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AAUP campaigning among professors

By Stephanie Carter

The American Association of University Professors began a campaign Friday to become the collective bargaining agent for UNL full-time faculty.

Linda Pratt, a UNL English professor and president of the Lincoln Chapter of the AAUP, was one of the first UNL faculty members to sign her name on the authorization cards which were distributed in the campaign.

Pratt said full-time faculty members will sign the authorization cards to show they favor the 200-member UNL AAUP as a collective bargaining agent. If at least 30 percent of the 1,400 faculty members sign the cards, the UNL AAUP will ask the NU Board of Regents to recognize them as the legitimate bargaining agent.

If the regents refuse, Pratt said, the AAUP will file a petition with the Commission of Industrial Relations to

hold an election among UNL faculty members, to determine if the AAUP may act as the bargaining agent.

Pratt said she expects the regents to deny the UNL AAUP request.

Of UNL faculty members polled, Pratt said, more than 40 percent were interested in collective bargaining through the AAUP, and 20 percent were undecided.

"We felt we had to go on with the campaign because of the enormous faculty support," she said.

Although the CIR requires support from only 30 percent of faculty members to hold an election, Pratt said the AAUP would like more than 50 percent of the faculty members to sign cards.

Pratt said that nationally, 737 institutions of higher education have collective bargaining agents, but UNL has never had one.

The Omaha chapter of AAUP has

been the bargaining agent for UNO for more than four years, Pratt said. Although 70 percent of the UNO faculty had signed cards, the board refused to recognize the AAUP as the bargaining agent, and the issue ended in an election.

If the AAUP becomes the agent for UNL, it would negotiate a contract with the UNL administration on faculty business issues such as salaries, research support, work load and grievance procedures, Pratt said.

"The AAUP is designed to protect academic creativity and fair play for faculty," Pratt said.

Pratt said the deterioration in communication between the faculty and administration and the lack of faculty participation in academic decisions have hurt the university.

"You have to be in a building to learn, but you don't learn from a building," Pratt said. "As long as the university

puts money into a building, that's all they have."

In a letter to UNL faculty members, the UNL AAUP said faculty salary was the major problem. The salaries of peers in comparable institutions are 15 percent above those at UNL.

Yet, according to the letter, the administration considers a veterinary college and a dining hall for athletes more necessary than higher faculty salaries.

The AAUP is the last organization that would ever do anything to hurt academics," Pratt said. "We hope to proceed in this campaign in the spirit of openness, candor and amicability."

Richard Wood, NU general counsel, Thursday urged all UNL faculty to "very carefully read" the UNL AAUP authorization cards.

Wood said the card authorizes the UNL/AAUP to represent the signer in collective bargaining without the need for a secret ballot election.

Pro-life backers march against abortion

By Jim Berryman

Approximately 2,000 pro-life supporters braved cold temperatures Saturday morning and silently marched through downtown Lincoln to protest the anniversary of legal abortion in the United States.

The two-block-long parade of protestors began

the 11th annual Walk for Life at 15th and P streets, wound through downtown and concluded with a short rally on the west side of the Capitol building.

Holly Sexton, president of Lincoln Right to Life and the Nebraska Coalition for Life, reminded the crowd of Jan. 22, 1973, the day the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion.

"Nine years ago, 30 people came to these Capitol steps," she said. "Now, 11 years after the decision, we come by the thousands to mourn the 14 million babies killed by abortion."

Sexton said the battle against abortion will someday be won.

"We will work today, tomorrow and as long as it takes to stop abortion," she said. "You and I and life will win the battle."

Because of the cold temperatures, the rally was moved indoors to Pershing Auditorium.

At Pershing, Omaha Mayor Mike Boyle and Sen. Bernice Labeledz of Omaha, both pro-life supporters, were featured speakers.

In his speech, Boyle said as an elected official, he has the responsibility to express his pro-life opinion. "Abortion tears of the very fiber of our society," he said, calling the battle against abortion a "war to protect life."

"The respect for life and one another is critical," Boyle said.

Boyle said it is time to listen to the silent voices of the unborn to help protect unborn babies.

"Life is sacred for every person under every condition," Boyle said. "This is an important war and let's continue to victory."

After his speech, Boyle said he realized that, unlike state senators, he doesn't have the authority to propose legislation against abortion. But, he said, expressing his opinion is important.

"I'm someone political who shares the same concerns as these people here today," he said. "One of a person's greatest rights is the right to be born."

Labeledz told the crowd that she will continue to fight abortion, should she be re-elected for another term.

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US casts bid for ASUN offices

Sporting black and blue US buttons, the United Students Party announced its ASUN presidential campaign Sunday afternoon in the Nebraska Union Harvest Room.

"US wants student input now and will also seek input once in office," Kevin Goldstein, the party's presidential candidate, said.

Goldstein said US would post ASUN meeting agendas and have more students involved in committees. Outside funding for the ASUN Newsletter and bi-weekly update sheets also were suggested. Goldstein said a typing center for students, similar to the one at UNO, should be considered. Last year more than 2,000 people used the UNO service.

Goldstein, a former ASUN senator, has been a member of the academic planning committee, central planning committee, UNL debate team and Interfraternity Council cabinet.

First vice-presidential candidate Julie Meusburger has been a New Student Orientation host and Husker Hostess. Meusburger, a junior engineering major, also has been involved in pledge training in Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

Meusburger said ASUN could increase interaction and influence with students by having office hours

for senators, student-at-large standing committees and written committee reports.

Some standing committees on which ASUN members currently serve will become student-at-large committees; others may be replaced with ad hoc committees, which meet only long enough to complete their intended purpose, she said.

Troy Hilliard, second vice-presidential candidate, was on the ASUN appointments board last year.

Hilliard said a renters' union is needed.

"This could have a listing of both good and bad landlords," Hilliard said. US would use the Government Liaison Committee to lobby the city and county for landlord-tenant reform.

In order to increase student involvement, Hilliard proposed having ASUN student aides, similar to the Legislature's page system. Open files would be available on students interested in ASUN appointments.

Currently, ASUN keeps a file on students who apply for appointments.

Hilliard said UNL students also would randomly be invited to weekly ASUN open houses. Town hall meetings would also be scheduled with various organizations and residence hall floor/house representatives, he said.



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan

United Students executive candidates (left to right) Troy Hilliard, Julie Meusburger and Kevin Goldstein kicked off the ASUN campaign Sunday afternoon. The campaign will climax with the March 14 election.

Monday

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