

Task force to research dorm improvements

By Dianne Barry

If you were to live in a UNL residence hall, which one would you choose?

- One where people on my floor were interested in the same special areas.
- One which had coed dormitory floors.
- One where I could take subjects with the people I lived with in the same building.
- A co-op where I could live more cheaply because I helped with cleaning, etc.
- One where I could move the furniture in my room.

Not only will students living in residence halls soon be able to suggest changes, but former dormitory residents will also be asked their opinions.

Although the above sample questionnaire isn't the one that will be used, it is similar to the questionnaire to be used by the Differentiated Housing Task Force, a subcommittee of the Council of Student Life (CSL), according to chairman Tim Eversen.

The force's purpose is to study possible residence hall improvements by studying what other

universities have done. It will then present proposals to CSL.

"One of the differences I'd like to make between this study and others done is that we will provide a full report, giving CSL all it needs to know: what we want, what the cost is, what materials are needed, what effect it will have. Then CSL doesn't have to do anything except say 'yes' or 'no,'" Eversen said.

Eversen said he hopes CSL will approve at least parts of the proposals. After that the study would be sent to the Housing Office, to Ken Bader, vice chancellor of student affairs, and to Chancellor James Zumberge.

According to Eversen, the task force's 13 members have divided into four groups to study the social, academic, food service and general goals of residence halls.

Jane Edenberger, a member of the academic group, said the academic group is looking into the possibility of incorporating educational facilities in dormitories to make living there a "whole

experience."

Eversen said the task force was initiated by CSL because of the different proposals which came from residential halls concerning areas such as guest visitation, alcohol in the rooms and being unable to move furniture.

"Last year a lot of student proposals were killed. There was a feeling of anger more than disappointment. The idea was that 'if we tried and why try again,' Mary Andrews, Sandoz resident, food service group member said.

Eversen said he hopes that possible changes will increase the dormitory occupancy rate.

The return rate in the dorm is about 40 per cent. "Schramm Hall has about 45 per cent return rate, which is the highest," he said. Schramm Hall is used with men and women living on alternate floors.

The study must be submitted by Jan. 29, he said.

"A student has a right to determine the type of environment he wants," Eversen said.

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