

Ellis expects the plans for proposals and bids from contractors to be reopened at some point. Additionally, the university hired Dean Kennedy as the executive director for Residential Life, Housing and Food Services last week, and Ellis said that the new director will oversee a new five-year housing strategic plan.

"I would recommend conducting a housing market study that would complement the strategic enrollment management plan, both of which would inform our direction moving forward," Kennedy said about the plan, via email this week.

He also mentioned that the university will continue to guarantee on-campus accommodation for first-year students who apply the appropriate deadline—and they are currently exploring how to provide on-campus housing for students for multiple years.

Kennedy said that the housing construction occurring around campus makes it difficult to get a clear idea of the supply and demand for student housing, both on and off-campus. Making data-driven decisions in the current circumstances will be a challenge for the new director and the university, and the

first step will be learning as much as they can about the situation.

"Research would be the word," Kennedy said about their approach. "Housing market analysis—both for on and off campus housing."

Off-campus housing in the nearby areas also still remains an option for a lot of students, although rent prices have been steadily rising over the past few years—with current prices ranging from \$600 to \$1,300.

In the meantime, UNR continues to make strides towards returning to normalcy. In addition to the renovations on the damaged dorms, the school recently opened a new engineering building and will be building a new business building soon. Ellis said that discussions about other construction work or buildings will resume once renovation on Nye and Argenta Halls is complete.

Nearly eight months after the devastating accident that had them scrambling, the university is managing the recovery efforts well.

"I think people have discovered, parts of them, myself included, that you didn't know existed," Ellis said. "Because a lot of us have been here a while and done this a long time. There is a lesson: you've never seen it all." □

"We got lucky that we had these two apartment buildings ... well under construction and that they would meet the needs of what our numbers were."

Shannon Ellis
Division of Student
Services VP

Rocking and rolling



Skate Jam 7, an all-ages event featuring live music and skateboarding, took place at Jub Jub's Thirst Parlor—71 S. Wells Ave.—on Saturday Feb. 29.

PHOTO/JERI DAVIS

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