New grievance board will tackle problems

By BONNIE SCHWARTZ

If you complain about having to get on campus at 6 a.m. to find a parking space or if you’re losing sleep worrying about getting closed out of everything next quarter, the Grievance Board, which begins functioning today, can provide an ear and possibly a solution to your problems.

According to its director, Richard Colby, the board is a new form of “student power” that will provide students with “an outlet for their frustrations.”

According to leaflets passed out throughout the University area, persons tired of having their complaints listened to but ignored are invited to let the Grievance Board take over their frustration and disgust.

Student heads staff

Colby, a senior from Columbus and associate director of student services for the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is head of about 12 volunteer staff members. All the volunteers are professors at Ohio State. Each will work on one specific problem, Colby said.

“I’m not so sure at this point what follow-up action will be taken on problems,” Colby said. “We will try to implement solutions through the proper channels.”

He cited the various student government associations throughout campus and other groups like Council of Fraternity Presidents as channels for problem-solving.

Ombudsman should help

“The newly-created position of ombudsman will also give us another channel to work through,” Colby said.

“The ombudsman will be very important because he has the power to implement policies.”

The board will concentrate on complaints related to the policy of the University, Colby said. He added that problem-solving priority will be based on the number of complaints received in an area, not on the personal opinions of board members.

Colby said the board grew out of the student disturbances last spring.

Channels not effective

“During that time it became apparent that there were few effective channels for student grievances,” he said. “Since the board is run by students, it is another form of student power.”

Complaints can be sent or brought to the grievance board in Room 306 Ohio Union.

Colby said letters should be signed and include a phone number. The investigators will then be able to call to gather additional background information.