

Residence hall fees to increase in fall

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RHA



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln lost more than \$1 million this year because fewer students lived in the residence halls — and next year's students will have to make up that cost.

University Housing Director Doug Zatechka told the UNL Residence Hall Association Sunday that new students will pay \$165 more to live in the residence halls for the 1998-99 academic school year. Students returning to the residence halls, however, will not be affected, he said.

"This is a very tight year," Zatechka said. "And unfortunately it will be tight for a couple more years."

Zatechka said that UNL's Division of University Housing 1998-99 Residence Hall Rate Study showed no new enhancements planned for any of the residence halls. This doesn't mean, however, the university will neglect problems within the halls, he said.

"We are not going to cut down on our services," Zatechka said. "If the roof leaks, we will fix it."

Zatechka said UNL is expecting an increase in student enrollment next year. The high academic standards implemented this year cost university housing more than \$1 million in revenue because fewer students lived in the residence halls, he said.

Students will also pay an increased fee to cover the loss of tobacco revenue, since UNL residence halls will no longer sell cigarettes. Because tobacco is being removed, Zatechka said, students will contribute about \$3 towards the rate increase. "University housing will be losing roughly \$17,000 in revenue by not selling tobacco products," he said.

The university has been "trying to compare apples to apples" by com-

paring UNL to other Big 12 universities and their services, Zatechka said. UNL is among three other Big 12 schools that charge less than \$4,000 for residence hall living. The other eight Big 12 schools charge more than \$4,000, he said.

Abel Hall President Matt Knobbe said RHA decided in a meeting earlier in the year to keep tobacco sales in the residence halls.

Zatechka said he was aware of RHA's proposal, but he was asked not to include tobacco revenue in this year's rate study.

"I think the reason for not selling tobacco on campus is philosophical," Zatechka said. "We are a university that stands for truth, and many feel it is unhealthy to sell tobacco on a campus that does not allow smoking in its buildings."

Michele Lueders, Sandoz Hall president, asked Zatechka if smoking floors will still be implemented in the halls.

"Yes, we will still have floors in the residence halls that allow smoking," Zatechka said. But University housing will add more nonsmoking floors, he said.

RHA President Ben Wallace said "the removal of tobacco sales is a battle RHA will fight."

"Tobacco in the residence halls is something RHA has supported for years," Wallace said. "I don't think the university realizes how much money they will lose by not selling tobacco."

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