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RHA members admit to drinking on retreat

Three Residence Hall Association members will repay fees because of the policy violation, which occurred at a November conference

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Three members of the Residence Hall Association will repay individual fees for a November conference at which they later admitted to consuming alcohol, a violation of University housing policy and the conference contract, University Housing officials said Friday.

The Residence Hall Association Council, the student governing body that oversees University residence halls, met Jan. 31 to vote on punishments after RHA President Todd Mann was informed of the violations by Assistant Director of Residence Life John Hollan on Jan. 19.

Mann, a sophomore, said he launched an investigation with RHA National

Communications Coordinator and University sophomore Evan Geier and canceled a retreat planned for Jan. 21-23 in light of the rumored violations.

The investigation lasted five days and resulted in the three students being temporarily suspended from their RHA positions after admitting to the suspected violations, Mann said in a Feb. 2 statement.

The conference, a meeting of the Pacific Affiliate College and University Residence Halls, took place in Arcata, Calif., Nov. 12-14 and was attended by nine RHA representatives.

The RHA Council ordered the three to repay the cost of attending the conference and to repay the cost of canceling the January

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Student starts petition to recall ASUO officials

Silas Snider, a University sophomore, needs to gather 1,800 signatures within one month for a special election to be held

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A University sophomore disgruntled with recent student government actions filed paperwork Friday to begin a recall of the ASUO Executive and the ASUO Student Senate.

If the ASUO Constitution Court approves computer and information science major Silas Snider's request, he will have one month to gather signatures of 10 percent of fee-paying students — about 1,800 signatures — to force a special election giving voters the option to recall the officials.

A majority of voters would be needed to remove the officials from office, according to the Green Tape Notebook, which governs the structure of student government.

Snider said he wants a recall because of student leaders' actions on and after the Oct. 8-10 Sunriver retreat, at which ASUO officials admitted an unspecified number of the 39 members

who went on the trip drank alcohol and smoked marijuana, a violation of the Student Conduct Code.

"I am seeking this action specifically because of the incidents that occurred during the retreat to Sunriver this last October, as well as the attitude displayed by the ASUO that they are generally above the rules and regulations that apply to the general populace," Snider said in the written request.

Taking group responsibility for the incident, the ASUO proposed several punishments, including community service and paying back student money used for the trip. The final agreement between participants and Student Judicial Affairs Director Chris Loschiavo did not include repayment because officials said it would not be feasible to raise the money or determine how much money would be necessary because much of the retreat was productive.

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Main goal of state credit package is to help ease transfers

The Oregon Transfer Module, a 45-credit package to be accepted at all public schools in the state, was approved for implementation this fall

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

Beginning next fall, Oregon students will have an easier time transferring credits between Oregon University System and Oregon community college institutions with the establishment of the Oregon Transfer Module.

The OTM was unanimously approved Thursday by the state's Joint Boards of Education.

The module will not introduce any courses to Oregon schools. Public colleges will instead group an array of general education required courses together. When a first-year student completes the set at any college, he or she will be granted the OTM, a 45-credit package that all the state's public schools will accept.

Officials say they hope the module will help facilitate the movement between institutions, which already takes place.

"More and more what we're finding is that students don't just come to one institution, take all their courses at that institution and graduate," said Lorraine Davis, vice president for Academic Affairs. "Even if you're picking up a course or program or term here and there, you can come in with this package of courses that can't be unraveled, will be accepted and will be a part of general education requirements."

The program targets students in their first year of college who

aren't certain of what they want to major in.

Peter Gilkey, mathematics professor and former president of the inter-institutional faculty senate, explained that the program will help plug a hole in the system that schools use to transfer credits between community colleges and universities.

The Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree is a two-year degree that can be earned at a community college, Gilkey said. However, students who want to transfer to a university to work on major requirements after just one year can't get the AAOT.

That means that classes have to be transferred over individually, which can sometimes result in lost credits.

"(The OTM) will establish some clarity for students about expectations," Gilkey said. "I wouldn't say it's a panacea, but it's better than taking courses at random during the first year."

Davis described the OTM as a subset of AAOT courses.

"Only about 40 percent of the students who were transferring were coming over with the AAOT," Davis said. "So there should be a smaller subset of courses that (students) can bring over."

To obtain the OTM, Oregon students will have to hold a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 at the time

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman David Fertal and junior Tova Opsal dance at Viva Las Vegas, held in the EMU Ballroom on Friday.

Viva Las Vegas

The International Student Association held the Viva Las Vegas party Friday in place of a Valentine's Day event

BY AIBING GUO
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

An international dance party staged in the EMU Ballroom on Friday night had music, refreshments and dancing, and at this party, all visitors were dressed up.

Formal dress was a special

requirement for the Viva Las Vegas dance party, hosted by the International Student Association. It was the first time in the organization's history that a formal dance party was hosted instead of the group's traditional Valentine's Day party.

"We are just trying to do something

new and different this year, so we decided to do this formal dancing in the ballroom," said ISA Co-Director Ryohei Ishii.

Ishii, a student from Japan who attended middle school in the United States, understands that most international students have never had a chance to go to a formal dance party, unlike American students who had formal dances in their high schools.

"For most international students,

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