administration is a hierarchical pyramid, with each position dependent upon the other, according to Wolf.

Jerome said she will focus on three goals during her tenure as acting dean of students: professionalism in the office, reinforcement of the team work within her office, and better communication with students.

Jerome said these goals were not meant to be criticisms of Brown.

"This is no criticism. These are

just three areas I would like to enhance," Jerome said. "Jacob Brown is a dear person and colleague. I just hope I can live up to his expectations."

Wolf said he would be pleased to continue permanently as dean of the School of General Studies.

"I hope to be that person, but if I am named as a dean, the question then becomes who will be the associate dean," Wolf said.

He added that if he was not chosen as dean, he would probably continue to act as associate dean.