

Student Government is optimistic

Carol Seavey

STAFF WRITER

Improving student advising is priority for the new student government president and vice president.

"People are taking the wrong classes and graduating late," said Student Government President Cory Lawrence. "This is the advisors responsibility; to show them what track they need to get through college in the least amount of time."

Lawrence, 23, is a fourth-year political science major from Spirit Lake, North Dakota.

Lawrence would like to require that advisors reach out to students.

Right now, students are supposed to meet with their advisor either in their major or in the advising center to get their access code before registering for classes. However, some advisors give out access codes over the phone and don't actually meet with students.

Lawrence would also like to implement required training for advisors.

In the past, advisors could go to open advising sessions. This year there will be more personalized training, said Steve Klepetar, faculty director of advising and an English professor,

"We want to create powerpoint presentations that are specific to every

major," Klepetar said.

Instead of attending a scheduled session, advisors could view the powerpoint presentation when it fits their schedule.

The advising center has made some other recent changes to help things run smoothly.

Students with probation appointments will now receive a sheet explaining where they stand and what they need to do to get out of probation.

The six full time staff members at the advising center advise students with undecided majors or match them with an advisor in their department.

"Advisors need to have accurate information and students need to make the effort," Klepetar said. "If a student has an advisor who's not available or wants to change, we can assign them a new one or advise them here."

Lobbying legislation

Student Government would also like to push for students to get involved in lobbying state legislation. Specifically during Lobby Day, when students from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities go to the state capital and discuss their concerns with legislators.

Parking possibilities

One thing they're hoping will be in

the bonding bills this year is an on-campus parking ramp.

In the past, state money was not available for parking ramps. However, Metro State and Minneapolis Community Technical College recently received funding for a joint parking ramp, Lawrence said.

"Now that the doors are open we can start lobbying," he said.

Possible locations are between Garvey and Health Services or at the old International Studies building. One current idea is to build a combined parking ramp and dormitory.

MGMs

Student Government Vice President Rachel Hughes would like to see credits abroad fill an MGM requirement.

Hughes, 22, is a fifth-year student majoring in earth science and community studies as well as secondary education licensure. She is from Fargo, North Dakota.

Getting Involved

More issues and ideas will come up as student government committees start meeting. Committees are made up of student senators and anyone else who would like to get involved. There are committees for fee allocation, cultural diversity and finances.



CHRONICLE STAFF PHOTO

SCSU student body President Cory Lawrence and Vice President Rachel Hughes look forward to tackling goals this school year.

"It's a way to get involved in what's going on on campus," Hughes said.

Most committees meet once a week for an hour. Students can apply at

the student government office in Atwood Memorial Center. The deadline is September 10.



ADAM MASLOSKI/VISUALS EDITOR

Lawrence Hall is open to students and offices for the first time this fall after undergoing major renovations.

Lawrence Hall reopens

Ashwin Raman

STAFF WRITER

Lawrence Hall, the oldest building on campus, has reopened as a dormitory this semester after a 30-year hiatus. The residence hall, named after SCSU's eighth president Isabel Lawrence, was built in 1885 and hasn't been used as dorm since 1965.

After a \$6.4 million remodeling that took a year, Lawrence Hall now houses 100 students, the Center for International Studies (CIS) and the Foreign Languages and Literature department. One of the remarkable aspects about Lawrence Hall, however, is the concept behind it.

"The concept within Lawrence Hall is that the students are either international or domestic students with an international interest," said Steve Ludwig, vice president of administrative affairs. "This concept has been around since 1995."

The concept of having an international center on campus was what made the CIS and the Foreign Languages and Literature departments move, said Shawn Jarvis, chairperson of the foreign languages department.

"It is easier to coordinate international activities on campus this way," Jarvis added.

Ludwig also said that one of the added features of Lawrence is that it has a computer lab and one regular classroom, which will be used for foreign language classes.

Ruhi Rai, who works at the front desk in Lawrence Hall, feels that this building has a different feel to it than other dorms she has worked in.

"This dorm gives you a fresh feeling," said Rai, a senior in biotechnology. "And it is air conditioned." Rai has previously worked in both Stearns and Shoemaker Hall.

For freshman Kevin Nathan from Malaysia, Lawrence Hall is the perfect welcome for him to America.

"Everything is new and will be a good environment for me to study in," said Nathan who be major in mechanical engineering.

"People have told me that this is the best dorm," he said. Furthermore, he, like Rai, finds the air-conditioning an added bonus to dorm.

Some who have moved into Lawrence Hall are still in the tran-

sitional period of getting used to the place.

Linda Raine, office manager and study abroad coordinator for the CIS, said that she still needs time to adjust to being in Lawrence Hall. The CIS was previously located in a house across the library on Fifth Avenue and is now home to the Women's Studies department.

"In my opinion, I liked the house we were in because it had a homely feeling to it," Raine said. The move to Lawrence Hall, however, had been planned for years.

"We moved from the adminISTRATION building eight years ago to the CIS house but we knew it was temporary because once this building (Lawrence Hall) was renovated, we were to move in," Raine said.

She believes that over time however, she will get settled in her new office.

"In time I will like this building. And it is nice being here with the international students upstairs," Raine added.