

# Senate supports RHA visitation policy efforts

The ASUN Senate passed a resolution Wednesday giving its support to UNL students in any non-violent efforts to change visitation policies and encouraged dorm dwellers to adopt their own visiting rules.

A statement of intent signed by 21 of the 28 senators present stated: "We agree to support RHA's efforts to change visitation rules and announce our intention to have our names turned in as violators of the old visitation policies."

The purpose of the resolution and the statement is to give public recognition of our support to the residence halls, ASUN President Steve Fowler said.

"I've been at dormitory meetings and about 600 students think this issue is important enough that they would violate current visitation rules," he stated. As far as dormitory residents are concerned this is about the most important issue going, Fowler said.

According to Fowler, the Senate's role should be one of coordination. "Residence halls should make the ultimate decisions and we will give them what support we can," he said.

Sen. Joel Belland said the strict policy tries to keep students in an adolescent state—"a sort of suspended animation".

Sen. Doug Beckwith said that because of the University's archaic dormitory rules many students move off-campus. "Current policies force students to migrate off-campus intensifying the housing shortage," he added.

A resolution was passed directing an ASUN committee to invite NU Regents, the Governor's staff and Nebraska legislators to any mass visitations that might occur. Sen. Shelley Stall said she submitted the bill because the press often conveys an erroneous impression of activities on campus.

It was agreed by the Senate that a group be formed to create a liaison between dormitory dwellers and officials. Sen. Mike Berns, who introduced the measure, said it is a safety precaution.

"Over reaction is one of the common causes of turning non-violent student actions into violent confrontations," Berns warned.

The Senate passed additional legislation giving \$250 to the Student Y.W.C.A. The Senate praised the Y.W.C.A. for the services it has performed for the student community.

## Selleck follows RHA lead

Selleck Quadrangle residents agreed Tuesday night to go along with other residence halls in implementing the "Magrath Plan" as their official visitation policy.

The plan, recently rejected by parents responding to a survey, was adopted earlier Tuesday evening by the executive council of the Residence Halls Association (RHA).

It is important that all students are behind the plan, a student assistant explained. Names of violators of the old RHA policy will be taken, he said, but "there's safety in numbers. There's no way housing can cope with 2,000 violators."

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## CSL takes no violation stand

The Council on Student Life Wednesday night reaffirmed support of the coed visitation policy (the Magrath plan) they presented to the Board of Regents last year, but took no official position on planned mass violations by dormitory residents.

CSL, which convinced the Regents in November to reconsider the visitation question, has asked for a meeting with the Regents March 10, a day before the Board is to rule on the visitation policy. Chancellor James H. Zumberge will recommend that the chairman and one representative of CSL be allowed to meet with the Regents, CSL chairman Franklin Eldridge, associate dean of the College of Agriculture, said.

In a motion passed by the Council, it was agreed that the intensity of discontent among dormitory residents should be considered as new evidence in discussions with the Regents. A survey of students showed 85 per cent in favor of the proposed visitation policy.

A motion by CSL member Mike Berns to back the students in their "move toward self-determination," which meant backing the Residence Hall Association in its plan for mass violation Feb. 28, was tabled by an 8-3 vote.

CSL member Hal Smith, interim assistant dean of student development programs, said the Council is "probably the one link that still exists between the Regents and students."

Several Council members said that official support of the mass violations would jeopardize their chances to effectively communicate with the Regents.

The role of CSL isn't to sanction the students, said CSL member Terry Braye. He pointed out that CSL agreed with the Regents to abide by the results of the parental survey on the proposed visitation policy. CSL needs to produce "new ideas, a new approach" to the issue, he added.

Several members suggested that a vote of support for the dormitory residents wouldn't make much difference to students. However, Berns said the Regents would be presented with

## Mead speaks Thursday

Margaret Mead, noted anthropologist, will visit the UNL campus Thursday. A press conference at 2:45 p.m. will precede her main address in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room at 3:30 p.m. Mead will also participate in an informal rap session at Centennial College at 7:30 p.m. in the Commons Room.

a unified front if CSL joined with ASUN and RHA on the issue.

A committee of CSL members was appointed to develop new idea and ways to present the original policy to the Regents since it was agreed that the policy provides "equitable regulations to meet diverse wishes of parents and students."

A variation of the policy, suggested by CSL member Jai Sookram, would seek parental approval only for those students who want to live in a unit with coed visitation, and separate dormitories would be set up for such persons.

"The quarrel would then be between son and father, not son and the Regents," Sookram said.




## daily nebraskan

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