

Asbury appointed executive assistant

By PHIL GUTIS
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University President Bryce Jordan has promoted William W. Asbury, the University's affirmative action officer and assistant to the provost, to the position of executive assistant to the president for administration.

The move, announced yesterday and effective Monday, moves Asbury into the policy-making level of the University administration — making him directly responsible to Jordan.

Yesterday's announcement was the second major personnel shift Jordan has made since becoming University president this month.

On July 1, the day he took office, Jordan announced the appointment of James B. Bartoo, dean of the University's Graduate School, as the new acting executive vice president.

In making yesterday's announcement, Jordan said Asbury will be "responsible to the president for providing primary administrative support and advice on a broad range of matters."

"He will, for example, serve as liaison between my office and other University offices for implementation of Penn State's Title VI plan for equal opportunity, and on other affirmative action matters," Jordan said in a news release.

"I am pleased to promote Mr. Asbury, who has excellent administrative skills, into a position with expanded responsibilities," Jordan said. "In his seven years with the University, he has earned the respect and confidence of faculty and administrators on all campuses."

Asbury's new duties will include investigating and evaluating issues, drafting reports and position papers, representing the president on certain occasions and serving as a communication link between the Office of the President and other University offices, according to the news release from the University's Department of Public Information and Relations.

Contacted by telephone yesterday, Asbury said one of the most interesting aspects of his new job will be working with the new president, whom Asbury



William W. Asbury

described as a "forward-looking person who has the best interests of Penn State in mind."

With some details about the job still sketchy, Asbury said he thinks he will serve as a link between the Office of the President and the Office of the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer — the University's new second in command.

When the appointment of Bartoo as acting executive vice president was announced, Jordan said he was not sure if the position of provost would remain at Penn State. Asbury's comments yesterday indicate that the executive vice president will now permanently assume the duties of the chief academic officer, formerly held by the provost.

Jordan envisions a close relationship between his office and the executive vice president, Asbury said.

Therefore, Asbury thinks he will become more involved with academic matters, in addition to handling some external relations and liaison work with other University offices, he said.

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