

Housing signup changes

By **Anthony Cook**
Editor in chief

When a change in procedure happens from one year to the next, people take note.

However it's often assumed that those changes that might make it easier for some will make it harder on students.

In light of this, the Residence Life Office hopes that an impending change to the housing assignment process will not be need for alarm. The new process should benefit the business practices in their office as well as students.

Last year, Josh Case, residence life coordinator, found a few inefficiencies within the housing process. At that time, students were asked to fill out an online application that acted as a wish list for that student. The form requested that students indicate where they wanted to live and who they wanted to live with.

Case said, "This process took a long time to finish. We had to sort through applications, assess priority, and place students where they wanted to be. The process involved a lot of shuffling and we often had to rework housing rosters several times before they were complete. Last year the process took about a month and a half to finish and we were unable to distribute new housing assignments until April."

Case is putting the finishing touches on a new process that Residence Life will implement this semester. This process will allow students to find out where they are living in one evening.

Residence Life plans to host a one night housing event in late February or early March. The event will be in the cafeteria where all students who are required to live on campus in the fall semester will be required to attend. The event will be divided into two sessions.

Case said, "Students who wish to live in Warren or a Reid quad will attend the first session. When they enter the cafeteria they will be asked to stand in one of six lines with their roommates."

"In this line each student's priority will be assessed and averaged. Based on the students' priority level they will be called to the back of the cafeteria, where there will be blank housing rosters. Here, the students will have an opportunity to choose their housing assignment for the following year. At this time they will also sign their housing contract. After this, students may leave."

Priority level is a student's G.P.A. multiplied by the number of Southwestern credit hours accumulated. Individual student priority will be figured before the event. When in line, students will give their name and/or the name of their roommates and

their priority number will be distributed to them.

"The highest priority numbers will be called first. For instance we will call students with a priority between 300 and 400 down first. These students get the first pick of where they want to live. They will even get to pick the apartment number. We will do that until everyone in the cafeteria has been placed. We anticipate this lasting a total of an hour and a half per session," said Case.

Students who attended the first session and did not receive a Warren apartment or Reid quad will need to stay for the second session. At this session students will have the opportunity to sign up for all remaining apartments and residence halls. Again, roommates who want to live together will be asked to come to the event together.

Case said, "Students will need to be there with those they want to room with. If a roommate can't show up there will be 'proxy cards' that will be made available in the Student Life Office. Basically these cards indicate 'yes I want to live with these people.' Students unable to attend the event will need to fill out a proxy card prior to the event and their roommates will need to bring this card with them on the night of the event."

Under the current system, most have had to tolerate the

long wait to find out where they are living.

Eva Sanders, business administration senior, said, "The wait is kind of long to find out because if you have to make adjustments there really isn't enough time to try and find someone else or somewhere else to live. But it is nice to find out your housing before you leave school so you can shop over the summer for stuff."

Courtney Putnam, athletic training sophomore, has had success with the process but sees the wait in time as an issue.

"I think that the old process is fine. It just takes a little longer to find out where you are going to live and who you are going to live with," said Putnam

Details are still being finished for the new process, but it won't be hard for students to get actively involved in voicing their opinions.

Case said, "This is the first step in communicating the new process to students. We hope to hold a student discussion panel prior to the event, but we have yet to set a date for such an event. At this panel we will address any questions or concerns pertaining to the new process. We will keep students posted via the Jinx Tale with any updates."

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Residence life seeks applicants for RAs

By **Korie Hawkins**
Staff reporter

Leadership, responsibility and communication skills are the qualities that Sarah Hallinan, director of residence life, is looking for from next year's resident assistant applicants.

A resident assistant is in charge of a specific floor in a designated residence hall. They help students with living arrangements, create floor activities and through their leadership role, help housing operations flow smoothly.

Resident assistants must be at least a sophomore with at least a 2.5 grade point average.

Former RA's who want to return to their position must reapply.

Matt Perkins, business management junior, has been an RA for about a year and a half. He plans to reapply.

