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Housing to add conduct coordinator

University Housing hopes to reduce the number of conduct violations that occur

By Michael Hines

In an effort to better align his department with the rest of the University, housing director Michael Eyster has made several changes for the residence halls next year.

"I think [the changes] are good," he said. "I'm trying to work with other parts of the University to have an impact on conduct. Students are telling me there's a perception that we're tolerant of alcohol abuse and rowdy behavior."

This perception is simply not true, Eyster said, and he made sev-

eral major changes to reflect that. One of the biggest changes will be the addition of a full-time professional conduct coordinator. To pay for the new position, University Housing will eliminate the resident director position at Riley Complex. The position will be filled by a graduate teaching fellow, supervised by the University Inn resident director.

Adding a conduct coordinator will alleviate some of the pressure on resident directors that comes from the sheer number of conduct

cases, Eyster said.

'Right now, the resident directors in Hamilton and Bean are so occupied with handling conduct cases that it's difficult for them to handle the conduct load," he said. This presents a problem be-

cause it can take several weeks for a resident to meet with his or her resident director.

'I'm hoping to greatly increase the amount of time between when an incident is committed and when it is heard," Eyster said. "The more important effect is sort of a side effect.

The conduct coordinator position will send a message to housing residents, he said.

In another conduct policy change, Eyster decided to charge residents who have violated housing policy \$10 per incident.

Last year, conduct cases became so backed up that University Housing hired a part-timer to review cases. Since then it investigated the expense of processing individual cases and concluded it costs housing more than \$30 to review each incident.

Eyster stopped short of charging the entire \$30.

"I believe that part of our job is to hear conduct cases, so I didn't feel it was fair to charge the full

Housing will also make some fi nancial adjustments. Residents who live in housing will pay \$5,100 to live in a standard double room, an increase of 9.7 percent over the 1997-98 bill.

"Most of the expenses we incur are not related to the cost of living,' Eyster said. "It's the condition of our buildings and our facilities that drives our rate increases.

Minimum wage has also increased since last year, and that accounts for some of the increases.

Despite the \$5,100 cost, Eyster said he still believes housing is a good deal for the right kind of student. Housing at the University will still remain one of the cheapest places to live in the Pacific-10 Conference, he said.

"There's an element of structure we provide that is good for students who want some kind of recourse. We've got a staff in place,' he said. "If you live in an apartment, you may not have that kind of recourse.

In an effort to cut some of its consistent financial losses, University Housing will no longer allow residents to break their contracts and pay \$2 per unused day. Next year, students will pay \$5 per day, and the following year they will pay the remainder of their contracts, which is approximately \$9 per day.

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