

ASUN warns RHA in election squabble

Residence Hall Association (RHA) members were warned in an ASUN Senate resolution Wednesday night that unless they resolve their election difficulties, they will be in danger of having their ASUN recognition revoked.

The resolution concerned the election squabble raised when Ron Hutchinson challenged the seven vote RHA presidential victory of Sue Ihne because he said he was denied the opportunity to vote at the Cather-Pound-Niehardt Residence Center.

Election ballots at the complex had been misplaced for an hour during meal time and Hutchinson said that was the only time he could have voted.

RHA referred the matter to the ASUN Student Court by refusing to accept the appointment of a Chief Justice for their own judicial body, preventing the convening of the RHA court in favor of the "less biased" ASUN court.

The resolution passed by the senate informed RHA that, by not convening the court, they are in violation of their ASUN-approved constitution.

Former RHA president and ASUN senator, Tim Evensen asked the senate to allow the ASUN court to handle the problem.

"I feel, and so does the (RHA) council, that the ASUN court can hear the case and would be more objective," Evensen said. "It was my fault that a chief justice had not been appointed before, but the RHA court had not been used for two years and I felt that the ASUN court was more effective anyway."

The senate also established an ad-hoc committee to study area bookstores. First Vice President Mary Jenkins was charged with appointing the members.

Another resolution, setting up an orientation session for senators, was passed after an amendment was added which changed the session from a mandatory meeting for senators to one they were "strongly encouraged" to attend.

The rules and procedure for the senate were made permanent after one week of temporary status.

In other action, ASUN President Jim Say delivered what he said was "in some ways a pep talk and in some ways a criticism," asking senators not to be afraid of controversy. Although the speech had been labeled his "State of the Campus" address, Say told the senators that "it was a bit less pretentious than that."

Design center—credit for urban developers

Six UNL students are helping redesign areas of Omaha for urban redevelopment projects and at the same time are fulfilling graduation requirements in architecture and geography.

The four architecture and two geography students are participating in a five-year-old academic program called the Community Design Center (CDC).

The CDC is operated by a ten-member board of directors who have formed the Community Development Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation. The board is composed of university faculty members, members of the Omaha section of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and members of the Omaha community, CDC Coordinator David Allor said.

Allor, who is also an assistant professor of Community and Regional Planning, was appointed July 1 by the dean of the College of Architecture to coordinate the CDC program.

Preliminary work

Allor said students research existing area conditions pertaining to an urban redevelopment project and then prepare a preliminary design. He said the preliminary design is submitted to a government or social action agency, which may then seek financing from individual donors, banks or governmental bodies. If a project receives financing, a registered architect must complete a final design, Allor said.

State law provides that architects must have work experience after graduation from college and then must pass a professional examination to become registered, Allor explained.

Although students must rely on registered architects to complete a project, the CDC officers almost function like a professional architect's office and "educational studio," Allor said.

Beneficial services

"The work of the CDC office is provided only to persons or groups who could not otherwise afford such professional services," Allor said. "Senior and graduate students become involved in a project when there's a real chance of getting it built."

One project students have worked on this semester is the Park East Redevelopment Plan, Allor said. Architecture students have drawn designs for such things as a shopping center, a medical building, a senior citizen's recreation center and store-front restoration along certain streets, according to a written summary of CDC work activities. No grant applications have been made by the nonprofit corporation to finance the Park East Redevelopment Plan.

A great application, however, has been made to the Game and Parks Commission for another CDC project called Pleasantview Hilltop Park and Multipurpose Center. This project involves student design of park equipment and for a day-care and medical center, Allor said.

Architectural training

Jim Ebmeier, an architecture student participating in the CDC, said the work he does "is the type of work an architect is expected to do for a firm."

Geography student Robert Abbott said he took the course in lieu of other geography courses, because of on-the-job experience it would give him. He said he mapped the Park East area, which is the area bounded by 24th to 28th streets and Douglas to Leavenworth streets in Omaha for such things as traffic patterns and industrial and residential zoning.

Allor said the CDC is financed by the university and by grants from professional organizations. He said he wanted to keep dollar amounts confidential because the CDC has applied this year for two federal grants and methods of financing would be changed if the grants were approved.

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