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## 'Affirmative action'

# Elkins resigns GSU post

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Second-year man Bob Elkins, whose removal from the resident staff program is being considered by an ad-hoc administrative committee, has resigned the presidency of the Gay Student Union (GSU).

In a letter to the GSU dated last Friday, Elkins said he wished to take the "affirmative action of resigning the position of president of the University Gay Student Union, effective immediately." The letter written by Elkins, a resident advisor (RA) in Hancock House, is the result of consultation between Elkins and his attorney, Charlottesville lawyer John C. Lowe said.

Elkins, who declined to comment on the letter and deferred all inquiries to Lowe, said in the letter that he had two "primary reasons" for resigning the post.

The first was to give the ad-hoc committee, the Resident Staff and "other interested parties an indication of my

commitment to the job of resident advisor."

Elkins "has resigned on my advice, not because the law requires it," Lowe said, but to "further demonstrate that his (Elkins') primary loyalty is to the RA program" and to "avoid people getting hooked on a specious issue."

The real issue is not the fact that Elkins was the GSU president, but rather that he's homosexual, Lowe said.

Lowe has supplied the committee with a copy of Elkins' letter, Elkins said.

In the letter, Elkins said the question "seems to be one of status; my status as a gay person and a resident advisor and/or my status as president of the Gay Student Union and a resident advisor."

"At this time I wish to state that the issue of my being associated with the Gay Student Union is of little consequence to the questions at hand, and that it is to remove any doubt of this that I resigned from the presidency" of the GSU, Elkins

said in the letter.

The letter, sent last Friday to the GSU, was accepted by the organization the same night.

According to Lowe, "it's not a question of time constraints, conflict of interest or divided loyalty and if that were the question, this (Elkins' resignation) removes it."

Elkins said in the letter "there are two possible reasons that objection to my being Gay Student Union president could be based on."

The first, he said, is that his service as president might create "an actual conflict of time or duties with the responsibility of being a resident advisor."

"By resigning, I am eliminating that argument," Elkins said.

The second objection to Elkins' participation in the GSU is that "it implies a personal attitude of worth and self-esteem towards my own homosexuality." The resignation, however, will not affect this

attitude, he said.

Lowe said that the resignation was essentially a "tactical" move to induce "everyone to focus on the real issue."

Last Wednesday, Elkins told The Cavalier Daily that he had twice offered to Hereford to resign the GSU post, in an effort to eliminate the "conflict of interest" which Hereford cited when Elkins talked with him two weeks ago.

Elkins said Wednesday that both times he offered to resign, Hereford responded that such a resignation would not eliminate the "conflict of interest."

If the issue before the committee is Elkins' GSU presidency, the resignation "should kill the whole thing," Lowe said.

Elkins is neither "flaunting" his homosexuality nor hiding it, Lowe said, adding Elkins' desire is "to be dealt with as a person."

GSU Vice President Peter Brehm assumed the GSU presidency on Friday, upon Elkins' resignation.