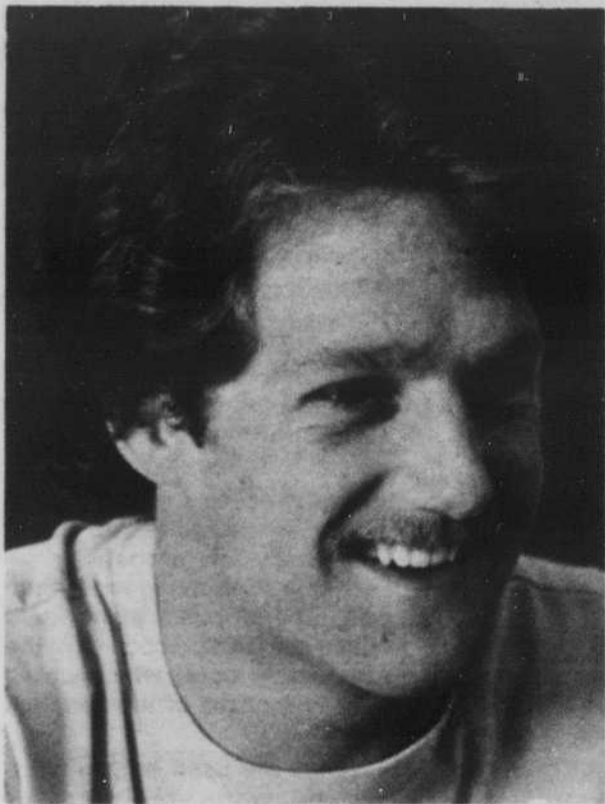


ASUO leaders instruct intercollegiate workshops



Rich Wilkins



Alan Contreras

By Dane Claussen
Of the Emerald

ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins and Alan Contreras, ASUO vice president of program administration, will lead workshop sessions at the Fourth Intercollegiate Conference at the University of Pennsylvania this week.

Wilkins and Contreras, who flew to New York Tuesday and will take a train to Philadelphia, are leading sessions on student government structures and national higher education policy.

No incidental fees were used to finance the trip. Funding came from the American Association of University Students, the conference's sponsor. Street Fair profits and the University Foundation also helped finance the trip. Conference fees have been waived because of the two ASUO leaders' participation.

The association asked University Pres. Paul Olum for participation by ASUO officials after learning of ASUO activities, especially their lobbying efforts.

"Olum thought it was important for us to be involved nationally so it doesn't look like we're dead out here," Wilkins said Tuesday. When compared with other student governments, the ASUO is one of the "most powerful and professional in the country," he said.

The session on student government will include discussion of starting student governments, restructuring them, getting them "more influence into the colleges and universities," and generally making them more effective, Wilkins said.

The second session, concentrating on higher education, will focus on what student governments can do to battle "Reagan's higher ed" cuts, he added.

"It was a good compliment for us to be invited," Wilkins said, adding that the invitation reflected well on the University and student body as well as the student government.

"For the first time, students from universities, both public and private, that have normally competed against each other are now cooperating with each other," says Leonard Ginsberg, a University of Pennsylvania student and conference organizer. "They are working toward the goal of improving education for all students, no matter where they attend."

The conference will include about 300 student leaders from more than 40 universities.

IFC chairer Karsten Rasmussen was originally scheduled to attend the conference instead of Contreras but bowed out for academic reasons. Rasmussen is a second year law student.

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