

BSA blasts 'efforts' to remove Elkins

By Bob Godec
Assoc. News Editor

The Black Student Alliance (BSA) has denounced any efforts to remove professed homosexual Bob Elkins from his resident assistant post.

A statement passed unanimously at the group's Tuesday meeting says "the Black Student Alliance denounces any action by any member of the University or Board of Visitors toward removing Robert Elkins from his present position as Resident Assistant...based on his admitted homosexuality or his leadership role in the Gay Student Union."

On Friday, University President Frank L. Hereford Jr. appointed a special

For full text of BSA letter, see page 2.

committee to advise him on the possible removal of Elkins from the Resident Staff program. The committee is expected to report tomorrow.

The final decision on whether to remove Elkins from his RA post will be made by Hereford, according to students and administrators involved.

Elkins confirmed that Hereford cited a "conflict of interest" when he asked Elkins to resign from the Resident Staff program last week.

He also confirmed the BSA's assertion that Hereford told him the conflict would not be resolved if Elkins merely resigned the GSU presidency.

Elkins confirmed yesterday he has twice offered to resign as President of the GSU and both times Hereford responded that it would not eliminate the "conflict of interest."

Hereford declined comment on the BSA's statement.

Elkins said yesterday that he has formed an informal advisory group to counsel him.

Elkins' homosexuality was discussed last spring by a Resident Staff Committee and the decision was made to accept him.

sexual preference," saying the "issue is (not) between gay students and non-gay students."

The BSA charged that the issue is a violation of human rights, adding that the issue could "set a precedent for future violations of personal rights."

The BSA stated that Hereford has said "that the alumni are the driving force behind his request that Mr. Elkins leave the dormitory."

The BSA denounced Hereford's "slighting" of student opinion in favor of the alumni who are only "nominally" affected by the matter.

Some of the students on Elkins' hall have signed a petition asserting Elkins is

performing well as their resident advisor and should be retained.

Two organizations, the Association for Women's Concerns and the Counselor's Committee on Human Sexuality, are also preparing letters of support, according to Elkins.

Neither groups' officers could be reached for comment.

Elkins has received support from several quarters since Hereford's appointment of the panel to consider the matter.

Several Student Council members have criticized Hereford's actions. Council Vice-President Stefan Underhill said Council may take a formal stance at next Tuesday's meeting.

ing to Dean of Students Robert L. Canevari.

Elkins said he was glad to receive the support of the BSA, adding he feels it will help him to retain his post.

The seven-member group is composed of "close friends," according to Elkins, all of whom he said he knew before the controversy arose.

Hancock Dormitory Senior RA Dave Verklin, Bonneycastle Senior RA Debbie Williams and BSA President Rhonda Simpson are members of the advisory group, according to Elkins.

Elkins declined to reveal the names of the other members of the advisory group.

The BSA declined to take a stand concerning the "morality of Mr. Elkins'