



Rising food costs are a factor in the recent Housing Office request for an increase in residence hall rates.

Housing Office asks \$75 dorm rate hike

By Tom Jensen

A \$75 increase in room and board rates next year for UNL residence halls has been recommended to the Board of Regents by the Housing Office. The Regents are scheduled to act on the recommendation Saturday.

If approved, room and board rates will increase to \$1095 per year for a double occupancy room and \$1395 for a single occupancy room.

Richard Armstrong, director of housing, said inflation is the main reason for the increase.

He said increases in the rates usually are made every other year, but rapidly increasing prices have forced rate increase requests for two consecutive years.

He said the Housing Office projects huge increases in utility rates. Electricity rates are projected to increase by 25%, gas rates by 33%, steam rates by 37.5% and chilled water rates by 33%, he said.

Other prices expected to increase are prices of food (13%), office supplies (6%), housekeeping (10%), repairs (3% to 11%), laundry service (10%) and insurance (4%).

Armstrong said the Housing Office also will pay more Social Security and higher wages. He said recent legislation will raise salaries paid to state employees. The Housing Office expects to increase its employees' salaries by 9%, Armstrong said.

In a presentation at Selleck Quadrangle Tuesday night, Armstrong and other members of the housing staff explained the reasons for the increase and what has been done to cut back on spending.

Barbara Sanderson, housing business manager, said spending has been cut back wherever possible. She said without the cutbacks, the increase in room and board rates would have been more than \$150 instead of \$75.

She said a management consulting firm has been hired which has shown the Housing Office how to save nearly \$200,000. The firm showed the maintenance staff how to be just as efficient with 12 fewer custodians, which saved \$58,000, and organized food service better, which saved \$140,000, she said.

Douglas Rix, assistant director of Housing and Food Service, said nearly \$60,000 was saved by not giving free meals to employees. In the past, a Housing employe could get free meals at any residence hall cafeteria.

Rix said other measures have been taken to curb food service spending. One is the addition of soybean protein to hamburger.

"The hamburger is 15% soybean, which really figures out to be 4 1/2% soybean and 10 1/2% water," Rix said. "This alone saves \$18,000 a year."

He said Food Service also has been buying more meat directly from the packer, decreasing the number of special dinners and trying to increase the revenue from residence hall snack bars.

"We've also reduced some 12-month jobs to 9-month jobs," Rix said. "This is good for holding down the cost for the student, but it's miserable for employers because one-third of our employees leave every summer."

To avoid cutting back on spending and to overcome expenses, the Housing Office will try to increase revenue generated by the residence halls, Sanderson said. She said in 1970-71, room and board accounted for 85% of housing income and other revenue accounted for the remaining 15%.

Housing expects other income to amount to more than \$1.08 million during the 1974-75 school year, which would account for 19% of the income.

Armstrong said the best way to increase income would be to increase the occupancy rate in UNL residence halls.

"We predict a one per cent decline in occupancy next year," Armstrong said. "This would lower the occupancy rate to about 86%."

He said the regents should act on the differentiated housing proposal as well as the room and board increase this Saturday. The differentiated living proposal would allow options such as alcohol and 24-hour visitation in some residence halls, with no alcohol and visitation in others.

"We're hopeful the regents will make some movement," Armstrong said, adding he wasn't sure alcohol and 24-hour visitation would increase occupancy.

Turnout low for ASUN elections

By Daily Nebraskan press time at 11 p.m. Wednesday, the ASUN Electoral Commission was not able to report any results from the annual ASUN election held earlier in the day. Election Commissioner Lance Bristol only said that approximately 2,230 students cast ballots for ASUN senatorial candidates in the election. He had no figures on votes cast for executive candidates or for those running for advisory board positions.

The number of votes cast for senators represented about 11% of the total number of students enrolled UNL. That low total spelled almost certain defeat for a constitutional amendment on Wednesday's ballot. That amendment permitted the restructuring of

ASUN. A minimum of 15% of the students enrolled at UNL were needed to vote for the proposed amendment to ensure its passage.

The two major parties in Wednesday election took different positions regarding the amendment. The United Student Effort Party (USE), led by presidential candidate Ron Clingenpeel, favored the proposal. The Active Communications Together Party (ACT), headed by presidential candidate Todd McDaniel, opposed it.

Bristol said that ballot counting was proceeding normally Wednesday night, and that returns were not available at 11 p.m. (three hours after the last polling place closed) because the process "simply

takes awhile."

The Daily Nebraskan will carry complete results of the ASUN election in Friday's paper.



Students voted Wednesday for ASUN executive, senatorial and advisory board candidates. No results were available by Daily Nebraskan press time Wednesday night.

Alcohol bill floor test rescheduled

A bill that would permit the sale and consumption of alcohol on campus has been rescheduled to reach the floor of the Legislature next Thursday.

LB783 originally was scheduled to come before the Legislature today, as reported in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan.

Next Thursday's session will convene at 9 a.m.