

PSU phone rates may go up

Bell awaiting PUC approval; RHAB studies possible options

By GAIL JOHNSON
Collegian Staff Writer

Residence hall students may soon get higher phone bills, a Bell of Pennsylvania official said yesterday.

Also, a long distance access charge for all telephones could go into effect Jan. 1, said Jeffrey Kuhn, manager of telecommunications for Bell on campus.

The possible increase is pending approval by the Public Utility Commission later this fall, he said, but if the PUC does not approve the increase, rates will not change.

The increases are a result of the American Telephone & Telegraph's divestiture of its 22 Bell operating companies to take effect Jan. 1, he said.

Because of the divestiture, Bell of Pennsylvania is experiencing a change in revenue sources, he said, and the charge for local calls, previously subsidized by long distance rates, is one new source of revenue.

"I think what you'll see is long distance rates going up and local call rates going up," Kuhn said.

Normally, rate increases are implemented when PUC gives approval, Kuhn said, but that might not be the case.

Three options for covering the rate increase are under consideration, he said, but the PUC could grant a rate increase while deciding for itself what the increase should be.

Bell's first proposal would set a rate of \$5.20 per month for unlimited local calling.

The second proposal would set a monthly rate of \$2.50 for up to \$4 worth of calls and then a per-call charge if that limit is exceeded.

The final proposal would be a per-call charge based on the time of day the call is made. The highest proposed rate on the scale is seven cents for a call between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Joyce Darkey, director of the Residence Hall Advisory Board, said the board has not decided how it will choose an option.

However, all the telephones on campus must work under the same option, she said.

Because of this, she said, "It would be stupid for us to say we want anything but unlimited calling."

But if the rate increase is approved, Darkey said, RHAB may survey residence hall students to get their reactions to the proposals.

Kuhn said local calls eventually may be charged according to time and distance, much like long distance calls are now.

A call from a campus phone to another 800 or 866 number is not considered a local call, Kuhn said.

The possibility of a long distance access charge is a separate issue, he said.

The approval for this charge must come from both the Federal Communications Commission as well as the Public Utility Commission. The charge is also being reviewed by Congress, he said.

PRCR separates the processes of dorm contract acceptance and room assignment. The acceptance procedure would be handled through the mail based on the date the advanced payment is received.

The assignment procedure would be handled later in the year, using a format similar to the University's present registration system, she

ARHS has 'workable' system for accepting dorm contracts

By GAIL JOHNSON
Collegian Staff Writer

Members of the Association of Residence Hall Students have come up with what they think is a "workable system" for accepting dorm contracts at the University, said Leslie Horn, chairwoman of the ARHS Dorm Contract Acceptance Committee.

She described this system — prioritized reassignment contract registration (PRCR) — as one that still has some bugs to be worked out when applying it to the University.

Horn spoke at the ARHS meeting last night.

PRCR separates the processes of dorm contract acceptance and room assignment. The acceptance procedure would be handled through the mail based on the date the advanced payment is received.

The assignment procedure would be handled later in the year, using a format similar to the University's present registration system, she

explained.

David Labuskes, ARHS president, said he and Horn presented PRCR to University officials yesterday and asked them if the system is feasible for this University.

"In the end, we all left saying this is a workable system," he said.

Members of ARHS have found three options which may be recommended to the University. In addition to the PRCR option, the council is considering the 11th line option, used last year, and a lottery option, Horn said.

"I've talked with Dave Labuskes in terms of what they have to be careful of," said William McKinon, assistant vice president for Housing and Food Service Operations.

He said he warned Labuskes that ARHS members should weigh the pros and cons of the effects the various systems could have on different student constituencies.

Both Labuskes and Horn indicated they think PRCR is the best

of three options.

Labuskes asked members of the council how they should determine which system to recommend.

Joyce Darkey, director of the Residence Hall Advisory Board expressed a similar concern, saying that "a survey may reflect data that is in the long run bad for the student."

Because the Nov. 1 deadline creates time constraints, ARHS Vice President Jennifer Golder said, "I think we could better use these next two weeks to work on the option we choose with the administration."

Area representatives, however, expressed concern about making a decision without some kind of feedback from other students.

"I want to try to find out what the students really want," said Debra Zuech, president of Centre Halls.

Because of these concerns, Labuskes directed ARHS members to take the three options back to the area councils to get feedback from them.

Professional adviser plan might be considered

By GRACE LEMONACO
Collegian Staff Writer

The analysis of the University's academic advising system and a proposal for professional advisers may be brought before the Calendar Conversion Council meeting next Wednesday.

The proposal is the result of an analysis completed in March by the Division of Undergraduate Studies which indicated 90 percent of the students surveyed were not familiar with the majors they were considering.

Also, the analysis showed that 77 percent of students who have not been admitted to majors are uncertain about their intended majors. The students were presented with a list of more than 170 University majors and asked to choose three areas of interest. The choices made by the 6,400 incoming baccalaureate freshmen were concentrated among 10 academic programs, including the most popular choices of engineering, computer science and business.

Also, 81 percent of newly admitted freshmen expected to change their majors at least once during their college career.

The analysis found that 43 percent of the University faculty advisers had never or infrequently discussed majors outside of their own disciplines and 50 percent do not help students relate grades and abilities to their educational plans.

The proposal, which was previously submitted to former University Provost Edward D. Eddy, planned for a system of academic advising and information centers to be established in each college and at each Commonwealth campus. The center would have a staff of academic advising specialists integrated with the existing DUS Academic Information Support Program.

Robert Dunham, vice president for DUS, said that last year Eddy requested an analysis of the professional advising at the University.

Eddy agreed with the proposal and told Dunham to enter it into his budget plan for this year. Dunham said. Seed money was requested to start centers for one college and one Commonwealth campus, but Dunham did not receive any funding in his budget, he said.

The estimated budget to start the advising centers would be \$25,000 to \$30,000 for a Commonwealth campus and \$50,000 for a college, Dunham said.

With money from Dunham's office, the Commonwealth education system and the Ogontz campus budget, Ogontz DUS has initiated an advising program, Dunham said.

Stuart Abramson, coordinator of DUS at Ogontz campus, said the center is basically the same as the model in the proposal, but some changes were made.

The center was officially opened at the beginning of the semester and now works three part-time professional advisers, he said.

"During the first two weeks there were days when we were seeing 150 students," Abramson said.

The advisers at the center counsel 830 freshmen who have not declared their majors, he said. DUS advises 161 freshmen, while faculty members are responsible for associate degree students.

The center is only advising freshmen this year and hopes to keep its doors open for these students during their sophomore year, Abramson said, but

funding is the most important factor of operation.

"This year we're starting it," he said. "After this we don't know."

Each college and campus should take the model into consideration, Dunham said.

"We hope each college would use its own resources to initiate the model before it's completely paid for because I don't see that happening," he said.

The Undergraduate Student Government Executive Council has seen the proposal and endorsed it. "It was a committee formed to convert the calendar and it's converted," he said.

James Kelly, academic advising analysis committee member, said he anticipates more problems with advising under semesters.

"Academic advising decisions are much more serious," Kelly said.

Under terms, students had three opportunities to schedule a class, he said. With semesters, if students do not receive a class they might have to wait a year, Kelly said.

Kelly said he has been conducting a study on the profiles of incoming freshmen, which indicates that freshmen and sophomores need the most advising because they are undecided about majors and have not been exposed to many activities, during high school, to help them decide.

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