

Housing wants rule change

By Sarah Clark
Oregon Daily Emerald

University Housing has proposed changing an Oregon Administrative Rule in order to revise the guidelines for family housing eligibility requirements.

A hearing on the proposed rule is scheduled today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 221 Allen.

The University needs to change the rule in order to implement new family housing eligibility requirements that would open family housing to all students with financial need who are over 21.

The current administrative rule says childless students must be married in order to qualify for family housing.

The proposed rule would let the University's housing director decide eligibility requirements by considering several factors, including that family housing rents are so much cheaper than other local rents that it constitutes a "significant financial benefit" for tenants.

Some students said the University should let tenants have a vote in eligibility decisions.

"We should have an equal voice in decisions that affect our daily lives," said Amazon Tenants Council Officer Nancy Forrest.

The proposed rule would require the housing director to get advice from tenants, but some students say the advice is not used.

For example, LGBA member Ron Schlittler noted that the proposed family housing eligibility requirements haven't changed much since University Housing Director Mike Eyster introduced them last fall, even though Eyster has met several times with a committee of students and faculty to get their input.

Eyster said he has to be the one to make eligibility decisions.

"I am ultimately responsible for maintaining occupancy of area housing," Eyster said. "Eligibility plays a big role in maintaining occupancy."

If the new administrative rule passes, Eyster said he anticipates implementing the new eligibility requirements for tenants moving in this fall.

Students have applauded the new eligibility requirements for getting rid of the marriage requirement for childless students, thereby opening family housing to gay and lesbian couples.

However, many students say the new requirements open family housing too far.

Even though the new requirements give highest priority to students with children, Forrest said tenants are concerned that family housing will become filled with single students who qualify because they have financial need.

"It will change the nature of the community of family housing," Forrest said.

Forrest, Schlittler and other students have suggested the University recognize domestic partnerships in family housing in order to weed out students who are living together just as roommates.

But Eyster and other housing officials have said the University can't recognize domestic partnerships because the state doesn't.

Eyster has said he's tried to preserve a more "mature atmosphere" in family housing by requiring tenants to be at least 21.

But many say this is unfair to students under 21 who are in committed relationships and deserve to live in family housing.

"While the University jumps out of the frying pan of marital status discrimination, it jumps into the fire of age discrimination," said Marlene Drescher, Office of Student Advocacy director.

ELECTION

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little effect on election results and last year only about three ballots were turned in. Dennis said she doesn't expect more than 10 people to vote from OIMB.

There were 65 write-in candidates during this year's election, an unusually high number, but, said Sabourin, only 38 of those write-ins were actual students who could have been capable of holding the post of president and vice president for next year.

Sabourin said many students wrote in candidates that were not students but fictional characters.

"Some people wrote in Donald Duck," she said.

These artificial votes gave election officials more headaches in determining the true percentage student voters for the 50 percent plus one election requirement.

The officials had to check each write-in vote to make sure the write-in was had satisfactory student status so the vote could be counted into the total voter percentage.

In the Student Senate race seven of the 14 available seats were filled. Election officials are unsure about outcomes for the other seven seats.

The Associated Students Presidential Advisory Council seat and the Incidental Fee Committee one year seat will also need to be recounted, said officials.

In the EMU board one year race, S.W. Conser and Mathew Hasek received enough votes to appear on the general election ballot.

The EMU board two year seat is still up for grabs.

In other races, there are many seats still undecided, including five positions

that remain within five votes and will be recounted today.

Voter turnout was about average in comparison to past years; 12 percent of the student body participated in the primary elections. ASUO president Bobby Lee said the percentage is still well above the 6 percent turnout rate for national average for college campus Elections.

ASUO Primary Election

The following is a preliminary list of ASUO election winners, or candidates who will appear on the general election ballot next week, according to election board officials. Final results are expected this evening.