Perkins said, "Since I'm a business management major being an RA helps with my resume. The position allows you to meet new people, and the incentives are really nice. You get your own room, like \$2,000 a year to go toward school, plus you get paid on top of that."

There are also alternate positions available. Hallinan said, "Alternative positions

are backups in case an RA opening occurs during mid-semester. They have already been through RA training and are able to fill that spot."

Nate Jones, communication senior, is an alternate RA. He said, "I would take over if a position needed to be filled. I normally just help out when I can like hanging flyers and planning activities for the dorm."

Applications are available in the Student Life Office located in Sutton on the second floor. Applications include information about applicants. Three written recommendations are also required. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Feb. 9 in the Student Life Office.

"We use the week after applications are due to organize the interview process," said Hallinan. Interviews will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Feb. 15.

Staff will be announced Feb. 20. Hallinan said, "Training for RA's starts two weeks before fall semester starts. It's about a three to four day process. Then we meet once a month after that."

Korie Hawkins is a sophomore majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at korie.hawkins@sckans.edu.

Faculty changes advising process

By **Cameron Siefkes**
News and opinion editor

Freshmen come into college not necessarily knowing in what direction their life will be going. Relief comes after they talk to that one professor who will become their advisor.

Being paired with a professor from a random department on campus is how the system has worked for years. That is all about to change.

Starting this fall, all incoming freshmen will be paired differently. This is a system that Tami Pullins, associate vice president for advising and student success, says has taken a year and a half to figure out.

"When the gen ed requirements changed it was a good opportunity to look at what we were doing with advising. It had been 15 years since anyone had looked at it," said Pullins.

A committee of faculty, students and administrators were put together to make the changes. The committee took students' opinions into consideration before making a decision. Pullins said that they reviewed the student satisfaction inventory and that there did not seem to be an immediate need for change.

After all of the deliberation, a departmental advising model was approved. Incoming freshmen will now have the opportunity to be assigned to an advisor in their department of interest. Students who aren't sure about their major may still be paired with a general advisor.

In past years, a general advisor was assigned to freshmen. This means that even if a student was interested in a certain area, they may not necessarily have been matched up with someone in

that same department.

Not all students were impressed with this system. Tag Wall, philosophy & religious studies sophomore, was on the committee that created the new system for advising. He said, "The problem with the previous system was that we had people who knew what they wanted to do, who were stuck with professors who maybe didn't know anything about that particular major."

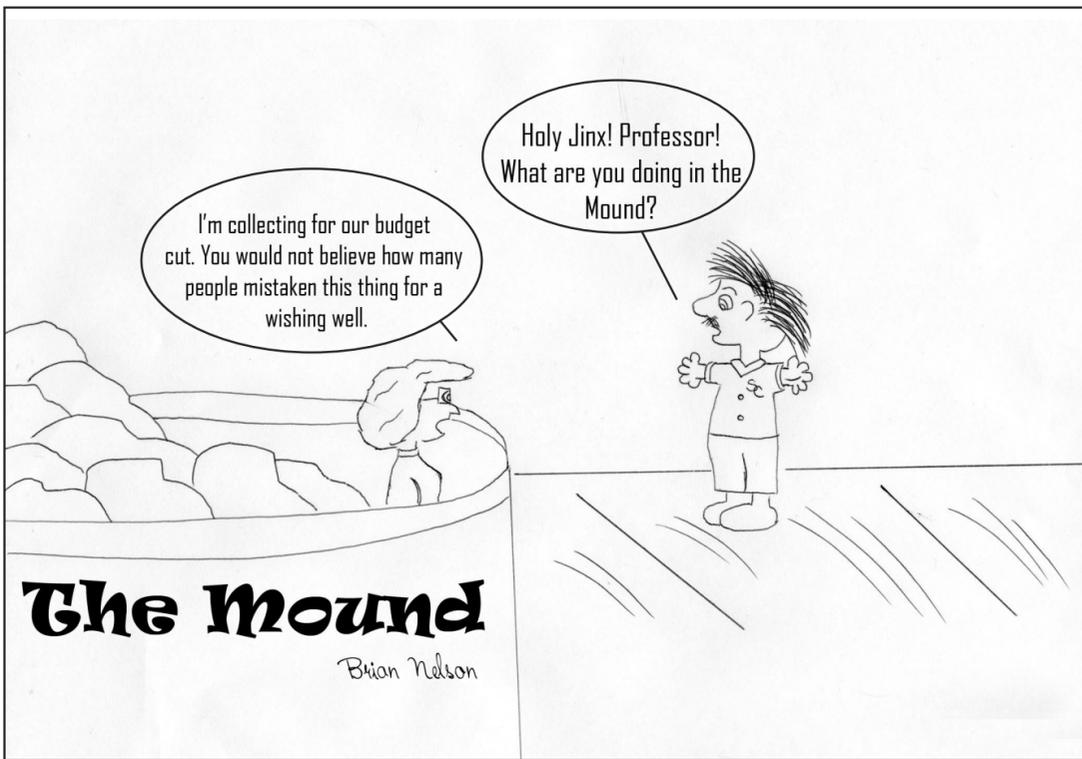
Molly Hamlett, math senior, finds dislike from personal experience. "I came in as a math major. My advisor was Chris Schmitz, an associate professor of music. He spent more time on the phone with Bob Gallup and in the course catalog figuring out what I should take than he spent getting to know me and helping me figure out what I wanted to do with the rest of my life."

