

White supremacy fliers prompt legislation Action on resolution postponed

By Sara Bauder
Staff Reporter

The Residence Hall Association on Sunday postponed until next week a resolution condemning any forms of discrimination and any discriminatory activities.

After meeting for about an hour, senators took about a 30-minute break so Speaker Pat Menard could write the resolution.

The meeting adjourned about an hour later, thereby postponing a decision on the resolution, because the senate lost quorum when Shawn Carson, Cather presidential proxy, walked out of the session. Proxy members substitute for regular senate members when they are unable to attend.

Carson said he left the meeting so the senate could not vote on the resolution. He said that according to parliamentary procedure, the senate could not vote without reaching quorum.

One of Carson's objections to the resolution was that it was an overreaction to the rumor that a white

supremacist group is starting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

On March 15, fliers surfaced on campus requesting "white Caucasians only" to meet in front of Andrews Hall at 3:30 p.m. today.

In its original form, the resolution's preamble stated that "RHA has been alerted to the formation of a discriminatory organization on campus on the basis of race."

The preamble, which was eventually stricken from the resolution, met with objection from senators who said it singled out one campus group.

Carson said the resolution was not in RHA's jurisdiction because a white supremacist organization would not directly involve the residence halls. He also said the resolution would violate the First Amendment rights of those who want to belong to such an organization.

J. Matt Wickless, Selleck Hall proxy senator, said RHA should not act on rumors.

"This is a knee-jerk reaction," he said. "We could be made to look like fools if someone is making a joke with the fliers."

Abel Hall senator James Hansen said the resolution would not violate anyone's First Amendment rights.

"We're not stopping them from meeting," he said. "We're just condemning it."

RHA President Stacy Mohling said the resolution condemns the act of discrimination, not any particular group. She said the reason the resolution was introduced was to make a policy statement for RHA.

"In our constitution, it says we won't discriminate against active members (of RHA)," Mohling said. "In no place does it say that we condemn the actual act of discrimination or discrimination in the halls. It needs to be said."

"By not passing this, it can easily look like we don't condemn these activities."

Carson said the senate should not rush into the resolution.

"This is a heat of the moment decision, and we should think it through," he said. "By condemning this, we are saying, 'We do not believe in what you are doing, therefore you shouldn't be allowed to do it.'"

Computers

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strate to computer companies that similar discounts are offered at UNL's peer institutions.

UNL's peer institutions include Maryland, Iowa State, Minnesota, Missouri, Penn State, Michigan State, Purdue and Ohio State, Kutish said.

He said he thinks all but two of those universities offer discounts to part-time students.

Kutish said those institutions use a six-credit-hour standard to prevent consumers from registering for classes just to buy computers at a discount.

IBM and Apple Computer Inc., which have contracts with the shop, do not want the public to purchase computers there because the discounts are designed for students, he said.

The discounts, if offered to anyone, would give the Computer Shop an unfair advantage over other retailers, Kutish said.


"Local vendors sometimes believe that the university is in competition with them and give better prices than they can afford to do," Kutish said. "We try to be sensitive to that, so we sell only to full-time students."

UNL will have to prove to computer companies that it can verify students are taking six hours or more, he said.

Kutish said UNL had 5,147 part-time students registered for classes last spring, but he doesn't have figures yet on how many of those took six to 11 credit hours.



He said he expects a decision within a month from the computer companies on whether they will agree to allow students taking at least six hours to buy computers from the Computer Shop.

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