

Student issues focus of panel

Ordinance would add members to town-gown relations commission.

By Bob Ratterman
Contributing Writer

OXFORD — In an effort to enhance cooperation between the city and Miami University students, Oxford City Council on Tuesday introduced legislation to change the makeup of the Student/Community Relations Commission.

The ordinance will get a second reading and action at the Aug. 6 council meeting.

It was presented by Community Development Director Jung-Han Chen, who said the idea was to increase the number of members on the commission to increase interaction between the community and students.

Chen said the size of the commission would increase from nine voting members to 11 and from six ex-officio members to 12.

"The whole purpose is to expand the connection between Miami University students and the community," he said.

Council member Kate Rousemaniere said she attended a conference dealing with town-gown relations and said that communities with larger numbers of people on local commissions like Oxford's SCRC have greater success in resolving issues between college students and the community.

"I really like this proposal," Rousemaniere said. "It's a great proposal."

The ordinance calls for appointment by council of six residents of the city, at least one of whom will be a resident of the Mile Square, for three-year terms.

Five Miami University students are to be appointed by Associated Student Government, one of whom will be the secretary for off-campus affairs and two who will serve two-year terms.

Rousemaniere said she especially liked the provisions for multi-year student terms on the commission because it allows student members to get the experience of their first year of service and then use that experience the next year and be more productive.

Mayor Richard Keebler said there was nothing in the ordinance about staggered terms for the Oxford resident members of the commission and asked that it be added by the time of second reading.

"This is an effort to enhance the SCRC to be a commission which will allow town and gown to collaboratively work together to discuss town-gown issues."