

Teague alumni, student leaders react to decision

Future of residence hall's 'foundation' unsure, co-founders say

By SHARON KEBSCHULL
Editor

Teague Residence Hall alumni and members of the "Teague Foundation," established to provide funds for the dormitory, expressed disappointment with the dean of student affairs' decision to support the housing department's switch to a coeducational dormitory Tuesday.

The foundation, which has almost met its initial goal of \$20,000 for the dormitory, may now have to offer members a refund or allow them to cancel pledges, said Allen Wilson, co-

founder of the foundation.

"We're very disappointed — we've been working on the campaign for two years," Wilson said. "We certainly understand moving the 72 men out ... I don't want our people to feel we are in favor of a coed dorm. If you kick everyone out of the dorm, the problem is removed, all the bad blood, bad tradition that is there that you need to get rid of. We're not sure what the additional benefits are of coed."

However, the Teague Foundation's co-founder, Kent Smith, said he

understood many of the reasons behind the decision to go coed, saying it was "incredibly fact-based."

Dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton announced his support Tuesday of the housing department's changing the all-male dormitory to coed. As the housing director's superior, Boulton was capable of reversing the decision.

Wilson said he and Smith had not decided what they would do with any money remaining in the fund.

"I'm disappointed, but the more

important news is why — that's because we have put so much effort into trying to (establish) something special for the campus, for the residence hall," Wilson said.

The founders were hoping this would set off a chain reaction among alumni of other residence halls, Wilson said. To his knowledge, the foundation is the only one like it within the state or country.

"They (housing officials) said we can still have the campaign, but to say that sort of misses what we're about."

Housing officials are to meet with Wilson and Smith Friday. In that meeting, the heads of the foundation would like to "prove to some people that we (Teague alumni) are not all the goons that they think we are," Smith said.

"I have a lot of empathy for what they (housing officials) are trying to go through. What I am mad about is we haven't heard a thing about this for the past four years," he said. "The only real problem we have with the decision is it's been real quick ... I feel like I got hit with a brick."

Martin, Randolph criticize officials for minimizing their opinions

By SHARON KEBSCHULL
Editor

Although the dean of student affairs heard them out on whether to support the decision to change Teague Residence Hall to coeducational, student leaders said Wednesday their opinions were still not considered enough, and they criticized the decision.

"What I'm saying is we've got a fresh new start," said Jimmy Randolph, Resident Hall Association President. "With the cooperation of the housing staff we can be successful as an all-male dorm. If they'd just give us a chance, we could make a go of it."

"Apparently the housing depart-

ment and (Dean of Student Affairs Donald) Boulton do not share my philosophy. Apparently this 'Teague mystique' is too strong of an influence to be overcome by RHA and the housing department," Randolph said.

After Boulton heard from Randolph, Student Body President Kevin Martin and housing officials Tuesday, he announced his support of the switch to coed and the move of the 72 former residents who were to be readmitted to the dormitory. The decision came, according to housing officials, because of the so-called "Teague tradition" and a history of problems with Teague in the last four years that culminated in a party at the end of April and the racial and

sexual harassment of the area director that followed.

"I have been encouraged by their consulting with us on the issue of 'coedness' in Teague," Randolph said. "But maybe you should ask the director of housing about how important he feels our opinion is, if you really want to know the answer to that question."

"Nothing is inherently wrong with the walls of the dorm or of an all-male dorm, and I don't believe the mystique would be passed down with no upperclassmen there to pass it down," Martin said.

"The drastic steps have been taken already to deal with this aspect of the problem (through moving the 72 men)," he said. "My concern now is how best to rebuild the dorm."

Martin said problems included the demographics of the area — the

switch changes the makeup of two female, one male and two coed dormitories in Scott Residence College; the bad precedent set that when there is a disciplinary problem, a dormitory is changed to coed; and the lack of an option of an all-male environment to students, with the exception of North Campus.

It was also a problem that alumni were not involved, Martin said. In this case, they should be given special consideration because of the interest they express in the dormitory and the "Teague Foundation," which has raised around \$20,000 for the residence hall in the first-known foundation for a dormitory in the state or country, he said.

"They (housing officials) were very cooperative in telling us why they had made the decision they had already made, but that's still not the same

as involving us in the decision-making process," Martin said. "Dean Boulton did take into consideration our opinion when making his decision whether to support housing. However, Jimmy and I were put on the defensive, which made it necessary for us to try to persuade that a decision should be reversed."

"The decision to go coed may be the easiest for the housing department, but that alone doesn't make it the right decision for the University," Martin said.

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you to tell you what decision was made. My intent was just that, to make you aware of it rather than you be the last to discover it or read it (in the press)."

"I think that has been Dr. Kuncel's attitude throughout the whole process," Martin said. "Including us at that point is not the same as involving students in the decision-making process. I don't want to just know about the decisions after they're already made but before they're made public."

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