

Advising offered in residence halls

■ **SCHEDULING:** Members of residence hall staff now available as peer advisors

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Reporter

As the drone of the monotone voice on Duck Call threatens to increase blood pressure, residence hall students don't have to panic — there is a new resource to turn to.

Residence halls will now be providing peer advising for students, aimed specifically at freshmen, transfer students and students living in the residence halls who have not declared their majors, said Roz Cohen, University Housing peer advising coordinator.

"Expanding advising resources is helping build a bridge between Housing and the classroom environment," Cohen said. "Our hope is that students utilize the personalized guidance to structuring their schedules."

Returning residence hall staff members went through training for the position, and many are now enrolled in a peer advising class, said Wendy Haws, peer advising coordinator from the Office

of Academic Advising.

This is the first quarter of advising in the residence halls, and to allow students maximum access peer advisors are available in the resident directors' offices in most of the complexes.

For Carson and Earl residents, the Barnheart room is where advisors are holding office hours.

"Access is key to steering students in the right direction toward finding a major," Haws said.

New students are often overwhelmed by University requirements and are unsure of where they can go for help, Haws said. In addition, these students have demanding schedules, making the process of seeking out help a chore.

The residence hall advisors' hours are scheduled on weekday evenings to allow students to drop in.

"Residence hall directors are now accessible for scheduling questions, in addition to their standard duties," Haws said.

Initially, the program has been slow, Haws said. But as Duck Call registration begins for winter term, a higher turnout of students is expected.

"Students are going to be looking at the Schedule of Classes and finding more questions than answers," Haws said. "This is when — we hope — the advising will pick up."

The comfort of a familiar setting is also a bonus for students in the residence halls, Cohen said.

"The one-on-one help is a great way for students to sort out their objectives in school," Cohen said.

The purpose of residence hall peer advising is not to replace the function of the individual department peer advising, Haws said. Rather she said it is just another resource for students who haven't decided which department to go into. She noted 16 departments at the University offer peer counseling.

In the future, there is a possibility of training all resident assistants to be qualified as peer advisors, Cohen said. For now, she said she doesn't anticipate a significant increase in the number of resident assistants trained as peer advisors.

"This service begins and continues the rapport for students to seek academic help — it's one piece of a huge puzzle," she said.

Law: Committee requests design changes

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The other two phases of the plan include additions to Gilbert Hall and remodeling the current law school for use by the College of Arts and Sciences. The law school was completed in 1970.

"The goal of the campus development project is not to only meet the needs of the law school, but to also meet the needs of the University well into the next century," Ramey said.

The founder of Nike, Phil Knight, contributed \$10 million earlier this year to make the new law center possible. The law center will be named after Knight's father, William.

Besides the \$10 million from Knight, another \$4.7 million will be privately raised, and the remaining \$10.3 million will be raised through bonds.

Law School Dean Charles O'Kelley said the law school likes its present location, but due to packed classrooms and the need for updated technology, the new school is welcome.

"Education changes," he said. "The use of the building needs accommodate those changes as they occur."

The hard concrete and brick structure of the current building leaves no room for flexibility, O'Kelley said. The new design allows future expansions to the north and south sides of the building. Expansion of the Knight center will not happen for at least 15 to 20 years after the building's scheduled completion in

January 1999, he said.

The committee, which serves as an advisory board to Williams, formulated four areas they want addressed before final plans for construction are made. They have requested to review the site plan when more details are available on all spaces, namely the landscape areas outside the building. Detailed landscape plans have yet to be worked out.

Suggestions by the committee included looking at design improvements for the southwest corner of Agate Street and 15th Avenue, as well as the other building corners. Ramey said it's possible the intersection will become a focal point for the University.

Another recommendation is the plan for removal and relocation of the architecture storage building located to the southeast of the site.

The committee also asked to see a design of the building's west elevation with curves rather than peaks on the roof design.

O'Kelley, Assistant Law School Dean Jane Gordon, students and faculty from several departments will make design decisions, but the campus planning committee has asked to review those plans before groundbreaking this summer.

By asking for further review of the plans, Ramey said the committee has put a condition on planning that no other committee of its kind has done in the past.

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