Pullins said it was tough to change the system because not all students were unhappy with the way things were. "I think what was difficult about making the switch was that people liked the old model. There were plenty of people who liked their general advisors," said Pullins.

Pullins understands that a departmental advisor will give students an early start at planning for future endeavors. She said, "They will be able to see from the time that they are a freshman what they should be doing to get a career."

Wall said, "This will allow students to get information on internships, career options and graduate opportunities at an earlier point than the old system, and that is a good thing."

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Struggling economy causes budget cuts

By **Inger Marie Furcholt**
Features editor

The economic crunch no longer just affects big companies. It affects small businesses and small colleges.

The college has an annual budget of \$21.2 million. Salaries and benefits are \$11.3 million. The operating budget is \$6.1 million. Plant and utilities are \$2.6 million and debt payments are \$1.2 million.

Sheila Krug, vice president for finance and human resources, considers herself lucky to have a job, while people all over the country are losing theirs.

"For me, when I watch the news everyday I see people who are losing their jobs all the time now," said Krug.

Krug says that the college

is being conservative due to the economic downturn.

"The college is highly dependent on tuition and we do not yet know how the recession is going to affect us," said Krug. "We are building the 2009-2010 budget assuming that that we will have a reduction in tuition, gift and endowment income. Because of this we will also need to reduce spending."

"There will probably be a freeze on salaries. After that we will look for reductions in operating budgets," said Krug. "The types of cuts will really depend upon the department and their needs."

As for on-campus employment, many students have had the experience of having their work hours cut or have been laid off. This is because departments are each allotted

a budget for student help.

Donna Davis, financial aid administrative assistant, said, "Right now we're looking at the budget, and what has already been spent so we can make it through the rest of the year."

Daniela Giugea, business sophomore, said, "I used to work five days a week, and now I only work four. If I would get my hours cut more, I would have to give up things that I don't really need, and stick with the necessities."

Giugea thinks that students getting laid off or getting their hours cut is a temporary thing and that it will probably pass as the nation's economy becomes better.

"It's bad. They'll just have to go through it the way it is. Eventually it will go back to

normal," said Giugea.

Krug explained why student workers have had their hours cut.

"In previous years we have been able to supplement a department's budget when they required additional student worker hours. In the last couple of years the college has added additional student work positions that have used up our fund flexibility, such as the Student Success Center and the Farney Center," said Krug. "Departments have the flexibility of using operational budget to cover student work expense, but this is a departmental decision based on their needs."

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