

DDS searches for designated home

■ The campus group has been sharing the ASUO Executive's office but will need new space this fall

By Simone Ripke
Oregon Daily Emerald

Almost a month after the Designated Driver Shuttle moved its operations into the ASUO Executive office following an attack on a dispatcher, the DDS staff and ASUO leaders are still looking for a new permanent home for the popular program.

ASUO President Jay Breslow said DDS can continue to share the ASUO's office space over the summer, but will have to find a new home after that.

"We'll probably have to figure something else out come fall time," Breslow said.

Former ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani had invited DDS to set up a temporary office in the ASUO Executive office in the EMU after the attack. A dispatcher working a night shift was alone in the shuttle's former office in EMU Suite 20 when an unidentified male hit a hole through the office's only window. He stared at the DDS employee for several seconds before running away.

While the dispatcher was not hurt during the incident, the attack was the latest in a series of frightening encounters with the public that DDS employees had experienced and it sparked co-director Brian Wise's decision to move to a safer work environment.

Breslow said he plans to help DDS find a permanent office. Sharing the ASUO Executive office has not been a problem in the past weeks, he said, and will work over the summer while some of the ASUO's staff will be gone. But Breslow also said the current arrangement is not a long-term solution.

DDS will continue to operate regularly during the summer, said DDS dispatcher Renee Bedney, a junior majoring in journalism. Bedney said DDS would like to share office space with a student group that does not use the space during DDS operating hours, which are from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. seven days a week.

"This EMU is packed to the brim and the waiting list for

Time line

April 30 A passenger riding the DDS van pulls a gun on DDS driver and navigator when he wants the van to stop

May 2 An unidentified male punches hole through the window of the DDS office and stares at DDS dispatcher

May 4 DDS moves into the ASUO Executive office in the EMU

May 30 DDS is still sharing the space of the ASUO Executive office and is looking for a permanent location for its office

DDS Summer Hours

During the summer the shuttle will continue to operate from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. seven days a week

space is a mile long," she said.

Bedney said it has been challenging sharing the ASUO Executive's office, but so far it has worked and each group has respected the other's space.

"ASUO hasn't given us the boot," she said.

ASUO Vice President Holly Magner said that although EMU space is limited, she is confident that the ASUO will be able to help DDS find suitable office space that meets the shuttle's needs as far as hours and access go.

"Our biggest concern is that they need to be in a safe place with outside access," Magner said. "I'm sure we'll find something somehow."

Anoushiravani said the EMU Board is making an effort to help DDS find a new permanent home and although space is limited, she said she is confident there will be a solution by fall term.

"There really isn't much of an option," she said.

While she said that sharing the office with DDS during the last few weeks of her term as ASUO vice president did not cause any problems, the ASUO Executive office is not designed to be shared by several groups.

"It's been OK, but I think it definitely cramps everybody's style," she said. "It's fine for a short time, but it's definitely not the place to have another student group."

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