

# Joint programs possible Living units join to aid communication

By Lisa Bolin  
Staff Reporter

UNL fraternity, sorority and residence hall students are developing a plan they hope will ease misunderstandings among the groups.

Strategic Planning Regarding Inter-Living-unit Activities, or SPRILA, was designed by Residence Hall Association President J. Matt Wickless to encourage all university living units to work together.

In the past, he said, only executives of the groups had the chance to work together. Any other interaction has been done on an informal basis, he said.

Kevin Yost, president of the Interfraternity Council, said this is the first

time the three living-unit organizations have attempted to organize a long-term working relationship.

IFC approved the plan last week, Yost said. RHA approved SPRILA Sept. 6, Wickless said.

**"Joint committee members will come from the lower ranks of the organizations to promote interaction at all levels."**

—Wickless

IFC, three from Panhellenic and six from RHA, Seavers said.

Joint committee members will come from the lower ranks of the organizations, Wickless said, to promote interaction at all levels.

"We will combine our efforts by holding programs dealing with issues that are concerns to all students," Seavers said.

Wickless said the joint committee will be on its own in deciding what programs it will organize. But Seavers and Wickless said they would like to see the committee conduct a series of programs dealing with student diversity.

Wickless said he wants to see joint programming between SPRILA and other organizations to cover topics such as the problems faced by physically challenged students and students of different races, cultures and sexual orientation.

RHA has approved allocation of \$200 for SPRILA, Wickless said. Seavers and Yost both said their organizations would have to review their budgets before deciding on financing.

All three expressed hope in SPRILA's success and the possibility that the committee will become a separate student organization.

The Panhellenic Association approved SPRILA Sept. 11, President Tiffany Seavers said.

Seavers said SPRILA will give students in different living units the chance to enhance their relationships.

SPRILA is designed as a 12-member joint committee of all three organizations, Wickless said.

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# Something old, something new to unite Hispanic community

By Cindy Wostrel  
Staff Reporter

The new president of the UNL Mexican-American Student Association is planning something old and something new to bring the Hispanic community together.

Frank Sanchez said that as both the president of MASA and the coordinator for educational programming for the Hispanic Community Center he will be able to tie the Lincoln Hispanic community more closely to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Hispanic community.

But he said he also plans to continue programs that last year's executive committee worked on.

"One of my goals is just to meet their standards," Sanchez said.

To tie the Lincoln and UNL Hispanic communities more closely together, Sanchez said he wants to have functions such as dinners and dances, and share information between the groups.

This year, MASA members already have celebrated Mexican Independence Day and attended a banquet with UNL counselor Marty Ramirez, Omaha senators and Omaha Mayor P.J. Morgan, Sanchez said.

MASA is planning to host a reception Thursday in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room for Henry Cisneros, former mayor of San Antonio, Texas, Sanchez said. Cisneros will speak about education and the future of urban minorities.

This year MASA has about 35 members, which is up five times from membership two years ago, Sanchez said. It now involves about 18 percent of all Hispanic students on campus, a number which includes Chicanos, Cubans, Latinos, Puerto Ricans and Mexi-

can-Americans.

Sanchez attributed the membership increase to both recruitment and word-of-mouth. All but one member returned this year from last year's organization, he said. Sanchez said he hopes to increase membership by recruiting about 15 members this year.

Like last year, the group plans to sell sweaters in the union as a fund-raiser Oct. 13 through 16.

Another event the group will participate in this year is the annual cultural food fest Nov. 10.

MASA wants to send members to conventions in Chicago, Albuquerque, N.M., and Lansing, Mich. He said MASA has represented UNL well in the past at these conventions.

"A lot (of people across the country) are surprised to see active Mexicans in the Midwest," Sanchez said.

Last year, MASA helped recruit students from western Nebraska where there is a high number of Hispanic students, Sanchez said.

He said UNL is losing students from that region to the University of Wyoming, which actively recruits students from that area. Many students decide to attend the University of Wyoming because it is closer to their homes and because they don't know much about UNL.

"We took it upon ourselves because not enough was being done," Sanchez said. "We'd like to see more Hispanic students (coming to UNL)."

MASA is open to all students on campus, Sanchez said. Members include student assistants in the housing complexes, New Student Enrollment hosts, teachers and returning students, Sanchez said.

Meetings are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St.

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