

Women's Center director moving on to similar spot in San Diego

■ **CHANGE:** Welch's absence will be felt by both faculty and students

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

Edwina Welch, who has served as director of the ASUO Women's Center for the last two years, is resigning at the end of the term to take a similar position at the University of California at San Diego.

Welch, who came to the University in 1990, previously worked in the Office of Admissions and Office of Multicultural Affairs before coming to the Women's Center in September 1994.

Beginning in the fall of 1993, the University began an extensive review of the center's administrative structure and overall direction, which resulted in vast changes to the program. Welch was hired to head the restructuring process after a nation-wide search.

She said the idea of going into a situation and taking it in a new



WELCH

direction is something she thrives on. Not surprisingly, she will be heading up a new cross-cultural center in her position this spring.

"I love the ability to come in with a blueprint, so [the Women's Center position] was real appealing from that standpoint," she said.

Students and administrators who have worked with Welch say those qualities will be sorely missed.

Gregg Lobisser, assistant dean of student life and Welch's administrative supervisor, said in every facet of her work, Welch was able to relate to an enormous variety of students.

Because she could communicate so well, she could build constituencies, which made things run smoother, he said.

"She's always been able to bring together the many points of view."

In addition to job-related duties, Welch was an advocate and a friend for many students, he said. "She's been a trusted confidante for many women on campus as well as colleagues who work with other programs on campus."

Bonnie Kanter, who worked directly with Welch as Women's Center office coordinator, said she was always willing to stand up for students and what they believed in.

"She really supported the other student groups in any way she could," she said.

Welch, in her six-year tenure at the University, also worked on various committees, advocating for women's and multicultural issues and was also on several search committees.

Javier Cervantes, co-director of the Multicultural Center, said Welch helped the MCC many times.

"She's there to back us up

"I'm going to miss her, a lot of other people are going to miss her, and the University is going to miss her."

— Gregg Lobisser
Welch's administrative supervisor

whenever anything needs to go to the administration," Cervantes said. "What she does — you can't put a label on it."

Lobisser said the Women's Center, while in disarray when Welch began, is now a solid, far-reaching force on campus.

Besides creating programming with increased quality and quantity, the center has remained close to its original purpose and has stronger leadership, Lobisser said.

"[Edwina has] really made it a Women's Center for women," he said.

While giving students help when needed, she has also left

them with the ability to take matters into their own hands, Lobisser said.

"She's established a process so students are empowered to create their own programming," he said.

Her influence on campus was far-reaching, and her absence will be felt, colleagues said.

"I'm going to miss her, a lot of other people are going to miss her, and the University is going to miss her," Lobisser said.

"It really hurts," Ciquantes said. "It hurts the University."

Welch said she'll miss many things too, not the least of which is the people.

"Sometimes, when you're at a place, you don't notice the amount of things that are done, but the students here are really doing some cutting-edge stuff," she said.

She said she'll miss the University, where "it's never the same day," and where she seems to have succeeded.

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Women's center to get new director

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

With the resignation of ASUO Women's Center Director Edwina Welch coming at the end of the term, the University administration and ASUO are working to have a new director in place by July 1.

The search will be administered cooperatively by current ASUO president Jennifer Williamson and Gregg Lobisser, associate dean of student life.

Lobisser said the first step in the process will be to form a search committee of students, faculty and staff that will conduct interviews and screen applicants.

Lobisser said he plans on advertising for the opening at universities along the West Coast and across the nation.

"I think there will be a tremendous level of interest in the position," he said.

The board hopes to finish screening applicants by mid-May and interviewing by June 1.

Until a new director is named, current Women's Center office coordinator Bonnie Kanter will take over Welch's duties on an interim basis through June 30.

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