

ASI Resolution Opposes 'Cal State East Bay'

By Kwesi Wilson

Staff Writer

After conducting a student survey, Associated Students Inc. adopted a resolution in December opposing the university's proposed name change from Cal State Hayward to Cal State East Bay.

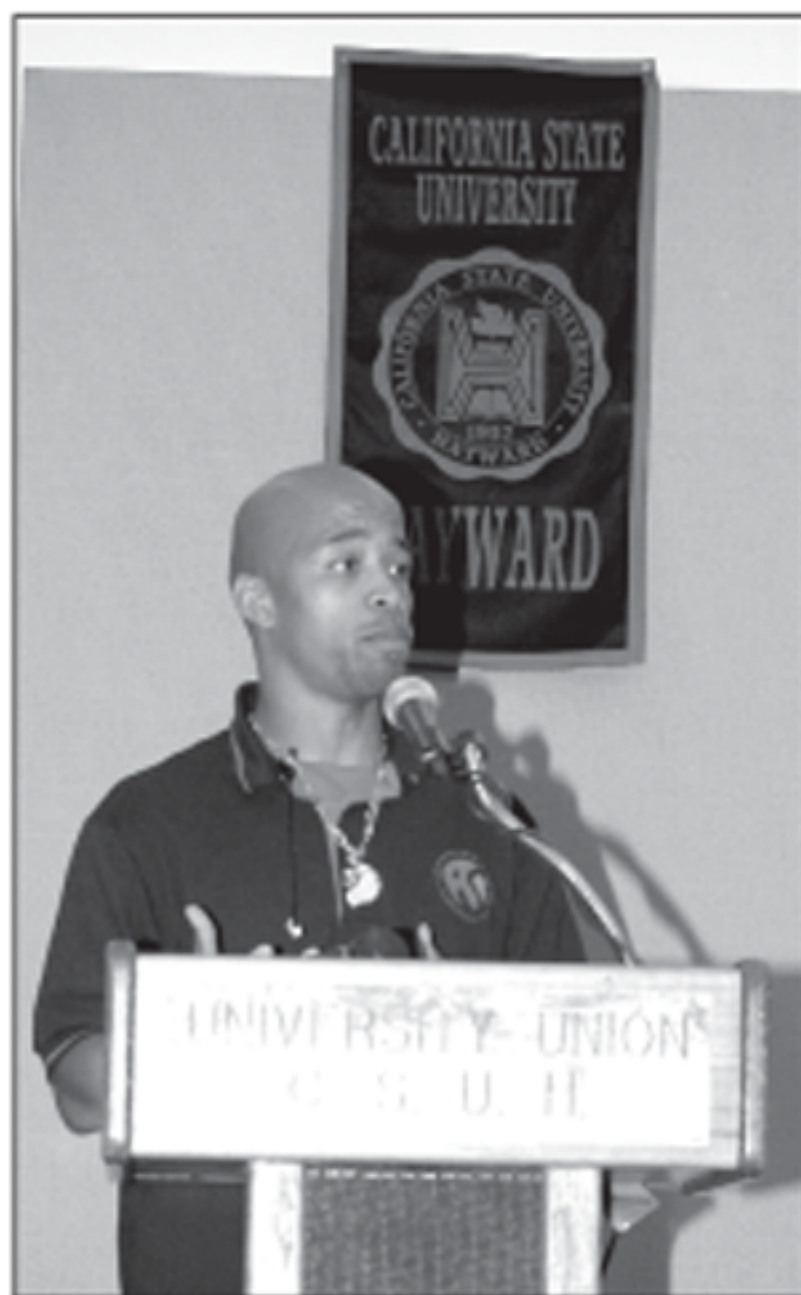
"This resolution is a way of expressing our position on the name change issue," said Rita Akpan, vice chair of ASI.

The resolution states: "Let it be known that ASI, the elected voice of the Cal State Hayward student population, is against the name change from Cal State Hayward to Cal State East Bay until such time as demonstrable evidence convinces a majority of the student population that it is a wise change."

There is very little student support for the name change, according to the survey of 684 students, conducted by ASI in October.

"We waited for the survey results before coming out with our position," said Darrell McKinney, chair of ASI. "It was not our opinion. It was the voice of the students."

Students expressed support for



Darrell McKinney

ASI's resolution.

"It was inappropriate and inconsiderate of (the administration) to propose such changes without our input," said Shashank Prasad, a sophomore business student. "There should have been a democratic process in making such a huge decision. I support ASI's resolution."

The resolution expressed ASI's disappointment with CSUH President Norma Rees' refusal to provide research behind the name-change decision despite having expressed her commitment to do so.

"I don't know why she hasn't," said Akpan. "I will still be against the name change regardless of whether she provided it or not. A general consensus is the appropriate way to go about it, not basing such a decision on results of focus groups' research of 10 percent of the student population."

Akpan said students are very angry about being left out of the decision-making process.

"Personally, I feel disregarding the opinion of the elected student representatives is to ignore students," said Akpan. "It is appalling and shameful. If they are not here, we can still find other colleges to attend. But if we are not here, they would have no jobs."

Akpan said ASI members are worried about the impact a name change without student support will have on the entire CSU system.

"It will be a very, very sad day in the history of the CSU system," said Akpan. "ASI is the elected voice of the students. I hope they listen."