President/Vice President
Eric Bowen/Diana Collins Puento

Student Senate
Seat #7 — K. Waters, J. Thomas
Seat #10 — C. Fox
Seat #11 — S. Johnson
Seat #12 — J. Williamson, G. Gord
Seat #14 — C. Chase
Seat #15 — S. Carver
Seat #16 — G. Brody

EMU Board One Year Seat
S.W. Conser, Mathew Hasek

Results of other races was not being released by election officials at press time until results could be finalized.

IFC

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the current committee deadline of May 10 doesn't allow the ASUO to present the budget to University President Myles Brand.

Lee said he has tried to work out agreements with IFC Chairman Steve Masat, but he is worried the committee won't complete its work on time.

"I realized that by April 15, the IFC had allocated only one — half of its budget," Lee said. "I don't have confidence the IFC can allocate \$3.8 million of student money in 12 working days."

Committee member Anne Wagoner said the IFC plans to meet four times this week and three times next week to complete its schedule on time.

FROG

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can only be issued for the sale of food, beverages, flowers or balloons.

Chief Judge George Joseph Richardson, who wrote the court's opinion, said the city ordinance violated the Oregon State Constitution's Article I, section 8. That section reads, "No law shall be passed restraining the free expression of opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely on any subject whatever."

Richardson said the city's

objective of keeping the streets and sidewalks clear didn't allow them to prohibit Frog's book sales. He said the critical fact in the case was that the ordinance allowed some sales, but did not allow the sale of Frog's books.

The ordinance was unconstitutional because the city could not show why the selling of the joke books was any different than the sale of the food, beverages, flowers or balloons, Richardson said.

"This ordinance ... regulates different exercises of the same commercial and communicative activity differently, on the basis

of what is sold and communicated. That content-based regulation is what Article I, section 8, prohibits above all else," Richardson said.

"It's like saying you can sell pencils, but not pens," said Rebecca Davis, Frog's attorney.

Frog said he was happy he won his appeal, but also said he was upset with the city for making him go to court.

Frog, who lost a similar appeal on a technicality in 1990, said he is planning to sue the city for lost wages, legal fees and will seek damages for the stress the case has caused him.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Constitutional Court will have a hearing in regard to the IFC budget process tonight at 8:30 in the EMU Oak Room. For more information, call 346-3724.

Unwanted Sexual Behavior and International Issues Committee will meet today at 3:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 346-1091.

IFC will hear budgets tonight at 6:30 in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-3749.

Circle K International will meet tonight at 7:30 in EMU Century Room A. For more information, call 344-5078.

Alpha Phi Omega will meet tonight from 7 to 8:30 in EMU Cedar Room F. Executives will meet at 6. For more information, call 346-9794.

RELIGION

United Methodist Ministry deadline to register for the Wesley Foundation Retreat (April 24-25) is today. Turn in registrations at 1236 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-4694.

MISCELLANEOUS

Honors College invites any University student to attend a fireside chat by Tom Bates, author of *Roads*, tonight at 7 in Room 303 Chapman. For more information, call 683-1175.

Lesbian Gay Law Students Association will present former Judge Katharine English to discuss "Post-Measure 9 Gay and Lesbian Activism" tonight from 7:30 to 9 in Room 129 Law. For more information, call 485-3358.

Southeast Asian Studies program will sponsor "Co-variables of Infant and Child Mortality in Thailand: A Hazards Model Analysis of the DHS Data" by JB Zheng, a Ph.D. candidate in sociology, today from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 346-1521.

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And that's just what they'll do, or one of these days gas will cost \$24 a gallon and those little 5-block trips to the video store will add up quick. Or maybe we'll simply run out of gas, and the only way to get from point A to point B will be to ride a bike, skateboard, or lace-up your most comfortable boots and hoof it. So think about this the next time you want some cookie dough ice cream and the store is in walking distance. Save yourself some gas money, get some exercise (like you don't need any), and save the Earth a little wear and tear.
Celebrate Alternative Transportation Day.
Call 346-4336 for today's program schedule.

Sponsored by the U of O Earth Week committee
The Survival Center and Campus Recycling
