

BSU elects new president

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Pledging to make the Black Student Union more politically aware and to balance the social with the academic, UB Junior Arnold Wadley won a surprise landslide victory last Wednesday.

Wadley captured about 87 percent of the votes cast, according to Election and Credentials Committee Chairperson Rochelle Jackson.

The election was necessary after the former BSU president, James Minter, resigned late last fall citing "personal circumstances" as the reason.

Ramsey Duvivier was acting president up to Wednesday's election, but according to the BSU constitution, a new election is needed if any member of the executive board resigns. Wadley, an Urban Studies major from Queens, New York, edged out the two other candidates for the position.

BSU currently has one of the largest budgets of all Student Association clubs, and the BSU president holds one of the most powerful positions on campus.

Wadley, who seems very enthusiastic about his new challenge, said, "I want to extend BSU further into the community."

Recently, BSU has come under

Mujeeb Muqtadir/ The Spectrum



Arnold Wadley

criticism from some white students on campus calling for a White Student Union. When asked if he thinks BSU should be open to white students, Wadley responded very diplomatically that BSU is open to all.

"All clubs should be open to every student, and all students are welcome at BSU once they are committed to BSU's agenda...we welcome any help and any new talent."

The new student leader insisted that "BSU will maintain our clearly specific goals, and I don't see inclusion affecting them."

High praise

"I have known Arnold for a

long time now and have full confidence in his leadership ability," said Carlos Fletcher, secretary of UB's National Society of Black Engineers. "I know he will do a superb job."

Maggie Voltaire, former Caribbean Student Association vice president, echoed similar sentiments. "I feel confident in the new president because he seems very eager, and from my understanding, he is an organized person."

Minter praised the incoming president by saying "he is committed and has an acute understanding of the cause of people of color on this campus."

Minter, who was well-respected among other student leaders during his term as president, added, "Arnold will have no problem gaining the respect from BSU members."

Robert Roache, the chair of BSU's extended executive board, agreed with Minter and said, "Arnold has been very active on the executive board, and his election as our president will make for a smooth transition...the executive board shares the response of other students...we have deep respect and confidence in Mr. Wadley."

BSU is involved in a variety of diverse projects and is currently busy with a number of Black History Month activities.