

Student Senate adopts resolution

Sisterhood a step closer

By Mary Lichtenwalner
Of the Emerald

The University's sister relationship with the University of El Salvador is one step closer to reality, Student Senate Chair Donna Lawrence said.

The ASUO passed a resolution earlier this fall to become a sister university with the Salvadoran university. Last week, the Student Senate formally passed a similar resolution and suggested the University Senate also adopt the sister university resolution.

Passage of the resolution by the University Senate is the next step in achieving an exchange between the universities. That relationship could facilitate future exchanges of faculty, students and materials as well as a cultural exchange, said Margie Boyd, ASUO program coordinator.

"I would certainly like to see student exchanges and faculty exchanges — it depends on how much effort we put into it and how much risk people want to take," Boyd said.

The Student Senate's acceptance of the resolution is a goal the senate has worked to attain throughout fall term, Lawrence said. The ASUO initially proposed the possible relationship between the two universities, said ASUO President Lynn Pinckney.

"We wanted to help them re-establish the university... they are desperate for supplies,

even basics — pencils, paper and other supplies," Pinckney said.

The ASUO organized a tour of the University for two Salvadoran students in November. Antonio Quezada, president of the General Association of Salvadoran Students, and Rodolfo Rosales, vice president of the student organization, visited the University. Rosales told University students, faculty and administrators about the violent situation at the Salvadoran university and said the UES needs their support.

Students at UES are deprived of a healthy educational atmosphere, Rosales said. Many classes are held in rooms without walls, with broken materials or none at all because of the terrorist problem at the Salvadoran university.

Students are also often harassed and threatened by terrorists, Rosales said. Quezada and Rosales appeared on a "hit list" published in July by the Secret Anti-Communist Army, a known death squad, they said.

The resolution also encourages the Salvadoran government to keep the UES open and accessible to students.

University President Paul Olum said he considers the University's relationship with all Central American universities a sister relationship.

"I welcome all of them as sister universities, but a more formal declaration is fine with me," Olum said.

Notifying landlords before vacation prevents problems

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Leaving school to go home for the holidays can be a costly venture. Not only is gas spendy and the roads often dangerous, but sometimes students come back to the University to find a hefty bill for apartment repairs that could have been avoided simply by notifying their landlords.

"What students should do first before they go home for Christmas is to look at their leases," ASUO Legal Services Attorney Karsten Rasmussen says. "I think a lot of people sign them and never read them."

By checking their leases, students may find that they must notify their landlords before they leave for more than seven days, Rasmussen says.

Rasmussen says last year a number of students who had left their apartments or rentals over break came back to costly surprises — bills for broken pipes and water damage.

Landlords often will pay for plumbing problems, but water damage to tenants' possessions is usually left up

to the student to handle, Rasmussen says.

"The bills for plumbing repairs can cost up to several hundred dollars, Rasmussen says. "And to students, that's a lot."

"After Thanksgiving vacation, I had several people come in whose roofs had collapsed from water damage. It made their apartments completely unlivable," he says. "It's especially a tremendous hassle right now, at this time of year."

To be safe, tenants should give written notice to their landlords of their absence, Rasmussen says. And they should give their managers permission to keep an eye on their apartment or rental.

"In fact, more important to giving permission, they should ask them to check inside," Rasmussen says.

If a student did notify the landlord, but comes home to bills for damages, and the landlord claims the tenant did not notify him or her, Rasmussen says the student should first consult him for advice. "Then they should take them to small claims court," he says.

Sue Barelman, general manager of Elizabethan Management, which operates several local apartment complexes, says Elizabethan tries to remind tenants to notify the management before they leave for vacations. Sometimes, however, Elizabethan employees notice an apartment they manage appears unoccupied for a length of time.

"If we have any suspicion that they have left, we don't go inside, but we just check the outside to make sure nothing is broken or unlocked," Barelman says.

Keeping the heat on low during vacation may be expensive, but Rasmussen says it is a good idea. Also, having the manager or a friend turn lights on in the apartment periodically will discourage any possible break-ins.

Bernard Petersen of Petersen Plumbing advises students to let their faucets drip slightly to keep the water pipes from freezing and breaking. Also, covering all outside vents of a rental is crucial to prevent cold air from circulating under the house. "Even insulated pipes can freeze," he says.

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