

ASUN opposes fees for computer upgrade

By Chad Lorenz
Staff Reporter

ASUN senators Wednesday passed a resolution to oppose increasing residence hall fees to fund a wiring upgrade to a campus computer network.

"That's simply not fair to saddle residence hall students with that cost," said Andrew Loudon, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said under the current plan, the upgrade could raise residence hall fees by as much as \$179 next year on top of an expected \$145 inflation increase.

The upgrade to HuskerNet would outfit all buildings on campus, direct HuskerNet connections, appropriate control units and software, the resolution said.

The Residence Hall Association opposed the plan at its Sunday meeting, saying it would force residence hall students to pay disproportionate costs for a benefit the entire university would utilize.

In the resolution, ASUN said that the plan was unfair to residence hall

students and resolved that the administration should develop an alternate method for funding the network.

"This is all part of a campus reaction to a plan and I think ASUN is smart to get their beliefs out," Griesen said.

Senators also passed a resolution to direct the Government Liaison Committee to lobby for a bill in the Legislature that would allocate more state lottery revenue to building maintenance at the university.

The bill, introduced by state Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, would direct 25 percent of state lottery money to a Building Renewal Allocation fund used to pay for a more than \$100 million deferred-maintenance backlog.

"One only needs to have a class in Richards or Burnett Hall ... to understand we have a need," Loudon said.

ASUN also passed a change in its Electoral Commission rules prohibiting it from sponsoring debates during student elections.

The commission will be limited to helping other organizations sponsor and structure student-election debates.

No place like home



Damon Lee/DN

Cecil Steward's living room may look modern, but it is housed in a 90-year-old downtown building that once served as a typewriter dealership. Steward, the dean of the College of Architecture at UNL, shares design credits with his wife for the house. Construction started in August 1993 and was finished in July.

Dean's new dwelling gives life to area

By Julie Sobczyk
Staff Reporter

Cecil Steward's home isn't just a place to eat and sleep. He wants it to play a role in the rejuvenation of downtown Lincoln.

Steward, dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, moved from his residence near Cotner Boulevard and A Street to a newly renovated home in downtown Lincoln last summer.

The idea for the project began in January 1993, he said. The renovation was completed last July.

One major reason for relocating downtown was because of the area's rejuvenation and the older buildings in the area, he said.

"I wanted to contribute to the revitalization of downtown Lincoln," Steward said. "I think downtown is becoming a place of living, and I thought we could do our part to contribute an example of an alternate way to live downtown."

Steward planned all of the designs for his new home near 11th and O streets.

"I planned it and did all of the financial packaging and put it all together," he said. "I did everything except being the general contractor."

He did have help in planning the designs. Steward's wife, Mary Jane, also played a role.

"She was part of the team," he said. "She was the client for me as the architect."

Steward's home consists of four living units. Steward designed one unit for his mother, and the other units are low-income housing for students.

In designing the home, Steward used freedom and creativity to make his place unique.

"In terms of other units for living downtown, ours is the only street-level housing," he said. "You enter off of the street."

Most other housing downtown begins on the second floor of the building rather than at street level.

Steward's home also has a courtyard entrance that leads to the front door.

"The courtyard is a more Asian, European or Latin American custom than in this country," he said. "I pay a lot of detail to Oriental design, primarily Japan and China."

Much detail from the Orient is incorporated into the design of the home.

Construction encountered few problems or difficulties, although the building was built in 1905.

"There is nothing we are not enjoying," he said. "We love to have outside people into our home."

People soon will have the opportunity to tour their home; the Haymarket Art Gallery will have a special exhibit there.



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MASA set to negotiate; seek to resolve boycott

By John Fulwider
Staff Reporter

The Mexican American Student Association could soon lift its nearly one-year boycott of the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, a letter to the administration says.

MASA seeks resolution of five issues, down from the original 15 demanded last Feb. 3. The new issues were outlined in a letter sent last November to parties involved in the dispute. If the issues see progress, MASA could end its boycott on the one-year anniversary.

According to the letter, MASA recommended the following:

- A Latino/Chicano person should be given serious consideration for a position as assistant director of the Minority Assistance Program within the multi-cultural affairs office.
- MASA members and Latinos should be on the search committee to fill that position.
- Mediation should occur with at least one individual who has received numerous complaints from staff members. Complaints have come from staff members who belong to many racial groups.
- Multi-cultural affairs should provide adequate support for the educational specialist for Latino/Hispanic students in the Minority Assistance Program.

Providing adequate support would allow the multi-cultural affairs office to be more active with MASA. It would also help generate academic and career programming for Latino students, as well as resources for Latino students to attend conferences and plan event programming.

• The Office of Multi-Cultural

Affairs should find a way to attract more Latino students for employment.

Cathy Maestas, MASA president, said the organization would meet with university officials within a few weeks to discuss the third issue. She said the first two issues had been covered.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he already had addressed most of MASA's original 15 concerns.

Griesen said he believed multi-cultural affairs was trying to make Hispanic students feel comfortable.

"Our management staff feels they're being as cordial, helpful and open to Latino/Latina students as to any other students who use that office," he said. "They either have to get the students to change their perceptions or realize they need to change what they're doing."

Maestas said that prior to the last two meetings, the roadblock to resolving the conflict was that MASA had to make the first move in setting up negotiations.

Maestas said MASA seemed to be ignored at first, but she took some responsibility for the slowness of negotiations.

"We had never before really sat down and discussed in specifics what we mean when we say things such as hostile environment," she said.

Maestas said she still held university officials responsible for their slow response.

She said recent discussions gave her hope that the boycott would end before the semester did.

"It's a lot better now," she said. "It's taken a while, but we've got to forget about what happened before and go with what we have."